Administering a Chinese Immersion Program
A Case Study
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Today's Agenda
- About Us
- Administering an immersion program
- Bilingual immersion at ISTP
- Challenges
- Q&A

History of ISTP
1979
Open as the Peninsula French-American School

History of ISTP
1996
- Added Chinese Program
- Expanded to 2nd Campus
- Started Middle School
- Changed name to the International School of the Peninsula

History of ISTP
2000
- Acquired permanent campus

History of ISTP
Today
- 585 Students
- Nursery – 8th grade
- Two Campuses
ISTP School Mission and Philosophy

Why should I be bilingual?

Why not?

What are our Linguistic Objectives?

- We want our students to:
  - Be able to speak, read, and write in two languages
  - Be able to think in either language
  - Easily switch from one language to the other

“Sounds great. When can I enroll in your ‘40-year olds’ class?”

Benefits of a Bilingual Education

- Acquire the target language as maternal, not learned
- Embrace differences in other people and cultures
- Possess stronger problem-solving skills
- Have enhanced cognitive development
- Express greater creativity: think outside the box
- Demonstrate self-confidence in the face of unfamiliar situations
- Show no adverse effects to primary language development
- Easily learn third and fourth languages

Curriculum Highlights

- Challenging and Demanding Curriculum
- Aligned with California Standards
- Theme-Based and Child-Centered - Sensitive to the needs of each learner
- Task-Based and Problem Solving
- Technology integrated into the curriculum
- Trips to China to validate student linguistic experience
- Reflects the 5 C’s of ACTFL (Communication, Comparisons, Connections, Cultures, Communities)
ISTP Chinese Curriculum

Our paradigm matches ACTFL's 5Cs

- **Communication**: heart of language learning
- **Cultures**: gains understanding and masters cultural context
- **Connections**: additional bodies of knowledge
- **Comparisons**: multiple ways of viewing the world
- **Communities**: participates in global cultures

Our Philosophy

- **Teacher-Centered**
  - Ask questions
  - Solve problems
  - Communicate
  - Make connections
  - Build community

- **Child-Centered**
  - Good listeners
  - Sensitive to needs of children
  - Vigilant to questions from children
  - Care for children's inner (mental, spiritual, emotional) life
  - Indicate what is important

- **Parents as Collaborators**
  - Convey positive attitude
  - Support learning process
  - Communicate with teachers

Early Years Program (Nursery – Kindergarten)

Build a solid foundation in language

- **80% Chinese**
- **20% English**

Elementary School

Language is used to learn

- **50% Chinese**
- **50% English**

Why only 50% immersion?
Elementary School

Math and Science are primarily taught in English.

Subjects covered in both languages
Interlinked Chinese and English curricula
Follows California state standards

Middle School

Chinese becomes a subject

30% Chinese
70% English

Rigorous academic curriculum
Student centered approach
Fosters well-rounded global citizens
Smooth transition to high school

Key Factor

Bilingual and Immersion Schools face a Unique Situation
Pyramidal Model is unavoidable
Student Retention is Key

ISTP Pyramid Model
Key Facts for a Successful Immersion Program

3 key words

• Communication

• Communication

• Communication

Key Elements for Delivering Successful Immersion Programs

• Clear and Articulate Vision and Plan
• Strong Leadership
• Outstanding and Dedicated Teachers
• Strong Curriculum
• Thorough Assessment Process
• Parental Support and commitment to bilingualism
• Low student/teacher ratio in the early grades to enhance student academic experience and build strong learning foundations

Key Challenges

• Communication

• Communication

• Communication

Do we ever communicate enough?

Key Challenges

• Parental Anxiety
  – Did we make the right choice?
  – Could we get More, Sooner, Better, and Faster?
• Parental Education
• Curriculum Development or How to Keep Pace
• Faculty Recruitment and Training
• Assessment of Program
• Finances

Merci
Thank You
Xie Xie

Questions?