



GAZETTE

Volume #3, No. #1, 2024
An official publication for
Howard County Chinese School

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Howard County Chinese School continued the tradition of celebrating Independence Day with flourishing patriotic colors and performances!



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The 1st day of the 26th school year of HCCS officially began on August 25th, 2024. Teachers, students, and staff all flooded the school, eager to begin the school year. New classes such as Computer Programming were offered, and new staff came to usher in the new year of Chinese school.

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The HCCS Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated on September 28th, 2024. A food festival was held, with traditional Chinese food, followed by a cultural exhibit. The cultural exhibit featured breathtaking performances. Chinese culture, language, and tradition was brought to life by both the spirit of the performances, and food.

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On November 9th, the 2024 HCCS Sports Day was held, at the venue of Sports World. Many performances were displayed, and plenty of sports were tested by all age groups to enjoy. The event was welcoming and a lot of people heavily delighted in trying out new sports, and competing for that athletic glory.

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Preface:

For this edition of the gazette, we bring you a new school year and more of our favorite events such as the 4th of July Parade, the Mid-Autumn Festival, or our annual Field Day. This new volume of the gazette has really homed in on the strengths of previous gazettes, such as the special section for student essays. As they say, 3rd time's the charm and I hope you have a good time reading!

NOTICES & INCOMING EVENTS

Spring Festival Gala

On January 19th, the Howard County Chinese School will be hosting its annual Spring Festival Gala at Guilford Park High School. Join us for the Year of the Snake with a food fair, cultural exhibition, and outstanding performances. We hope to see you there!

Howard County Chinese School

hccs-md.org/gazette

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MISSION OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CHINESE SCHOOL

Established in 1998, Howard County Chinese School (HCCS) is a non-profit organization located in Howard County, Maryland. Its central mission is to advance Chinese language education, foster cultural inheritance, and promote community wellbeing.

School Website: <https://www.hccs-md.org/>

Facebook: facebook.com/HowardCountyChineseSchool

Twitter: twitter.com/HCCS_MD

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@howardcountychineseschool8338>

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of Howard County Chinese School, The Gazette encourages school students and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Email editorial copy and writing to pr@hccs-md.org.

NEWS

HCCS 4th of July Parade

On July 4th, the Howard County Chinese School proudly participated in the annual independence day parade held at River Hill. This is the seventh year in a row that HCCS has been a part of the parade and just like the previous years, they had a stunning performance.

With the SGA and Robotics team with their banners at the front, accompanied by adorable kids giving away candy, followed by a truck furnished with red white and blue decorations that even had a drummer who filled the air with sounds of music. Following them were the Tai Chi group performing martial arts and then the elegant Qipao group with their stylish and ornate umbrellas and dresses. Last but not least, there was an organized troupe of waist drummers who marched and played in unison like a well oiled machine.

Overall, the Howard County Chinese School demonstrated exactly why they participated in this parade, to celebrate the 4th of July by wowing and amazing people with amazing performances, music, and of course candy.



