



Mandarin Chinese



**A collaboration
between NC DPI,
LEARN NC, & NCVPS**

Learning Language Online

AP Mandarin

North Carolina students have the opportunity to participate in Advanced Placement Mandarin Chinese online that started in January 2010. AP Mandarin Chinese is part of the online Mandarin Chinese series created by two federal grants.

Unlike other online Chinese courses, these courses focus on the spoken language from the beginning to prepare the student for communicating as soon as possible in the language. Students will hear and see Chinese through video vignettes, and each lesson also contains listening exercises and weekly practice with conversation coaches and the instructor – all online! Students will devote 5-7 hours weekly to the course and will use various technologies to communicate, record their speaking, and download videos and audio to MP3 players if they wish. Progress will be charted using **LinguaFolio**, a document in which those

who are learning or have learned a language can record and reflect on their language learning and cultural experiences.

Technical Requirements

Schools must commit to the following:

- Daily, reliable Internet connectivity in a setting conducive to online work
- Scheduled period during school day for participation
- Use Pronto and Wimba Classroom for conversation practice – an easy install!
- Internet Explorer 6.0+ or Firefox 2.0+
- Latest version of Quicktime
- Computer configuration to access Chinese characters
- Audacity

What skills are necessary to participate?

The following learner attributes are essential for participation in this offering:

- **Basic technology skills:** Must be comfortable with using a word-processor, web browser, and audio technology software like Skype and Audacity
- **Good organizational skills:** Maintain *daily* participation during the week, submit all assignments on-time and contribute regularly to class discussions. Must also be able to meet weekly online with conversation coach.
- **Willingness to take risks:** Must be willing to speak Chinese with classmates, Conversation Coaches and instructor using Pronto and Wimba Classroom.

- **Good study skills:** Must practice pronunciation, listening comprehension, and writing skills on a daily basis.
- **Independent Learner:** Must possess ability to learn in the absence of a face-to-face instructor, to monitor self-progress, and to get help when needed.

School counselors and teachers should assist students with the decision to enroll in the course. To see a video about the course, visit: <http://www.marinegraphics.com/chinese/promo.htm>