



Life changing. World changing.

Chinese American International School

Seeks a

Middle School Teacher of Chinese

(full time, exempt position)

Introduction to the CAIS Chinese Program:

Chinese American International School, the nation's oldest [Chinese-English dual language immersion](#) school, is conducting an extensive, international search for a Chinese language teacher to teach in our [Middle School](#). The successful candidate will join a large, collaborative and highly supportive team of 29 PreK - 8 grade Chinese language lead and associate teachers who are experienced and highly professional. CAIS Chinese language faculty continually strive to improve the craft of immersion Chinese teaching and learning in their own instruction, in the school, and in the field generally. CAIS is regarded as a leader in Chinese immersion teaching and learning, a role we deliberately strive to earn and maintain, and our teachers are expected to engage in ongoing, school-supported professional development. CAIS Chinese language teachers frequently present at regional and national conferences such as ACTFL, the National Chinese Language Conference, STARTALK, CLEF and Computer Using Educators, to name a few. In addition to teaching, CAIS Chinese teachers work collaboratively with one another and with teachers of other disciplines to design and implement [innovative thematic curriculum units](#) that integrate multiple disciplines, instructional technology, 21st century skills and that support the school's extensive international learning programs. Chinese curriculum at CAIS is aligned with ACTFL Proficiency guidelines, and each year the school administers WPT, OPI and STAMP assessments--most CAIS teachers are trained and certified in the administration of these tests. The school runs STARTALK programs for teachers and students as well as a separate immersion summer camp each year. Chinese language teachers enjoy the support of a Chinese program director, a Chinese speaking technology integrator, two full-time Chinese language support specialists, an international and experiential learning coordinator, and a manager of digital Chinese content. Recently the school has formed the [Chinese Learning Collaborative \(CLC\)](#), a school-based center whose purpose is to integrate curriculum, technology, and international travel to advance language and cultural learning and meet [world readiness standards for language learning](#). CAIS middle school students have studied Chinese in an immersion setting since PreK or kindergarten, and this is reflected in a high level of proficiency in the language. Please click [here](#) for a more detailed profile of CAIS's Chinese program on the Asia Society's website.

Introduction to CAIS Middle School

CAIS Middle School enrolls approximately 120 students in grades 6-8. Middle School faculty and staff include nine full-time, dedicated core subject teachers (Chinese, English, social

studies, math, science, and technology and design) and six cross-division teachers (PE, music and movement, studio art, and high school counseling). The Middle School is also supported by a learning center director, English and Chinese curriculum coordinators, English and Chinese learning specialists, English and Chinese educational technology integrators, an international learning coordinator and a counselor. The Middle School director is supported by a full time administrative assistant.

CAIS middle school has an experienced faculty that has earned a reputation for academic challenge. In recent years the faculty has owned and embraced innovation and change in the form of integrated curricular units, a 1:1 technology program and robust international study programs and an advisory program that is aligned with the strong lower school social emotional learning program. CAIS middle school has a well-developed outdoor education program.

In the fall of 2014, CAIS opened a new state-of-the-art middle school campus which contains three buildings and an outdoor playground. The principle of maximum flexibility has guided the design process so that the middle school program can continue to develop and evolve as the faculty continue to innovate. For information on all CAIS divisions, please click [here](#) to visit the CAIS website.

Main Areas of Responsibility Include:

- Classroom teaching and the associated planning, record keeping and communication with students, teachers and parents as required (currently teachers are responsible for four sections of class per day)
- Administrative and supervisory duties outside of class as assigned by the middle school director
- Serving as an advisory teacher for a group of approximately 20 students
- Participation in the CAIS outdoor education program as needed
- Participation in international programs as needed
- Supervision of extracurricular activities as needed
- Working with student support staff to create individual student support plans when needed
- Participation in school supported professional development

The Successful Candidate Will Exhibit Many of the Following Attributes:

- Desire to take a leadership role in world of K-8 language teaching and learning
- Experience with teaching in an immersion environment or in a L2 only environment
- Belief in and commitment to the immersion model to create successful language-learners
- Skilled at designing and delivering student-centered instruction
- Demonstrated record of creative use of both formative and summative assessment
- Skilled in the use of educational technology in the service of learning
- Committed to experiential learning and connecting classroom learning to the outside world
- Ability to engage students with Chinese culture and society in ways that are relevant and meaningful to middle school students, emphasizing the dynamism of China today
- Experience using authentic teaching materials, including various types of media
- Committed to challenging and instilling confidence in students
- Skilled at classroom management strategies that engage and motivate students
- Appreciation and fondness of middle school- age students' characteristics and energy

- Experience directly participating in curriculum design
- Demonstrated record of taking initiative and leadership
- Commitment to approaching language teaching and learning in creative and innovative ways
- Comfortable with collaborating in teams across disciplines, languages and divisions
- Willing to work as a team with the Chinese Learning Collaborative
- Potential to contribute to a positive school atmosphere
- Demonstrated outstanding work ethic
- Native or near-native Chinese language proficiency

To Apply

Email cover letter, resume and list of references to middle_school_jobs@cais.org. In subject line please indicate “Middle School Chinese.” Please no calls.

Timeline

Members of the search committee will begin reviewing candidate credentials immediately. We anticipate preliminary interviews in late March with finalist interviews, teaching demonstrations and the selection of a candidate by the end of April or beginning of May.