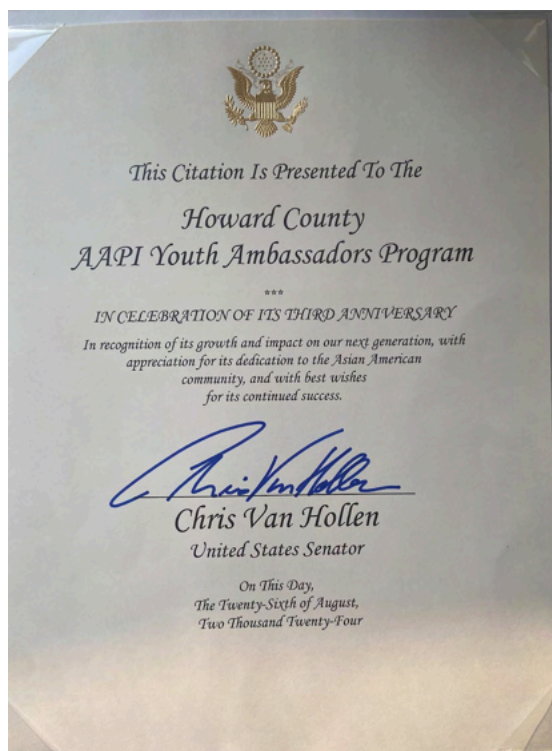
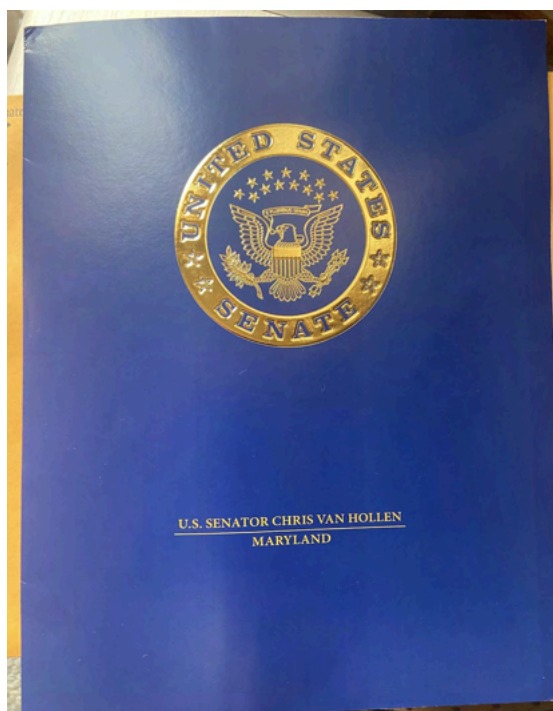
NEWS

US Senator Honors AAPI YAP's 3rd Anniversary

🔔 Exciting News from AAPI YAP! 🎉

We are thrilled to announce that we have recently received a citation from U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland in celebration of AAPI YAP's third anniversary! This honor recognizes the growing impact of our organization and the collective efforts of our students and parents. Your dedication and hard work are being acknowledged more and more! Let's continue to build on this momentum and make a difference in our community together. Thank you for your continued support! ☀️

Stay tuned for more updates and events!



NEWS

HCCS Organizes Washington Chinese Cultural Festival

🎉 Exciting News from the Washington Chinese Cultural Festival! 🎉

Yesterday, August 31st, we celebrated the annual Washington Chinese Cultural Festival with great success! Howard County Chinese School (HCCS) was honored to be one of the event's organizers, showcasing our cultural experience booth and participating in stage performances. Our students and parents actively joined us in DC to enjoy the festival and took part in the cultural parade representing our school.

The Howard Waist Drum Team, with their vibrant energy and impressive performances, was a stunning highlight of the parade! As always, HCCS stood out, demonstrating excellence and cultural pride!

A special thank you to our PTA for their strong organization and enthusiastic participation. Kudos also to the SGA students who skillfully promoted Chinese culture and represented HCCS at the cultural raffle, calligraphy, and Chinese painting booths. They not only honed their skills but also made new friends, enjoying a fulfilling and joyful day!

Let's continue to spread our cultural heritage and make every event a memorable one!





NEWS

HCCS Begins 1st Day of School, Marking 26 Years

Reporter: Addison Liu

On August 25, 2024, Howard County Chinese School began their 2024-2025 school year, starting the 26th year of HCCS. On this day, our Youth Journalists interviewed many people, ranging from teachers to parents and everything in between. You can find all of our videos and interviews on our Youtube channel, if you want to check that out. Everyone was excited for this new school year to begin! Many teachers and staff members that we had the honor of interviewing stated that one of the big reasons they enjoy teaching here at HCCS and what motivates them is seeing the students grow, learn, and prosper. A lot of our staff and educators have been here for 10+ years, and to them, inspiring new generations to learn more about Chinese culture and for students to stay close to their roots is very important. It can also be used as a way to bring communities together, and to learn as a diverse group. This new HCCS school year is bittersweet, as many of our staff members are stepping down, however, we now have many new amazing staff, such as our new Principal, Mr. Ming Li, our new Communications Director, Ms. Yan Jiang, and the new president of the PTA is now Ms. Xuhui Zhao! We are also offering some new classes this new year, those of which being, a Basic Chinese Ocarina Class (offered to those above the age of 11), Computer Programming 1: Level 1 Python Essentials class, AP Physics 1, and Tai Chi Fitness and Qigong. These are just some of the many new exciting things at Howard County Chinese School. We hope everyone has a great school year, and we are very excited to see improvement and fun memories in both our students and staff! Happy 26th year, Howard County Chinese School!





