

The Goddard School in Rockville Adds Mandarin Chinese to Curriculum

ROCKVILLE, Md., June 6 /PRNewswire/ -- Students at The Goddard School in King Farm (www.goddardschool.com) have joined thousands of Americans studying Mandarin Chinese, the fastest growing language in the United States.

What makes these aspiring scholars unique, however, is their age. Ranging from three to five years old, the preschoolers are learning basic Chinese symbols and phrases while practicing their ABCs and learning to tie their shoes. The school, which also provides basic instruction in Spanish, added Mandarin to its curriculum last year in response to China's growing economic and cultural influence.

"With more than a quarter of the world's population speaking Mandarin, China is playing an increasingly significant role in the world," said Ross Flax, owner of The Goddard School in Rockville. "As we designed our curriculum, we felt it was important to not only prepare students for kindergarten but also the world by exposing them to other cultures and languages at an early age."

Twice a week Hsiu Liang, a native of Taiwan who speaks fluent Mandarin, teaches more than 140 Goddard School students about China's culture, music, food and language. The students also spend two days a week learning Spanish and studying other cultures. "We are fortunate to live in a very diverse community in the shadow of our nation's capital," said Shannon Mullineaux, Academic Director at The Goddard School at King Farm. "It's wonderful that our children are being taught to appreciate the diversity that makes our country great while also learning lessons that will benefit them as they continue their education."

Located at 900 Gaither Road in Rockville, The Goddard School provides high quality educational programs designed to meet the social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs of children ages six months to six years. In addition to the strong emphasis on foreign language and cultures, the school's play-based curriculum provides children with access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities such as yoga, sign language, art history, music appreciation and manners. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Ross Flax at (310) 330-2300 or visit www.goddardschool.com.

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