



August 10, 2011

Dear principal of Capital Normal University Attached Primary School

On behalf of XinXing Academy we are very glad to partner with you as a sister-school through the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota. This is an exciting opportunity for us. This letter will describe XinXing Academy Chinese immersion program and share some of the ways we would like to connect with Capital Normal University Attached Primary School. We would also like to know how your school would like to develop a friendship with us.

XinXing Academy is beginning its fifth year as a Chinese immersion program this September. This Chinese program was designed for students coming into kindergarten with no Chinese language skills or Chinese cultural experiences. From the very first day, the children are taught only in Mandarin. All of our current teachers were born and educated in China. As the first class of children moved into first and second grade, they continued to be taught all their academic work in Chinese. Beginning in third grade, the students study part of each day in English. XinXing currently accepts fifty new kindergarteners a year for the Chinese program. The main goal of our immersion program is to develop strong Chinese language skills and introduce the students to many pieces of Chinese culture, both traditional and modern. We expect that some XinXing students will visit China when they are older.

We believe having a partner school in China will add great strength to our program. We want our students to develop friendships with children in China as well as learn about life in China today. We would expect most of our student exchanges to be in Chinese but we also know your school may want, at some time, to have some English exchange to benefit your students' English instruction. As we begin our partnership, we would welcome the opportunity to exchange photographs and student work throughout the year. It would also be beneficial for teachers in XinXing to share ideas about teaching and learning with teachers in your school. Over time, students may be able to have pen pal and SKYPE exchanges. As we talk with XinXing parents about their students visiting China and hosting students from China, we would like those experience to involve Capital Normal University Attached Primary School families.

XinXing is located in the Hopkins Public Schools District. This is a metropolitan community just west of the cities of Minneapolis/St Paul in Minnesota. Hopkins School District serves approximately 6000 students in kindergarten through grade twelve with approximately 250 of these students participating in the Chinese immersion program.

We are an urban community in the middle of our country, situated on a major river, the Mississippi, with many excellent points of interest. The Twin Cities, as our community is known, has a strong business environment and many cultural opportunities including museums, theatres, music and sports. In addition, our community hosts a strong Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota. People come to the Twin Cities from all over the world and there is a strong sense of the importance of educating our students to be able to live in a diverse global community.

Our Chinese immersion program has been very well received in Hopkins and we are excited to see it growing. Having a partner school in Beijing is an excellent next step for XinXing as we work to educate students for the global society they will live in as adults. We believe our partnership with Capital Normal University Attached Primary School will be a wonderful long-term relationship that will benefit your students and ours in many ways over time.

Sincerely,



Nik Lightfoot, Ed.D., J.D.
Assistant Superintendent



Terri Sigüenza, Ed.S.
Principal