NEWS

HCCS Celebrates Students and Teachers Who Translated Important Survey

Reported by Joe Li

☀️ Honoring the YAP Connections Team! ☀️

On September 15th, 2024, we at the Howard County Chinese School celebrated the work of the students and teachers who contributed to the Chinese translation of an important survey regarding racial equity. Their certificates of appreciation were presented by the one and only Dr. Denise Boston, who is the director of the County Office of Human Rights and Equity. The awards were presented to Weiwei Shao, Mark Li, Yingzhe Tao, Grace Chen and Ning Li. Other recipients of the awards were Cynthia Tan, Ella Wang, Ryan Zhou, and Frank Zhang.

In an interview, Dr. Boston mentioned that she views the role of the Chinese community as important to racial equity and diversity as it provides a unique perspective on what it means to be Chinese, letting the community know that we're here, and providing our own views and ideas. Dr. Boston also encouraged the younger generation to stay open to learning about other cultures in the world and to keep an open mind. We would like to thank Dr. Boston for her dedication, even presenting these certificates on the weekend, and would also like to congratulate the recipients of the certificates one last time.

A big thank you to everyone involved for your dedication and support! 🙌



NEWS

HCCS Mid-Autumn Festival

Reported By Sophia Hua

On September 28th, 2024, the Howard County Chinese Cultural Center, part of the Howard County Chinese School, hosted the 2024 Mid-Autumn Festival at Wilde Lake High School. Everyone in the community was invited to take part in this important cultural celebration featuring a food festival and a Mid-Autumn gala. Thanks to the teachers, students, performers, staff, and members of the community for making this event a great success!

The Chinese school has been around since 1998, and September 28th, 2024 marked our 25th Mid-Autumn Festival food fair and cultural exhibition. Many groups supported the event, including the Student Government Association (SGA), the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the Howard County Chinese Cultural Center, and volunteers from our community. Before the performance, one of the pre-show announcers discussed the accomplishments of the HCCS, saying that "it's always performances and occasions like this that help us come together as a community."

The first portion of the event was a food festival. Vendors as well as the SGA and the Howard Dynamics robotics team sold traditional Chinese food to raise money and donate to charity. Mooncake, tanghulu, and many different savory dishes such as noodles and tofu were served. Everyone had an amazing time! Guests were able to enjoy themselves to the fullest at the festival. Vendors that the Youth Journalists interviewed were happy to share things about the cultural significance of their food, including how they made it and where it originated from.

At 7:00, the Mid-Autumn Festival show/cultural exhibit began. The program involved three themes, namely Rhythms Under the Moon, Longing for Home, and Elegance in Hanfu, as well as a prelude and a postlude. The show starred talented performers of all ages and showed off cultural items, dances, and music. Women played songs on

traditional Chinese string instruments (弦乐器). The D.C. Fuyao Hanfu Association displayed traditional Hanfu dresses and outfits during their performance in the show. Both synchronized and solo dances were performed, highlighting the artistic beauty of traditional Chinese dance. All of the performers the Youth Journalists interviewed said that they really enjoy performing, and everyone in the audience was entertained during the performance! Producer Wang Xinge, director Xu Yi, and stage directors Huang Yan and Zhen Lijie are a few of the many contributors that made this show possible.

Overall, the Mid-Autumn Festival was a success! It showed off and promoted Chinese language, culture, and tradition through food and performance. Thank you to all those who attended, helped out, and performed at this event, making this event a memorable celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival!

