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Confucius Institute in Coquitlam

The Confucius Institute is a non-profit educational organization that was created by China's Hanban, the Office of Chinese Language Council International, and is a part of the Chinese Ministry of Education. The primary goal of the Confucius Institute is to strengthen multicultural relationships with other countries and promote cultural and educational exchanges. There are over 450 Confucius Institutes around the globe in over 100 countries on six continents. Coquitlam's Confucius Institute promotes language and culture in much the same way as Portugal's Instituto Camões, Brazil's Centro Cultural Brasileiro, Britain's British Council, France's Alliance Française, Italy's Società Dante Alighieri, Spain's Instituto Cervantes and Germany's Goethe-Institut.

Students and community members may access resources provided by the Coquitlam Confucius Institute to learn about Chinese culture and language by registering in [classes and events](#) offered after school, in the evening or on weekends. Programs are taught by local teachers, designed for ages four to adult and are open to anyone interested, for a small fee. Mandarin language, traditional Chinese painting, dance, choir and kung fu instruction are some of the more popular offerings. Annually the Chinese Bridge Public Speaking Contest attracts many participants from around the Lower Mainland wishing to showcase their Mandarin prowess.

In addition to the educational offerings, the Confucius Institute hosts a proficiency testing centre for the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) or Chinese Proficiency Test, the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) and the Business Chinese Test (BCT). These internationally standardized tests offer non-native Chinese speakers credentials that may open doors to employment or other opportunities where speaking a major global language may be advantageous – Chinese is spoken by a fifth of the world's population! The Confucius Institute in Coquitlam has provided grant monies to support the Mandarin bilingual program and secondary school Mandarin language programs. It also provides support in the form of school supplies, books, professional development and exchange trips.

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is committed to the success of all learners and providing educational opportunities that enrich the lives of students and encourage a perspective of global citizenship. Access to unique programs like those offered by the Confucius Institute and Coquitlam International Education are invaluable in expanding and diversifying the worldviews of students and community members.