

Student Testimonials



“I really like the EMB Program because I get to learn a new language and now I can talk with my grandparents in Mandarin.” Ella T.

“I like the EMB program a lot because you get to learn a new language, the work is more challenging and it is also very fun.” Caleb C.



“The best thing about learning Mandarin is that it’s fun!” Megan L.

“The EMB Program is fun and educational because the teachers here are really nice and I’ve learned a lot from them. Learning Mandarin is really useful and cool because I’m learning a new language. When I went to China, I could use my Mandarin.” Ryan T.

“The Mandarin characters are really fun to write. It’s tricky but it’s really fun.” Kayla F. & Maya H.



Application Process

Early Mandarin Bilingual (EMB) is a District Program. Applications are accepted for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students only.

For Kindergarten entry, please register at your English catchment school, which starts in November, then apply for the EMB program online starting January of the year your child will begin Kindergarten. For additional information, please go to www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten.

Applicants will be notified as to placement in February. All students are required to participate in an English Language Proficiency assessment, as this program is for children who have fluency in English. The assessment occurs in February prior to confirmation of placement.

For children who would like to enter the program in Grade 1 applications are submitted directly to the school.

John Norquay Elementary School
4710 Slocan Street,
Vancouver, V5R 2A1
604 713 4666

Norquay Elementary Early Mandarin Bilingual Program



VSB

Norquay Early Mandarin Bilingual Program (EMB)

- ✓ The EMB program provides students with opportunities to develop and maintain practical language skills in both Mandarin and English.
- ✓ Students will have the opportunity to develop the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and communicating in both Mandarin and English.
- ✓ Promotes exploration, understanding and appreciation of the cultures and traditions of Mandarin-speaking world and contributes to multilingualism and multiculturalism.
- ✓ Students will be able to apply acquired Mandarin language skills in real life situations and environments.



At Norquay, the EMB program is taught by teachers who are specially trained to teach all subjects in Mandarin and English. The program is fluid where teachers interchange Mandarin and English throughout the day.

Subjects taught in Mandarin:

- ✓ Mandarin Language Arts (K-3 Traditional and 4-7 Simplified Mandarin)
- ✓ Arts Education
- ✓ Physical & Health Education
- ✓ Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies

Subjects taught in English:

- ✓ English Language Arts
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies
- ✓ Career Education

Even though the above subjects are determined by language, there is often integration of both languages.

Benefits of learning Mandarin

- ✓ Expands the intellect through learning both English and Mandarin
- ✓ Develops enhanced feelings of self-esteem due to pride in having acquired a tangible skill
- ✓ Supports students to be part of our global community and prepares them to be part of the new global community
- ✓ Inspires interest in and respect for people of other cultures and traditions
- ✓ Provides students with more choices for advanced education and career options
- ✓ Broadens students' cultural life through access to literature, art, music and theatre in another language

How is English impacted?

- ✓ Increases cognitive abilities, critical thinking, and creative thinking
- ✓ Develops an understanding of how languages work which leads to improve English literacy
- ✓ Enhances communication skills in students' first language
- ✓ Improves overall student performance
- ✓ Makes learning additional languages easier