🎉 Our Mid-Autumn Festival concert and Food Fair was a huge success last Saturday! 🌕✨ With amazing performances, beautiful decorations, and lots of delicious mooncakes, everyone enjoyed a night of fun and celebration. Thank you to everyone who joined us—can't wait for next year! 🥰❤️





NEWS

HCCS Annual Halloween Fall Parade

Reported by Joe Li

A few days ago on Sunday, October 27th, 2024 the Howard County Chinese School held its annual fall parade for the first time since 2019. During the class breaks, the children went outside for the parade, dressed in a variety of costumes and collecting candy. Upon returning to the building, they gathered for class photos. It was a sweet and fun little event that we no doubt will be looking forward to next year.



NEWS

HCCS Hosts Annual Sports/Field Day!

Reported by Emily Hu

On November 9, the Howard County Chinese School hosted its annual Field Day celebration at Sports World. The event included many performances from a variety of age groups. Performances included children showing off their hard work in martial arts, dancers from Phoenix Dance Academy performed Lady Gaga's "Telephone", sword artistry, singing, and instrumental quartets. In addition, the 22 winners of the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) were given their medals and

certificates, with 12 winning gold, 5 winning silver, and 5 winning bronze. Field Day events also had areas where students, children, and adults could participate in various sports such as volleyball, pickleball, badminton, parachute, and soccer. Children could also win tickets to exchange for prizes by participating in games. It was a huge and very welcoming event for everyone and we hope to see more people there next year! Thank you to everyone who attended or volunteered, and congratulations to our PVSA winners!

2024 President's Volunteer Service Award Recipients

(in alphabetical order within the group and achievement level)

Name (Last, First)	中文姓名	Age Group	Award
Chang, Cynthia	常紫欣	Teens	Gold
He, Kevin	何凯文	Teens	Gold
Jiao, Alex	焦思诚	Teens	Gold
Li, Mark	李润麒	Teens	Gold
Liu, Elizabeth Sun	刘子瑛	Teens	Gold
Luo, Amy	罗天巧	Teens	Gold
Luo, Clara	骆金亮	Teens	Gold
Wang, Ella	王馨远	Teens	Gold
Zhao, Anna	赵馨一	Teens	Gold
Zhong, Aaron	钟安然	Teens	Gold
Liu, Addison	刘一鑫	Teens	Silver
Liu, Claire	刘语亭	Teens	Silver
Hu, Emily	胡曦源	Teens	Bronze
Li, Joe	李玖周	Teens	Bronze
Teng, Kevin	滕凯文	Teens	Bronze
Zhang, Austin	张铭翰	Young Adults	Silver
Zhou, Ryan	周瑞安	Young Adults	Silver
Li, Ming	李明	Adults	Gold
Tang, Jin	唐瑾	Adults	Gold
Liang, Hui	梁辉	Adults	Silver
Sun, Yan	孙艳	Adults	Bronze
Zhao, Cuiwei	赵翠微	Adults	Bronze



NEWS

YAP Members Testify at Legislative Hearing - Community

🎉 YAP Members Advocate for the Community at Legislative Hearing! 🎉

On Monday, November 25, the Howard County State Delegation held a legislative hearing to gather community input on important proposals. Key topics included making Lunar New Year a public school holiday, allocating funds to expand Howard County Chinese School, and preventing weapons in schools.

Advocating for the community and engaging in civic affairs is a proud tradition of YAP. Our members continue to develop critical skills while making meaningful contributions to social progress. Over the years, their participation in hearings and government forums has earned recognition and respect for the Chinese-American community.

At this hearing, three YAP members—Mabelle Liu, Joe Li, and Mark Li—along with supportive parents actively shared their perspectives on issues important to our community. Their heartfelt and lively testimonies demonstrated confidence and preparation, showcasing their dedication to making a difference.

The event, which lasted until 10:30 PM, attracted a large audience, with mandatory school holidays as a key focus. Students from other communities, including Indian and Pakistani Muslim groups, also voiced their concerns. They're followed with a powerful and eloquent testimony by Howard County Chinese School board chairperson Ning Li, whose words left a strong impression on everyone present.

