

# Huaxia South Chinese School Weekly News

## April 23, 2015

华夏中文学校的同学们和家长们，你们好！

这星期六（四月二十五日）学校正常上课。天气很好，请尽量提早到校，不要迟到。

这个学年快接近尾声了，谢谢大家对学校的大力支持。目前有一个很重要的议题请大家有空时思考一下，我们要进行下学年的校长和董事会的选举。如果你们想要学校办得更好，就请站出来，发挥你的才干，服务学校，影响学校！选举事宜会另行通知。

关于四节课的改革，我收到了很多很好的问题。现在把它们规划成问题和解答，在这里公布给大家。也算回答你们类似的问题。上星期出来点儿小差错，投票只能这星期发给同学，带回家。请家长投票。

在此特别感谢龚蝉女士的精彩中文编辑！她无私地为中文学校服务，是我们的楷模！

1. 我想知道增加一堂课/俱乐部的额外开销，我想我们不能增加学费吧？

答：我们的目标是收支平衡。我们假设每个学生都上一堂文化课/俱乐部，加上中文课，这样付三个课时的学费，并不是按每堂课/俱乐部收费。孩子们应该能找到喜欢的文化课/俱乐部参加。已毕业的学生也可回来参加俱乐部，两课时我们收一节课的费。

2. 按现在的学费与开支，我们勉强做到收支平衡。你怎么去支出第四堂课所带来的额外开销？

答：如果清洁工每小时的费用不变，那问题不大。俱乐部大部分是由家长义务主持的。主要是靠家长的支持，我们提供了一个场所及必要的支持，家长，孩子乐在其中。

3. 如果孩子报了第3与第四节课，还是付一节课的费？

答：是。

4. 5-9 年级的孩子第三堂课干什么？

答：参加任何俱乐部。

5. 那些增加的文化课及俱乐部，比如说有哪些活动，能具体说说吗？

答：现在还是计划阶段，不能列出一大堆到时做不到。我们需要家长的想法及支持。如果没有足够的支持，这第四节课也就开不了了。

6. 第三与第四节课的内容好像差不多。从家长的角度看，好处不多。家长还不如带孩子去外面上别的课。另外，还是担心额外的费用。所以我觉得吸引力不大，家长投票不一定通得过。

答：这个安排对低年级的孩子如果上一堂文化课的话，安排是一样的。高年级的孩子一堂课按自己的兴趣去选择，一堂课做作业。一些家长可能不喜欢，看投票结果吧。

7. 一些具体问题。谁来管放中国电影？谁来管孩子的活动.....？不清楚你是否要家长会承担更多的责任。

答：家长，可轮换进行。俱乐部也可以是不固定的，学生也可以从这个俱乐部换到另一个俱乐部。组织孩子们的活动是一项长期的任务。我们不时地需要一些新鲜的想法组织一些有趣的活动。至于家长会，前两课时还是需要安排值班，后两课时我们再想办法。

8. 中文课作业按要求是每天做一部分。

答：问题是低年级的孩子有时间每天做，因英文学校作业不多。高年级就不一样了，而且他们也不喜欢在家由家长帮忙做。更高年级的，每周有个把小时用来做中文已经不错了。再说老师还可以用这一课时拓宽学生学中文的兴趣。

唯有服务多壮志，敢叫学校换新貌。

易成

华夏中文学校南部分校

二〇一五年四月二十三日

Hello Huaxia Students and Parents,

This Saturday (04/25) our school is open. The time is normal, from 1:30pm to 4:20pm. Welcome to our Chinese school. Please don't be late.

We are towards to the end of this academic year. We have got a lot of support from our parents. Great appreciation! There is a very imminent topic which needs all of your considerations. The election of school principle and members of school board is at the corner. If you are considering serving our school or wishing our school being better run, please stand out and file an election application. The election will be announced soon.

I have got many questions about the potential four-session school for next year. I have organized them as "Questions and Answers", and publish here. I assume you will have similar questions. There was a little incident happened last week. The ballots of changing school to four sessions can only be distributed to the students who will take home this week. Please vote and sign it and bring it back to school. Thanks.

1. I want to know the additional cost due to add of one more session and additional cost we can bring from these clubs. I suppose that we cannot increase the Chinese class tuition to cover the additional club cost.

Answer: Our goal is to balance the income and cost. The cost per session is not increased. You can not do the cost per club. We simply ask families to pay three-session tuition, assume everyone finds a culture class or club or fun thing to do. If you don't find any club or culture class valuable, try harder. If you find them fun and valuable, we encourage you to do more since the fourth session is free. Students like already graduated or quit Chinese class, can also join in the clubs, we charge one session fee, they can take two sessions.

2. With current tuition and expense, we are merely able to balance, how do you plan to balance the sheet with extra culture classes and custodian hours without extra income from kids classes?

Answer: If the custodians are the same rate, we are in good shape. Most clubs are parents supported and involved. If it's said clubs, most likely no paid teachers, or minimal paid. The whole point is that parents shall get heavily involved. It sounds difficult, but once they do it, they will have fun. This will strongly increase the ties between parents and children. We provide the environment and all support.

3. If young kids register session 3 and 4, still pay for one?

Answer: yes.

4. What do 5-9 graders do during session 3?

Answer: doing any club.

5. Some details may need to be added to some classes. For example, what are the kids' activity. I assume you already have some ideas. W/o some details, the syllabus loses some attractiveness.

Answer: Those are future things, we cannot list everything. We are not selling overpromised stuff. We need thoughtful parents support. If we cannot get enough, then it's better to be voted down.

6. It seems no much difference between session 3 and 4. Again this goes back to the previous comment. Just by looking at the sessions from parent perspective, there is no additional value to obtain with session 4 relative to the time to spent. Parents would rather pursue other classes/programs outside. Plus, it is not clear if there will be charge increase though I assumed so (otherwise how are you gonna cover the cost). I am just afraid the syllabus on session 3 and 4 is not attractive enough but bring negative impact to your survey.

Answer: The arrangement is compatible with the current one for younger kids. They don't lose anything assuming they have taken three classes. For the high graders, they get a session fun time and one session supported homework time. Some parents may not like it. Let's wait for the survey results.

7. Moving to some details. Who is going to cover the Chinese Movie session? Who is going to cover the Kids' activity session, etc? Not sure if you can add more responsibilities to PTA. So as I mentioned, a detailed plan and a well-planned syllabus taking into many factors into account is important.

Answer: parents. it may not be shown every week. All of clubs are not necessarily fixed. Students can move from one club to another easily. The kids' activities are on-going tasks. We accept any good idea

and can add activities any time. For the PTA responsibility, the worst case is 4 sessions. We may do smart things. For the first two sessions, we need dedicated PTAs. For the last two sessions, we may think of other ways. But the bottom line is that this shall not be a concern.

8. Also the textbooks we use ask children to do homework everyday. The homework part of the textbooks spread the homework to five days (please check the textbooks).

Answer: Don't miss the main goal here. The young graders may be able to do homework every day since they don't have a lot of regular school homework. The high graders are different. We don't discourage the students to do homework at home. The problem is that many of the high graders don't want to work with their parents. And be realistic, for an average high grader, it's very normal for him/her to take an hour for a week to do the Chinese homework. Besides, the teachers can also use this session wisely to teach kids more interesting stuff, do more fun activities.

That's all.

See you at School.

Cheng Yi

Huaxia South Chinese School

04/23/2015