

# 祖筍華人文化中心



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Dear parents/students/teachers,

According to our calendar, it's time for the annual Spelling Contest. However, we will postpone this school event for a week till Nov.8.

Based on the collected feedback on this event, we will do it differently this year. Instead of everyone coming to the MPR watching contestants competing, we will do a standard written test in classroom. This test divides the common 3000 Chinese characters into 9 levels. Each year our school will run this standard test to encourage students to advance along these 9 levels. In each test 50 randomly chosen characters from one particular level will be given to students, who are asked to write out the PinYin of the character (to indicate they know how to pronounce it) and to make a phrase using that character (to indicate they know the meaning of the character).

There are 600 most frequently used characters in level 1 and 300 more in each incremental level. If a student can earn 92 points out of 100, he or she will pass this level and be allowed to take the test at the next higher level. School will award those who passed the test. If the points are lower than 92 but higher than 80, this student will be given a second chance to retake the test (different set of 50 characters) in the following week. If the average score of the two tests is higher than 87, it will be viewed as a pass and the student can move on. If one failed to pass level one, this person will need to retake the level 1 test in next year.

Because this is the first year to do this test, whoever pass the level 1 test will be given a chance to take another one between level 2 and level 5, based on students' own decision. This higher level test will take place on Nov 22. In other words, this series of standard tests will be done using three Sundays (Nov.8, Nov.15 and Nov.22), but only the first one will use some of the language class time. The other two will use part of the cultural class session.

Because grades 1-3 (Simplified, Traditional, Bilingual, Adult) have not learned enough characters yet, they will be given three possibilities: 1. Take the standard level 1 test just as grade 4 and above; 2. Take a non-standard test that is based on the characters directly from the textbook, rather than from the 600 characters of standard level 1; 3. Do not participate. Teachers of grades 1-3 shall let the principal know which possibility their class will take by Nov.1.

The results of the non-standard test will not be included in the standard ranking system. However, students who achieve 92 or more will still be awarded.



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**Grades 4 and above shall exclusively take the standard level 1 test on Nov.8.** It is our intention to identify and award those who can demonstrate mastering the core problem of Chinese language - the characters. If you can pass the level 9, you are the master of all.

Attachments are the announcement of this event in both simplified and traditional Chinese. The complete vocabulary set is also included.

Feel free to ask in case of any question.

Thanks

Hong

