



NEWS RELEASE

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1st Chinese Star Contest launched by SCCOE

SAN JOSE, CA – Local education and community leaders gathered yesterday 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 intended to encourage the exploration of Chinese language, art, poetry and culture by K-12 students.

Superintendents from several local districts attended the event, which featured speakers from the Confucius Institute and the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco. Two students currently enrolled in Mandarin dual-language immersion programs in Cupertino Union School District also spoke, sharing their individual experiences of becoming bilingual and biliterate at a young age.

Jon R. Gundry, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, emphasized the incredible value of bilingual skills for students growing up in a world that has become increasingly connected by the rapid advancement of technology.

“We know from the research that students who grow up learning in two languages succeed at higher levels than those who grow up learning only one language,” said Gundry. “This is a great opportunity for kids not just to learn another language and another culture, but to expand their thinking and their view of who they are in the world.”

Students in five different age groups entering the Chinese Star Contest can compete 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.

To see video highlights of this story, click [here](#). For more information, or to register to participate in the contest, please visit www.sfsu.edu/~ci.

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