



NEWS RELEASE

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1st Chinese Star Contest Opens to Local K-12 Students

SAN JOSE, CA – Local education and community leaders will come together at 11 a.m. on August 27 at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation to kick off the San Jose – Silicon Valley first Chinese Star Contest, a competition co-sponsored by the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and the Confucius Institute at San Francisco State University in order to encourage K-12 students to explore Chinese language, art, poetry and culture.

“Our world is getting smaller every day, and the leaders of tomorrow are the students who learn now to engage in other cultures and languages,” said Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry. “I am so pleased that, through this event, our students will begin building skills that will help prepare them for the global marketplace while also developing an appreciation of China’s impressive cultural legacy.”

The kickoff event will feature speakers from throughout the local education community, including SCCOE Superintendent Gundry and also representatives from San Francisco State University and the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco. In addition, Cupertino Union School District Superintendent Wendy Gudalewicz will speak to the impact their Dual Immersion Mandarin program has had in her district, and two students from Meyerholz Elementary School will share thoughts about their experience as dual immersion students.

“We are very excited about this opportunity to team up with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and local schools and communities,” said Jiaxin Xie, director of the Confucius Institute at San Francisco State University. “Through these contests, we hope to provide a platform for Chinese learners to demonstrate their linguistic and cultural talents, and showcase their interest and achievements in learning Chinese language and culture with help from their teachers and parents. We hope that the study of Chinese will not just connect American students with the language, but also with the culture, literature, and rich history of China.”

Students can compete in one of five age groups in four categories: Calligraphy (pen/brush), Painting/Drawing, Chinese Poetry Recital and Oral Presentation. The deadline to apply for participation is September 30, with the contest itself taking place on October 25, followed by an awards ceremony on November 15.

Silicon Valley Education Foundation is located at 1400 Parkmoor Avenue, Suite 200 in San Jose.
For more information, or to register to participate in the contest, please visit www.sfsu.edu/~ci.

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