



DIVISION OF ACADEMICS

Judith J. White, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer | judith.white@pgcps.org

January 27, 2026

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to share an important update regarding our current Chinese Immersion Program.

Immersion programs are most successful when students begin together and progress as a consistent cohort. As a boundary school, our program accepts students at different grade levels without a lottery application process. Over time, this has made it increasingly difficult to maintain the continuity and language acquisition required for an authentic immersion experience, particularly as students join with varying levels of language proficiency.

After careful consideration, we have determined that we can no longer sustain the immersion model in a way that best supports an immersion experience. As a result, the following is a proposed change for your school. The Chinese Immersion Program will be turned into a Chinese World Languages program. Students will still have the opportunity to stay connected to the language through Chinese World Languages instruction in a separate class and will now receive all instructional content in English. This model allows students at all grade levels to engage in meaningful Mandarin language and cultural learning in ways that are developmentally appropriate and accessible to all.

As students transition to middle school, they will have the opportunity to participate in a World Languages course at their boundary middle school and to enroll in additional language courses in high school.

We are proud of the learning experiences the Chinese Immersion Program has provided and grateful to our students, families, and staff who supported its work. This transition allows us to ensure high-quality language instruction while maintaining a clear and consistent pathway for students who wish to continue studying Chinese.

For additional information, please contact Jane Tarwacki, Instructional Supervisor, Immersion Programs, at jane.tarwacki@pgcps.org or 240-455-5899.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Judith J. White, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer