



Tesseract School
Engaging Minds. Inspiring Dreams.

TESSERACT TO HOST STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS FROM CHINA'S GUILIN ZHONGSHAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA- December 3, 2008 - Tesseract School, a non-profit, independent private school—preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th grade class starting fall 2009— announced today that students and administrators from China's Guilin Zhongshan Middle School will be visiting Tesseract the week of December 8.

This visit comes just one and a half years after Nigel Taplin, Tesseract's head of school, visited China after being selected to participate in the U.S. Educator Chinese Bridge Delegation. The objective of this delegation, organized in cooperation between the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) and the Chinese Language Association for Secondary Elementary Schools (CLASS), was for educators from the United States to make connections with Chinese schools, learn more about China and find out about the unique challenges of starting a Mandarin program.

While in China, Taplin and the principal of Guilin Zhongshan Middle School signed an agreement called a Memorandum of Understanding. "This memorandum notes that both schools have agreed in principle to be international partners and to develop long-term education programs with mutual benefits for both schools' students," Taplin explained. "The benefits outlined in the memorandum will be achieved through the exchange visits of students and teachers, English and Chinese language programs, curriculum enrichment to language learning, development of links in specific subject areas and expansion of opportunities for students to communicate via e-resources."

Tesseract is the first American school with which Guilin Zhongshan Middle School has established a partnership. Through its visit to Tesseract the students and administrators will learn about the U.S. education system and American teaching methods. Tesseract's Mandarin class will be the students' hosts on campus. Tesseract School maintains a concentration on foreign language, which includes Spanish in its core curriculum, as part of its dedication to provide an education that prepares students to be citizens with a global perspective. "This developing collaboration between Tesseract and Guilin Zhongshan will further enhance this objective," said Taplin. Mandarin has been part of Tesseract's curriculum since fall of 2006. At Tesseract, all students in preschool through middle school learn Spanish; in high school, students may choose to learn Mandarin or to continue to learn Spanish.



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In addition to learning about the American school system by joining classes at Tesseract's lower school campus and its middle and high school campus, Guilin Zhongshan's students and administrators, who are all staying with host families from Tesseract, will learn about Arizona's culture and history, visit the Heard and Pueblo Grande Museums, take a tour of the Arizona State University Biodesign Institute buildings, visit the Arizona Capitol, and take a trip to the Grand Canyon and Montezuma's Castle.

About Tesseract

Tesseract School is a non-profit, independent private school for students in preschool through ninth grade. The school's inaugural ninth-grade class started September 2008, along with the opening of its new middle and high school campus. All grades, preschool through 12, will be available fall of 2011. Tesseract School has high academic standards, thematic learning and more than two decades of academic excellence. Tesseract fosters each student's intellect, love of learning and strength of character in an innovative and collaborative environment. It prepares students to excel in college and beyond, lead lives of purpose, and become ethical and compassionate citizens with a global perspective. Tesseract's lower school is located at 4800 East Doubletree Ranch Road, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253. Tesseract's middle and high school is located at 3939 East Shea Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona, 85028. For more information visit www.tesseractschool.org or call 480-991-1770.

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