

The 48th CLTAC Mandarin Chinese Speech Contest Official Rules

1. The 48th CLTAC Mandarin Chinese Speech Contest (2024) will be held on April 13, 2024, at Lowell High School, San Francisco. The registration deadline is on March 15, 2024. Complete information on the speech contest can be found on the CLTAC [website's Speech Contest page](#).
2. The contestant must be a student currently enrolled in a Mandarin Chinese program during the 2023-2024 academic year at an elementary school, a middle/senior high school, a community college, or a university that is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) or is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).
3. To ensure fairness, each contestant should register for a specific category based on his or her linguistic background and Chinese learning experience and must agree to participate in the assigned division and category defined in the Appendix. The CLTAC Mandarin Speech Contest Organizing Committee (Organizing Committee, hence after) reserves the right to combine categories with fewer than five contestants in each category.
4. Each contestant should compose their own speech using level-appropriate language. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify contestants with identical speeches. Contestants should memorize the speech. Points will be deducted for reading.
5. Contestants deliver their speech within a period of time. Speeches should be about **2-3** minutes for Elementary School and Middle School Divisions, **3-4** minutes for High School Divisions, and College Divisions. Points will be deducted if the speech is either too short or too long for their grade levels, as determined by the judges.
6. The contestant may speak on any appropriate topic commensurate with his/her level of training. Sample topics include Learning Mandarin, Family Life, Favorite Sports, My 2024, A School Event, and Travel to China/Taiwan/Hong Kong, etc. The purpose of the speech contest is to foster good language skills. Emphasis is placed on accuracy in pronunciation and tones, fluency, delivery, cadence, as well as content.
7. The contestants register through their instructors, who must be active members in good standing of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of California (CLTAC) in the current calendar year. CLTAC must receive the instructor's membership fee before the registration deadline (March 15, 2024) to register the contestants for the speech contest.
8. It is the instructor's responsibility to place each of their students in the most appropriate category commensurate with the student's language background and study experience. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify a contestant based on the inaccurate background and training information provided in the registration.

Appendix: Speech Contest Registration Categories

<u>Division I</u>		1st through 5th grade students	
	Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program should register in Category D.		
	Category I A		Students with no prior background or with very limited experience in Chinese
		I-A-1	Elementary school first year Chinese class
		I-A-2	Elementary school second year Chinese class
		I-A-3	Elementary school third year Chinese class
		I-A-4	Elementary school fourth year Chinese class
		I-A-5	Elementary school fifth year Chinese class
	Category I B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin or with minimal experience in Mandarin
		Group naming following Category I A convention	
Category I C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin	
	Group naming following Category I A convention		
Category I D		Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program	
	Group naming following Category I A convention		
<u>Division II</u>		6th through 8th grade students	
	Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program should register in Category D.		
	Category II A		Students with no prior background or with very limited experience in Chinese
		II-A-1	Middle school first year Chinese class
		II-A-2	Middle school second year Chinese class
		II-A-3	Middle school third year Chinese class
	Category II B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin or with minimal experience in Mandarin
Group naming following Category II A convention			

	Category II C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin
		Group naming following Category II A convention	
	Category II D		Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program
		Group naming following Category II A convention	
Division III			
		9th through 12th grade students	
	Students in AP classes should register in Category D.		
	Category III A		Students with no experience in Chinese of any dialect and/or no experience of Chinese schooling in Asian countries
		III-A-1	High school first year Chinese class
		III-A-2	High school second year Chinese class
		III-A-3	High school third year Chinese class
		III-A-4	High school fourth year Chinese class
	Category III B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin and/or some experience of Chinese schooling in Asian countries
		Group naming following Category III A convention	
	Category III C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin
		Group naming following Category III A convention	
	Category III D		Students in AP class
		III-D-1	Non-heritage students
		III-D-2	Heritage students

Division IV			
			College/University students
	Category IV A		Students with no prior background or with very limited experience in Chinese of any dialect
		IV-A-1-1	Students in first half of first year of study

		IV-A-1-2	Students in second half of first year of study
		IV-A-2-1	Students in first half of second year of study
		IV-A-2-2	Students in second half of second year of study
		IV-A-3-1	Students in first half of third year of study
		IV-A-3-2	Students in second half of third year of study
		IV-A-4	Students in fourth year of study
	Category IV B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin
		Group naming following Category IV A convention	
	Category IV C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin
		Group naming following Category IV A convention	