

Parental Notice and General Guidelines for Ma Liping Pilot Class at NCLS

NCLS plans to expand the offerings of Ma Liping pilot classes in the coming school year based on the preliminary positive results of the pilot program in the past two years and parents' requests. To help understand the overall picture of the pilot program, all parents are advised that Ma Liping class is still a pilot program. The School has neither accumulated enough experiences nor established sufficient facts to support transitioning it into a duo-track course offering or a replacement to our traditional classes. There are inherent unknowns and risks in the outcome of the pilot program. All parents interested in participating are required to read this Parental Notice and General Guidelines before registering your child/ren to the Ma Liping class/es.

1) Please visit Ma Li Ping's web site @ www.mychineseschool.com for detailed information about Ma Li Ping's course and teaching philosophy, etc. We do also recommend parents get hold of Ma Li Ping's textbooks and glance through before you decide to place your child in Ma Li Ping classes.

2) There will be a placement test (both oral and written) before the registration for all grades. The purpose of the test is to help both the teachers and parents understand the student's Chinese level for Ma Liping classes and to help parents make educated decisions. The school reserves the right to make passing the placement test as a pre-condition for final placement decision.

3) There will be three exams at the end of each book for the whole school year. The scores will determine the student's pass/fail grade. Teachers will assess accordingly to suggest the student's placement in next school year's grade/class.

4) All students must be 6 ½ years old by August 31 before they enter the 1st grade Ma Liping class. Furthermore, we highly recommend that at least one of the parental guidance at home should speak fluent Mandarin Chinese to ensure the success of this course of study. We do not recommend this class to BILINGUAL students at all due to its difficulties.

5) According to our past experience, Ma Li Ping class requires much more parental involvement, especially for the lower grade students. Should any parent be unable to afford the time of at least 30 minutes per day for four days each week, we highly recommend that their children remain in our traditional Chinese material classes.

6) Ma Li Ping class does require a lot of reading. There are parents who feel that their children can't digest all. All parents should be aware of the time and efforts involved so their kids can keep up with the pace of the class, and more importantly to be successful to maintain their interest in learning Chinese language and culture.

7) The Ma Li Ping class has several teaching techniques, which are different from our traditional Chinese classes. It teaches words directly rather than teaching "Han Yu Pin Yin" first. It emphasizes on the recognition of the Chinese characters first rather than the writing of Chinese itself. It does not introduce "Pin Yin" until 3rd grade, at which time it teaches students "Pin Yin" by using computer entry. Ma Li Ping class so far has been developed up to 10th grade. For most of the upper grades, it emphasizes on introduction to Chinese geography and cultural and writing methodology. The course does not have close relationships with SAT II and Chinese AP test. On the other hand, it does well prepare students with a good amount of frequently used words by 6th grade. Please note that there are very little daily conversations of Chinese.

8) Usage of multi-media equipment: Ma Li Ping class does provide CDs and requires the usage of CD-ROM. Students do need to complete each assignment in order to obtain the code (pin number) at the end, which counts toward student's grade of homework. There are incidents that students started the assignment and didn't obtain the code (pin number) at the end. The students have to re-do the same assignment in order to obtain the code (pin number).

9) There will always be good and bad about a new learning material. We offer these Ma Li Ping classes to enhance the learning experience of Chinese language and culture. Should there be any suggestion or opinion, please direct them to our Dean of study at our NCLS. We will be glad to evaluate and improve this course.

10) Due to differences in textbook design, there is no one-to-one correspondence between Ma Liping textbook level and our standard Chinese textbook level. The School offers the following general guidelines (please note that these are not strict requirements):

- A. Students of rising 3rd grad or lower in standard class should enroll in Ma Liping 1st grade.
- B. Student of rising 4th grade in standard class should enroll in Ma Liping 2nd grade
- C. Student of rising 5th grade in standard class should enroll in Ma Liping 3rd grade
- D. Student of rising 6th grade in standard class should enroll in Ma Liping 4th grade
- E. Student of rising 7th grade in standard class should enroll in Ma Liping 5th grade

Parents Acknowledgement (Ma Liping Pilot Class):

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand this guideline. Please hand in the signed copy of this Notice to the registration. We thank you for you interest in participating in the pilot program and wish your child another successful year of Chinese learning.

Student Chinese Name: _____

English Name: _____

Registered Ma Liping Class: _____

Parents Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____