

# The 49<sup>th</sup> CLTAC Mandarin Chinese Speech Contest Official Rules

1. The 49<sup>th</sup> CLTAC Mandarin Chinese Speech Contest (2025) will be held on April 20, 2025, at Menlo School, Atherton. The registration deadline is on March 15, 2025. 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 2024-2025 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 2025, 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, 2025) 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**

|                           |   |  |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b><u>Division I</u></b>  | <b>1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students</b>                           |  |  |
|                           | 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  |  |  |
|                           |   |  |  |
| <b><u>Division II</u></b> | <b>6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students</b>                           |  |  |
|                           | 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              |  |
| <b>Division III</b> |   |  |  |
|                     |   | <b>9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students</b> |  |
|                     | 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  |

|                    |               |          |   |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|---|
| <b>Division IV</b> |               |          |   |
|                    |               |          | <b>College/University students</b>  |
|                    | 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 |   |