Learn More

See attached “School Profile”

Thank you for your interest



Life changing. World changing.

SCHOOL PROFILE

CAIS's Mission

心怀中华

精益求精

立足世界

Embrace Chinese

Become your best self

Create your place in the world

History

The Chinese American International School (CAIS) is an independent, not-for-profit school that has a unique history with deep and firm philosophical roots. CAIS was founded by a small group of visionary leaders and educators in 1981 as the first school in the United States dedicated to Chinese-English dual language immersion and a deep understanding of Chinese culture. From an enrollment of just ten students in its inaugural year, CAIS now enrolls over 520 students from Pre-K through grade eight. For the three-plus decades since its founding, CAIS's commitment to dual language and dual culture education, international mindedness and diversity of every sort has remained at the core of our vision and educational program. Time has borne out the importance of our founders' vision; today leaders from all sectors of society point to the growing importance of Chinese language and culture and of the values that have characterized CAIS from its inception. We are proud of our leading role in preparing culturally sensitive, globally literate young people with a high level of proficiency in Chinese for the world that awaits them.

CAIS Today

This is an exciting time at CAIS. Based on the collaborative input of a broad group of school stakeholders, we have developed a long-term strategic vision. The strategic vision follows the development of a revitalized statement of mission, and includes a multi-year dual language immersion curriculum project; an array of China focused international exchange, study and travel opportunities. The CAIS board of trustees is deeply engaged in development and facilities planning work to support the emerging educational goals of the strategic vision. In 2015 CAIS

middle school moved from its current location on the fourth floor of our main campus to the new site. This also opened program space on the main campus for new program initiatives. We are a school on the move.

Educational Program

CAIS is divided into three school divisions; early childhood (Pre-K), lower school (K–fifth grade) and middle school (sixth–eighth grade). From Pre-K through fifth grade CAIS students spend a half day in an immersion setting with a native Chinese speaking teacher and a half day with an English speaking teacher. The core subjects of math, social studies and language arts are taught in both languages. Additionally, there are specialist teachers in science, music, art and PE. CAIS makes an effort to offer a combination of English and Chinese instruction in special classes, with a particular emphasis on Chinese art and music. The lower school has a well developed social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum in both Chinese and English.

In middle school (grades 6-8) Students study their core classes of English language arts, social studies, science and math in English in addition to classes in language arts and social studies taught in Chinese. As in the lower grades, CAIS makes an effort to offer a combination of English and Chinese instruction in special classes. Middle school teaching and learning are served by a 1:1 iPad program. The middle school offers a well-developed outdoor education program each year. There is an auxiliary program that offers a wide variety of after school and summer co-curricular programs in both Chinese and English. In grades five and eight, CAIS students have the opportunity to take part in exchange and travel programs in Taiwan and Mainland China. In grade seven all students spend three weeks studying in China and living with local host families as part of the required educational program. Also beginning in grade five there are opportunities to participate in interscholastic sports.

Students

CAIS students come from a wide variety of ethnic, cultural, national, linguistic and family backgrounds. This reflects the school's commitment to inclusion, which is supported by a generous tuition assistance program. The common link shared by CAIS students is that their families have deliberately chosen a school committed to a Chinese-English dual language immersion program and a deep understanding of Chinese culture. Our teachers frequently remark that one of the top reasons they enjoy working at CAIS is the support and involvement of our families in their children's education.

Faculty and Staff

CAIS has an international faculty that is roughly half native English speaking and half native Chinese speaking. They come from all over the US and Greater China and share a commitment to the mission of the school. They must demonstrate a sincere commitment and sensitivity to working in an environment where cross cultural issues permeate the daily life of the school. Faculty and staff members are expected to play active roles in the collaborative planning and implementation of school initiatives. Each CAIS teacher in the early childhood and lower school programs is supported by a full-time, dedicated teaching associate. Administrative support for faculty consists of a Head of School, a whole school director of Chinese language and culture programming, a curriculum coordinator, and division directors for the early childhood, lower school, and middle school programs. Other support for faculty includes a student services team (counseling, learning and Chinese language support), an educational technology coordination team (English and Chinese) teaching specialists in science, music, art, PE and technology and a director of after school and co-curricular programs.

Campus

CAIS is located in the heart of San Francisco in the thriving and centrally located Hayes Valley neighborhood that is served by bus, streetcar and subway. We share our urban campus, which includes a gymnasium and three playgrounds, with the French American International School. In 2009 CAIS's Early Childhood Division moved to its own facility just a short walk from the main campus. In 2015 the CAIS middle school moved into the new 888 Campus, tripling its program space.

Strategic Vision

In January of 2014, the CAIS Board of Trustees launched a long-term Strategic Vision that was developed through a thorough a consultative process involving a wide variety of school stakeholders. The school's current initiatives are driven by this Strategic Vision, which may be viewed [here](#).

CAIS by Numbers

Founded: 1981

Grades: Pre-K through 8th grade

Enrollment: 520

Fulltime, lead classroom teachers: 37

Student-fulltime teacher ratio: 14-1

Operating budget: \$17,000,000

Annual fundraising: \$1,700,000

Tuition: \$27,400 (Pre-K–Fifth), \$28,100 (Sixth–Eighth)

Tuition Assistance: \$1,350,000