



# Mandarin Chinese



A collaboration  
between N C DPI,  
LEARN NC, and  
NCVPS

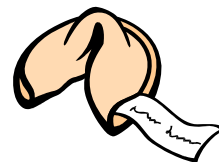
## Learning Language Online

### Online Courses through NC VPS

Beginning this fall, the **North Carolina Virtual Public School** will offer Mandarin Chinese language courses to prepare students as global citizens. The pilot offering of Mandarin Chinese 1 will set the stage for Mandarin Chinese 1-4 and A.P Mandarin Chinese to be available in the next 2 years. Additional information will be posted on the NC VPS website as it is available ([www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org)).

Unlike other online Chinese courses, these courses will focus on the spoken language to prepare the student for communicating as soon as possible in the language. Students will hear and see Chinese through video vignettes which follow two teenagers through their

daily lives. Each lesson also contains listening exercises, and weekly practice with conversation coaches and the instructor – all online! Students will devote 5-7 hours weekly to the course and will use various technologies to communicate, record their speaking, and download videos and audio to their ipods if they wish. Progress will be charted using **LinguaFolio**, a document in which those who are learning or have learned a language can record and reflect on their language learning and cultural experiences.



### Who should take Mandarin and how do they enroll?

Not all learners are suited to the online environment. A *Readiness Checklist* will be made available to help guidance counselors, parents, and students determine if the student is ready to take the course online. Guidance counselors will assist students to enroll in the courses following the procedures of the NC VPS. During the course, students will be supported by their conversation coaches, the instructor, classmates, parents, and NC VPS facilitators. In addition, courses are designed to meet the needs of a variety of learners and to foster the idea that participation is not limited to a select minority of students.

Successful students will login to their courses throughout the week. This

requires daily, reliable access to the Internet. Students who are considering enrollment in these courses should possess the following:

- Basic technology skills
- Good organizational skills
- Willingness to take risks
- Good study skills
- Self-discipline
- Desire to have fun while learning!

For additional information about these offerings, contact Angel Dowden at [ADowden@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:ADowden@dpi.state.nc.us).