👏 We are incredibly proud of our YAP members for their impactful participation. Thank you for representing the Chinese-American community with such skill and passion. Together, we continue to advocate for meaningful change! 🌟



NEWS

Maryland STEM Festival Co-Hosted by HCCS at Howard Community College

Reported by Sophia Hua

Whir, buzz, clank! On Nov 17, 2024, the Maryland State STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Festival was held at Howard Community College (HCC). The eight Howard County Chinese School (HCCS) robotics teams co-hosted this event, as well as the health, science, and technology departments of the HCC. One of the main purposes of this gathering was to inspire young students to explore or to keep exploring STEM.

Our HCCS groups that attended include the following First Tech Challenge (FTC) teams: the Howard Dynamics robotics team, AlphaBots, and Ingenuity, and the following First LEGO League (FLL) teams: the Advanced Robotics Team (ART), No Limits, and Buster Botz. Many groups outside of HCCS also attended, such as teams from Maryland high schools and a few Maryland engineering firms.

Overall, this was a great experience for the people who came! In the Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) building, where FTC robotics team exhibits were displayed, as well as in the Duncan Hall (DH) building, where FLL robotics team exhibits were displayed, students and adults of all ages displayed engineering projects at their different exhibits. During the event, our HCCS FLL teams showed off the mechanical LEGO robots that they built. Students from a Carroll County robotics team put on an impressive performance, showing off their robot that could shoot ten-inch rings high

into the air. Additionally, engineering majors from the University of Maryland talked about their majors to any students who passed by their exhibit, helping inspire young future engineers and promoting the art of engineering.

When the HCCS Youth Journalists interviewed the students at the festival, the robotics students not only talked about STEM competition-related experiences but also talked a little about inclusivity and community outreach. A Howard Dynamics team member, Zara, shared that their team's goals were to do well in challenges while also inspiring other students to join the STEM program. A CRYPTIC member, James, also told the Youth Journalists that one of their team's focuses is on extending their outreach to underrepresented communities in STEM, such as females.

Finally, the highlight of the afternoon was the closing ceremony. Dr Ming Li, the HCCS principal, said a few words regarding the festival, thanking HCC for supporting and helping HCCS "nurture young minds and empower the next generation of STEM leaders." This was followed up by another speech, the speaker being experienced astronaut Donald Thomas. Everyone was super excited by the arrival of this legend. In his presentation, Thomas described his journey from his first time watching a space shuttle take off at six to being selected as a NASA astronaut. He said, "It takes time, it takes hard work, it takes persistence, but you can accomplish anything you want to in your lifetime."

It is safe to say that the purpose of the STEM festival was successfully fulfilled. Everyone in the HCC buildings at the time could enjoy and appreciate the art of robotics and engineering, STEM person or not. We will very much look forward to next year's STEM festival!



ESSAYS

HCCS Student Essay (Teacher Wang Ting Ting: 王婷婷)

云南之旅

学生姓名: Sumayyah Ali 艾淑美

我叫 Sumayyah Ali, 中文名叫艾淑美。我出生在美国, 但我的爸爸妈妈是巴基斯坦人。我开始学中文的时候大概两岁, 我非常喜欢中文。爸爸几乎每年暑假都会带我去中国旅游, 今年是我第五次去中国。

我去过中国的北京、上海、河南、四川、银川。其中银川这个城市是我们住留最多的。因为我们是回民, 所以在银川吃清真食品比较容易, 最重要的是, 我也有几位朋友住在银川。

今年暑假, 我的中文老师建议我们去游览其他的地方。中国的历史文化悠久且多元化, 每一个地方都有自己的独特风格。听了老师的建议, 我和爸爸去了一趟云南。在旅行团的带领下, 我和爸爸游览了昆明、大理、丽江。

