

塔城华人姐妹会中文学校开学典礼演讲

感谢大家支持我们塔斯卡卢萨华人姐妹会主办的中文学校，首先想向各位介绍一下我们为什么要成立这样一个非盈利性组织，我们的宗旨是什么，为什么我们要创办中文学校。

相信在座的很多家长都试过在家自己给孩子教中文，为什么要这样做呢？因为大家都意识到我们的孩子和中国血脉相连，会中文和懂得中国文化对我们的孩子是多末重要。语言文字是一种文化的基础，只有让我们的孩子会中文，他们才能充分了解中国，她的人，她的文化，她的历史，她的博大精深，才能加强他们对中华文化的认同感和对自己华人背景自豪感！孩子刚开始好奇愿意学，可时间长了就觉得枯燥不愿学了，我们还得逼着他们学。最后结果怎末样呢，大多是不容乐观，孩子没了兴趣，家长也失去了信心，有一些就不了了之了。我们多希望塔城能像其它大城市一样有所中文学校以帮助我们的孩子学中文啊！在我们这个小镇上，到目前为止没有一个正式的中文学校，第二代汉语水平流失似乎成了一个很普遍的现象，汉语听说已是艰难，读写更难。我们这一代国内还有亲朋好友，可以带孩子回国看看。那再下一代呢？父母已不会中文，也没有紧密的中国联系，当地再没有华人社区，至此，移民过程就成了消灭中国文化的过程。这是一个令人越想越心惊的状况。

华人虽然移民史追溯 19 世纪，但早期遭到了非常不公正的待遇，真正的移民潮且在教育经济上都有一定地位是在 1980 年后。所以我们就是第一代移民，什么都是第一次经历，怎样在不同的文化环境里保留本民族文化也是一个从来没遭遇过的挑战。今天我们举行中文学校的开学典礼，这只是我们 TCS 社区活动中的第一步。我们想告诉大家的是，这不只是一个学校，更是一个社区平台，服务华人家庭，为大家提供相互交流增进社区归属感的空间。同时，作为一个团体，我们可以向其他族裔传播中国文化，增进交流，促进融合。虽然我们叫做“塔城华人姐妹会”，我们绝对欢迎男同胞的积极参与和献力献策。建立本地华人社区组织的责任在我们大家的肩上，如果再无所作为，我们的下一代就没有足够的中文背景来继续文化传承。中文学校我们也是第一次办，本着群策群力，总结经验，不断调整办学措施的精神，我们希望中文学校及塔城华人社区能够长期得到大家的支持，并不断发展壮大。所以我们的目标是建立一个**长期存在**的语言学校和华人社区中心，只有这样我们才能为我们的孩子，及他们的后代提供一个学习和传承中国文化的场所。

在这儿我们谢谢大家的踊跃支持和愿意成为会员，也谢谢那些愿意成为顾问团成员的家长。我们将会定期召开会员会议及顾问团会议，随时听取大家的意见和建议，让 TCS 和中文学校越办越好。

这是我们的社区，这是我们的责任，让我们大家共同努力。

谢谢大家支持！

塔城华人姐妹会

2015 年八月

Tuscaloosa Chinese Sisterhood Chinese Language School

Opening Ceremony Address

Dear all,

First, we appreciate your being here and showing support. The enthusiasm we received has far exceeded what we expected. I would like to take a few minutes to introduce why we formed the Tuscaloosa Chinese Sisterhood, a nonprofit organization of Chinese women in Tuscaloosa, and why we want to start a Chinese language school.

I believe many of you here today have tried to teach your children Chinese at home. Why we do this, because we all believe our children as Chinese decedents should know Chinese language and retain Chinese identity. Language is the foundation, only through language will our children understand China, Chinese culture, Chinese history, and feel proud to be Chinese or Chinese American. It is hard to teach a language without an environment. We all had such experience. Our kids felt bored and lost interests in learning Chinese and parents felt frustrated then gave up. We all hoped to have a Chinese language school which will help to create a better Chinese learning environment.

Up till now, there has not been a sustainable Chinese language school in Tuscaloosa. Losing Chinese language ability and Chinese identity is a common problem seen in second generation Chinese in US. Many can listen or speak some, but most cannot read and write in Chinese. For us, with families or friends still in China, we can still bring the kids back to China to visit to reestablish their Chinese ties. But what about the next generation; our grand-children? Our Children, if with poor Chinese language and limited culture knowledge, and with only distant connections in China will be unable to pass on a strong Chinese identity to their kids. At this point, the large Chinese immigration to the US will have been largely assimilated; a cultural wipeout.

Chinese American immigration history dates back to 19th century, but the early immigrants had a really hard time to be accepted in America. The big Chinese immigration wave of highly educated people started since 1980s. In that respect, we are the first generation immigrants, how to maintain culture identity in an immigration culture is a new challenge that we have never faced with before. Today we are here to celebrate the opening of our Chinese school. This is the Tuscaloosa Chinese Sisterhood's first step toward forming a real Chinese community. This is not just a school, but also a social platform that provides an environment for Chinese in town to network, communicate, exchange ideas and share experiences, and together promote the sense of belonging and Chinese identity. In addition, as a group, we can better integrate into local

community, enriching culture diversity by sharing rich Chinese heritage. Although an organization formed and led by women, we definitely welcome all support and voluntary work from the dads and everybody in the community.

How to teach Chinese is a first-time job for us too, but we believe we can all work together to figure out and improve. This is not something transient to test out or if it does not work we shall quit. We together have to be determined to make this work, not for us, but for them, our children and grandchildren, or else the thousands years of culture will be lost in our hands. Also, our Chinese school only have 90 minutes every week, it is impossible in that short period of time to cram in Chinese language and all other cultural elements. Through the Chinese school we also want to inspire and motivate parents to do much more at home.

We want to thank everybody again for great participation and support, being TCS members or serve on TCS consultant group. TCS will have regular member meetings to collect your feedbacks and suggestions to keep improving our Chinese school.

This is our responsibility, our community. It is not about ego, not about committee members telling you what to do. Every member counts. We need your voice, we need your support. Together we are strong!

Thank you,

Tuscaloosa Chinese Sisterhood

Aug. 2015