Statement of Teaching Philosophy
Jianhui Du

I believe that ALL students can learn at their own speed. I have high expectations for ALL my students. I trust my students and see them as individuals. I believe that socio-economic status, ethnicity and language are not determinants of success. It is the teacher’s responsibility to provide students with both age-appropriate and developmentally-appropriate instruction. Teachers have to know their students well and use the best instruction to address all the needs of students. Teachers need to help students gain proficiency in skills that will enable them to be productive members of society.

Furthermore, I would like to point out some of the aspects that can reflect my teaching philosophy.

**Give students a sense of pride and confidence for choosing Chinese**

I set a positive and encouraging tone at the beginning of school year; I always tell my students that they are the best. They are visionary and brave for choosing Chinese which is completely different from English and other European languages. I also tell them that I have high expectations for each of them and I believe that they can reach them.

**Create a goal-oriented syllabus and state the objective of the year**

I believe that establishing clear learning goals, creating goal-oriented syllabi and developing vivid lesson plans are essential for teaching any language. Goal-oriented syllabi can keep the courses on track. It is also the basis of assessing the effectiveness of teaching. I always distribute my syllabus to my students on the first day of school and spend the whole class period (2 blocks) talking about it and providing explanations if students have questions.

**Set up a positive learning environment and give students constructive feedbacks**

I often use the successful experiences of other people in learning Chinese and my own experience of learning a foreign language to encourage my students. I encourage students to participate in all sorts of interesting and meaningful activities and not be afraid of making mistakes at the beginning of their learning. I always try to return students’ homework, quizzes and tests the following class after they have turned them in, in order for my students to have a better chance of learning from their own mistakes.

**Maintain students’ interest and motivate them to learn**

Applying interesting and meaningful activities can involve students in active learning. Integrating technology is another way that serves this purpose: I have been using the internet and other forms of entertaining and easily accessible forms of technology such as Voki, Little Bird Tales, Quizlet and Youtube for my teaching. Using these tools also allow students to develop and demonstrate their language skills.