我们第一站落地昆明。飞机降落的时候, 我发现云南土地颜色和其他城市土地颜色不一样。后来, 我在网上查到, 云南的红土地特别有名, 适合种植花草。我们在炎热的夏天来到昆明, 但是出机场时, 昆明没有像其他城市那么炎热, 气温特别舒服。因为云南气温舒服, 土壤又肥沃, 所以花特别美。我在昆明找到了十种我从来没有见过的花: 夜来香、乒乓菊花、天鹅绒、桔梗、蓝星、羽毛球、四方豆、水明豆、火焰、小黄瓜。其中我最喜欢的是蓝星, 平时我们见到的花通常都是红、粉、或绿的。但是蓝星是蓝色的, 很少见, 所以特别美。

我和爸爸一起去吃了云南非常有名的过桥米线和汽锅鸡。过桥米线会有许多小碟子, 每个小碟子里面是各种各样的菜和肉, 需要自己放到热滚滚的汤锅里面, 米线清淡爽口, 我特别喜欢。当听到汽锅鸡这个名字, 觉得汽锅鸡会是一个很大的锅, 结果上菜之后发现是每人一个小小的锅。锅的中间有一个出气口, 锅里面只有鸡和汤。虽然很好吃, 但是骨头比较多。

云南的茶很有名, 尤其是普洱茶。我们在云南吃饭期间, 基本每顿饭都有搭配热茶。每次吃完饭, 喝一杯普洱茶, 感觉胃里特别温暖。

吃饱喝足后, 导游带着我们一起去石林。石林并不在昆明, 离昆明30分钟的车程。石林的石头都是自然形成的。石林比较有名的是阿诗玛石像。这个石头还有一个传说。传说中的阿诗玛是彝族撒尼人。据说, 阿诗玛被水滚进去的时候, 成了石崖, 变成了回声神。

石林里的景点, 我最喜欢的是莲花池。当时我一听要去莲花池, 就非常开心, 因为我很喜欢莲花。结果一看, 池里一个莲花也没有。后来导游给我解释了一下, 莲花池一年四季一个莲花也没有, 只是有一个像莲花一样的石头在池旁边。逛完石林, 我们结束了今天的旅程, 前往大理。

我们的下一站是大理白族自治区。在大理的第一天, 我们去了洱海和花海。大理大多数的景点都是沿着洱海的。我们骑着吉普车去看花海。花海可漂亮了, 有各种各样的花, 还有山。我们还租了自行车沿着洱海的小道骑, 微风吹过来, 感觉特别舒服。我们还去了双廊古镇和理想邦。双廊古镇和理想邦也是沿着洱海的, 两个都是购物区, 里面的东西各种各样, 琳琅满目。双廊古镇街景比较美, 可以走到洱海的岸边。我在双廊古城吃了云南的另一特色鲜花饼, 味道美极了。

第二天, 我们前往大理古城。我和旅行团里的两位姐姐成为了朋友。我们三个一起逛了大理古城。大理古城白天美, 晚上更美。古城里面的房子都是石头建造的, 特别好看。晚上的灯光五颜六色, 非常浪漫。

我们的下一个景点是丽江玉龙雪山。我和伙伴们一起爬了玉龙雪山, 还用我的拍立得拍了我们的合照作为纪念。玉龙雪山特别冷, 也特别高。下车的时候, 我感觉到头晕, 呼吸比较困难。因为很多人都会有高原反应, 所以我们先去买了氧气。爬到最高处的时候, 我们还看到了山羊, 往上看, 山顶上有雪。

玉龙雪山上的另一个景点蓝月容, 晴天的时候可好看了。蓝月容是个湖, 湖是浅蓝绿色的, 还有小小的瀑布。我们到达蓝月容的时候突然下起大雨来, 我们整个旅行团瞬间变成了落汤鸡。我们的导游说了, 云南的天气, 和小孩子的脾气一样, 说变就变。

第六天, 我们去了最后一个景点束河古镇, 完美结束了这次令人难忘的旅行。

云南给我留下了很深的印象。我特别喜欢云南的景色、食物、等等。希望将来有时间, 我可以再来云南旅行。

STUDENT COLUMN

HCCS Students,

We want to hear from **you!**

If you would like to submit your writing for the next issue of our gazette newspaper, please email your work to pr@hccs-md.org.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing your work in the HCCS Gazette!

HCCS Youth Journalists

