



2018  
STARTALK Spring Conference

**CONCENTRATING EFFORTS:  
USING A CLASSROOM ROTATION MODEL TO  
CAPITALIZE ON LEARNER-CENTERED LANGUAGE AND  
CULTURALLY RELEVANT ACTIVITIES**

**DC Public Schools Middle School Chinese Language Academy**

**Nicole Ugel, Ph.D. and Katherine Felter**



# Nice to Meet You

Niki- DCPS Manager of Middle School English Language Learner Programs  
STARTALK Point of Contact

Kat- DCPS Global Studies Coordinator  
STARTALK Instructional Coach



# Nice to Meet You



Maggie-Teacher  
Training

Allyson-Instructional  
Lead

Mr. Zhi-Returning  
Teacher

Mr. Guo-Returning  
Teacher

Miss Tai-New Teacher

# STARTALK Parallels DCPS Core Values

## STARTALK PROMOTES EQUITY

## STARTALK EMPOWERS OUR PEOPLE

## STARTALK ENSURES EXCELLENT SCHOOLS

## STARTALK EDUCATES THE WHOLE CHILD

## STARTALK ENGAGES FAMILIES

### PROMOTE EQUITY

Define, understand, and promote equity so that we eliminate opportunity gaps and systematically interrupt institutional bias.

- Focus on equity across all DCPS.
- Offer programming that supports students of color.
- Prioritize budgeting and resources for students who need them most.



### EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE

Recruit, develop, and retain a talented, caring, and diverse team.

- Infuse our values into all that we do.
- Improve teacher pipelines, especially for bilingual teachers and male educators of color.
- Strengthen school leadership development.



### ENSURE EXCELLENT SCHOOLS

Increase the number of excellent schools throughout the city.

- Grow schools based on need and promote diversity and innovation, including multilingual or magnet programs.
- Increase attendance and enrollment.



### EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD

Provide rigorous, joyful, and inclusive academic and social emotional learning experiences to ensure all students are college and career ready.

- Embed social emotional learning in our classrooms.
- Offer new middle school courses and extracurriculars.
- Expand access to college and career preparation.
- Strengthen instruction for special education students and English Learners.
- Focus on early literacy.



### ENGAGE FAMILIES

Ensure communication and deepen partnerships with families and the community.

- Involve families and the community in children's learning, including through home visits.
- Improve communication with and listen to families.





# STARTALK-DCPS 2017

## Student Profiles



- 100 English language learners (ELs)
- Newcomers (Level 1) to Level 3
- Rising 5th-9th graders
- Spoke 30 different home languages
- 94% free and reduced lunch
- native countries: Central/South America, Caribbean, Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Asia



We think this group of marbles represents \_\_\_\_\_.

This picture reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_.



We think this group of marbles represents \_\_\_\_\_.

This picture reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Session Outcomes

- I can exchange detailed information about how to plan for a robust, language-centered classroom using a *rotation model*.
- I can discuss potential challenges and benefits of implementing a *rotation model*.

# Rotation Model and STARTALK Principles

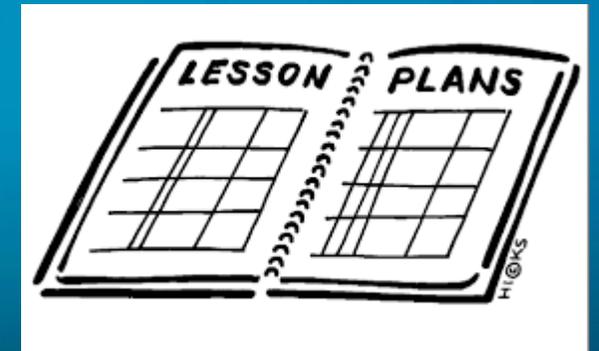
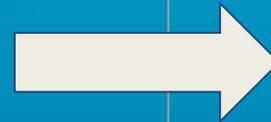
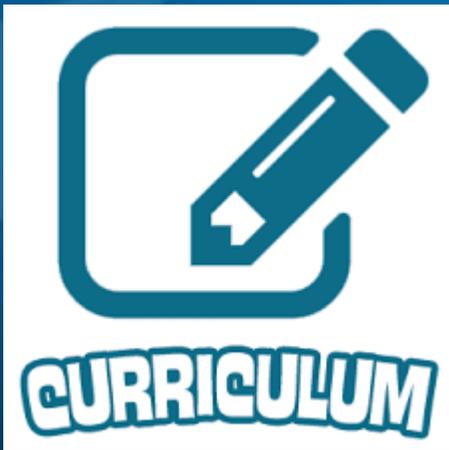
- Implementing a Standards-Based and Thematically Organized Curriculum
- Facilitating a Learner-Centered Classroom
- Integrating Culture, Content, and Language into the Classroom

# Benefits of Linking Teacher Interests to Backward Design

Scope and Sequence

Teacher Interests

Engaging Lessons



# Writing Can-Do Statements

Connections



Can Do's





# DCPS Curricular Themes: World Languages



**Unit 1:** Me, Myself, and I: A Glimpse of My World

**Unit 2:** My Unique Family: Making Friends

**Unit 3:** How I Celebrate: Holidays and Traditions

**Unit 4:** My Hobbies: From My Home to Yours

**Unit 5:** What and Where I Eat: My Food Menu

STARTALK

*Start Talking!*



# Making Teaching Fun



Write down your partner's interest, hobby, or passion.

# Areas of Interest that could fit into a Scope and Sequence

<b>Me, Myself, and I: A Glimpse of My World</b>	<b>My Unique Family: Making Friends</b>	<b>How I Celebrate: Holidays and Traditions</b>	<b>My Hobbies: From My Home to Yours</b>	<b>What and Where I Eat: My Food Menu</b>

Hobby OR Interest	Scope and Sequence: Units	Key Vocabulary	Essential Questions (Backwards Design)
	<b><u>My World:</u></b> Me, Myself, and I: A Glimpse of My World		
	<b><u>Your World:</u></b> My Unique Family: Making Friends		
	<b><u>Celebrations:</u></b> How I Celebrate: Holidays and Traditions		
	<b><u>Hobbies:</u></b> My Hobbies: From My Home to Yours		
	<b><u>Food:</u></b> What and Where I Eat: My Food Menu		



## 2017 Rotation Model Strategy

- (1) Hire the number of teachers needed based on the number of weeks in the program. (5 weeks; 5 teachers).
- (2) Have teachers write 5 robust lesson plans based on their Unit of study using the newly revised Can-Do Statements.
- (3) Invite other teachers to edit, refine, and look over their colleagues lesson plans. Intentionally repeat and recycle words and phrases of study.
- (4) Teachers decorate rooms according to their unit theme.

Teachers Name and Hobby	DCPS Scope and Sequence: Units	Key Vocabulary (Overlapping words)	Essential Questions
Miss McKensi Fashion	<u>Me, Myself, and I.</u> <u>A Glimpse of my World</u>	Question Words Numbers Colors	Who am I? Who are you?
Mrs. Clark Traveling	<u>Your World: My Unique Family.</u> <u>Making Friends</u>	Colors Size Personality Traits Physical Characteristics	What characteristics do I value in other? Who is my family?
Mr. Jou Dancing	<u>How I Celebrate.</u> <u>Let's Celebrate</u>	I am from I celebrate I speak	What is the meaning behind cultural celebrations? How do people create opportunities for interaction?
Mr. Gui Gardening	<u>My Hobbies.</u> <u>From My Home to Yours</u>	What do you like? Favorites Less favorite	What interests to people have? What are my preferences and why?
Mr. Zhi Cooking	<u>What and Where I Eat.</u> <u>My Food Menu</u>	I prefer I like to Directions	What are my favorite foods? How do I get to the restaurant?

# Miss McKensi's Fashion Unit

Miss McKensi  
Fashion

Me, Myself, and I.  
A Glimpse of my  
World

Question Words  
Numbers  
Colors

Who am I?  
Who are you?



# Mr. Gui's Gardening Unit

Mr. Gui  
Gardening

My Hobbies.  
From My Home to  
Yours

What do you like?  
Favorites  
Less favorite

What interests to people  
have?  
What are my preferences  
and why?





## “Can-Do’s”

- Interpersonal Communication: “I can communicate about a traditional Chinese Garden using single words and phrases that I have practiced and memorized.”
- Presentational Speaking: “I can present information about a traditional Chinese Garden using single words and phrases that I have practiced and memorized.”
- Presentational Writing: “I can copy some familiar words about Chinese Gardens.”
- Interpretive Listening: “I can recognize a few memorized words and phrases about Chinese Gardens when I hear them spoken”
- Interpretive Reading: “I can recognize a few memorized words about Chinese Gardens when I read”



# Rotation Benefits



## Teacher Choice

Teachers who teach what they feel passionate about deliver their instruction with gumption and fidelity. There is less of an ask to “dive deep” when the owner of the information delivers their knowledge with confidence and excitement.

## Recycling and Background Knowledge

Students are continuously expanding and extending their vocabulary and ability to see words used in real world situations. Recycling words via the rotation model expands students background knowledge.



## Excitement is Contagious

Students are excited when their teacher is excited. Each new rotation opens up a world of excitement giving students new teachers, teaching styles, classroom environments, decorations, themes and language.

## Ample Time for Gradual Release of Responsibility

Teachers are able to model and teach with fidelity while students are able to gain the confidence needed to demonstrate learning.



After students have spent a week on a topic, they can use ideas and words from their first week of learning (rotation) and expand their word usage to the second (rotation) unit of study. The words and areas of knowledge are different depending on the particular week each cohort began each unit of study.



# Rotation Model Considerations



## Some Students and Some Teachers Just Get To Know Each Other After a Week

The rotation model allows for students and teachers to have a learning curve when it comes to individual teaching and learning style. Some relationships take time to build and time spent together with each teacher is limited.

## Man Plans; God Laughs

Field trips or excursions often will not repeat themselves weekly. This means although teachers plan for similar experiences based on themes and lesson plans, students will have unique experiences and teachers will have to constantly modify and plan for change (not always a negative, just something to think about). Novelty in each new unit or week.

# Benefits for Teachers and Students

- Community
- Friendly Competition
- Experts
- Gift of Time
- Repetition
- Active Classroom
- Noise (louder please)
- Check for Understanding
- Engaged Students



# Benefits for Both Teachers and Students



# STARTALK Parallels DCPS Core Values

## STARTALK PROMOTES EQUITY

## STARTALK EMPOWERS OUR PEOPLE

## STARTALK ENSURES EXCELLENT SCHOOLS

## STARTALK EDUCATES THE WHOLE CHILD

## STARTALK ENGAGES FAMILIES

### PROMOTE EQUITY

Define, understand, and promote equity so that we eliminate opportunity gaps and systematically interrupt institutional bias.

- Focus on equity across all DCPS.
- Offer programming that supports students of color.
- Prioritize budgeting and resources for students who need them most.



### EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE

Recruit, develop, and retain a talented, caring, and diverse team.

- Infuse our values into all that we do.
- Improve teacher pipelines, especially for bilingual teachers and male educators of color.
- Strengthen school leadership development.



### ENSURE EXCELLENT SCHOOLS

Increase the number of excellent schools throughout the city.

- Grow schools based on need and promote diversity and innovation, including multilingual or magnet programs.
- Increase attendance and enrollment.



### EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD

Provide rigorous, joyful, and inclusive academic and social emotional learning experiences to ensure all students are college and career ready.

- Embed social emotional learning in our classrooms.
- Offer new middle school courses and extracurriculars.
- Expand access to college and career preparation.
- Strengthen instruction for special education students and English Learners.
- Focus on early literacy.



### ENGAGE FAMILIES

Ensure communication and deepen partnerships with families and the community.

- Involve families and the community in children's learning, including through home visits.
- Improve communication with and listen to families.

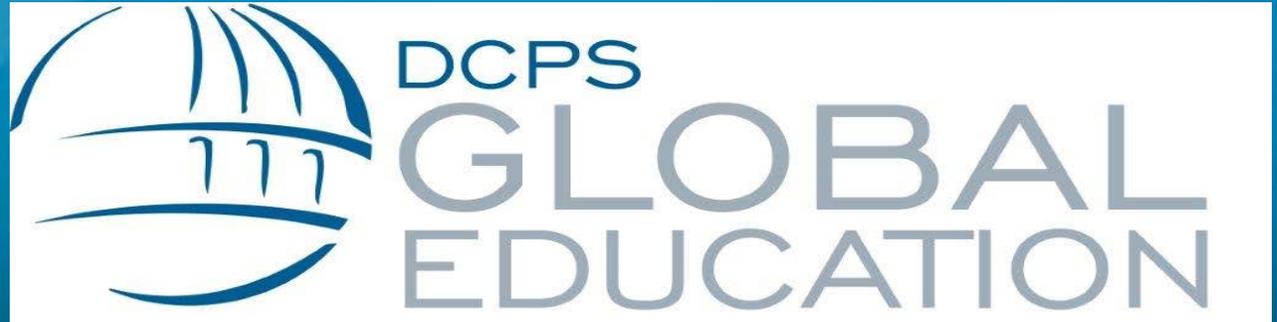


STARTALK  
*Start Talking!*

# PARTNERS AND FRIENDS



District of Columbia Public Schools  
**Language Acquisition Division**  
.....  
División de Adquisición de Idiomas  
.....  
La Division De L'apprentissage Des Langues | 得外援案欢  
የተማሪዎች መቀበያና የቋንቋ ትምህርት ዋና ክፍል Ban LànhHội Ngôn Ngữ



For information and inquiries:  
Nicole Ugel: 240-277-6770  
[nicole.ugel@dc.gov](mailto:nicole.ugel@dc.gov)

DCPS is honored to have the opportunity to host a similar STARTALK Summer 2018 Chinese language program. Thank you to our STARTALK Team Leader Iran Arbabi for her invaluable suggestions and support.