

Learning Chinese Through Rap Music



Jiao Fuzhen

*President's Award for Teachers
(PAT) 2019 Nominee*

About Me

Lead Teacher

RULANG PRIMARY SCHOOL



Group of students creating rap music using GarageBand

ABOUT THE IDEA

This interdisciplinary programme integrates Chinese, Music and technology to instil students' moral values foster their intrinsic motivation to learn Chinese and improve their oracy skills. The findings suggest that students learn new words efficiently through self-created rap music using GarageBand App and express themselves more fluently and confidently.

HOW TO DO IT

Stage one: Technical training and materials selection

- Students familiarised themselves with GarageBand App and got to know how to compose rap using the app.
- Students selected phrases from Di Zi Gui (弟子规) that emphasizes the basic requisites for being a good person and guidelines for living in harmony.
- Students worked as a group to discuss how to turn the phrases into rap music.

Stage two: Students-generated group artifacts

- Groups composed rap music using good sentences/paragraphs.
- Peers provide comments and suggestions to one another after group presentation.

Stage three: Post-lesson activities

- Students extended the rapping to other sentences/paragraphs and shared with others

IMPACT

Feedback from students showed that they were more interested in Chinese learning and more confident in oral speaking. Majority of students (93%) showed that their intrinsic motivation in Chinese learning was stimulated.



Ong Ee Lee
*President's Award for
Teachers
(PAT) 2019 Nominee*

About Me

Head of Department/
Science

**LIANHUA PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



Students learning in the school garden. Students have to discuss the adaptive functions of plants by examining them and asking questions like 'What is the texture of the leaves?' and 'Why are the leaves hairy?'.

YES! Programme (Young Exploring Scientists)

ABOUT THE IDEA

The school gardens (butterfly, edible and vertical gardens), ponds and frog enclosure were transformed into a learning trail to provide students with an authentic experience to learn about flora and fauna around them; complementing the hydroponic, fish breeding and composting programmes. Students with a passion for nature volunteer as Student Nature Guides to lead and inspire their peers to discover the wonders of nature.

HOW TO DO IT

YES! was initiated by a team of passionate teachers and sustained through a strong partnership with NEA and the school's Parents Support Group. As we envisioned and developed the various learning spaces, learning objectives and activities were designed. The key approach adopted to get students to ask questions and be curious about things around them is "I See. I Think. I Wonder." To promote our school spirit of volunteerism, student volunteers were equipped with leadership skills and the knowledge to lead their peers in learning about nature. As part of our review for continuous improvement, the trail was enhanced with the use of ICT to make learning more self-directed and engaging.

IMPACT

We can see the students asking more questions; and becoming more curious about nature. The authentic learning has helped them to make better connections between learning in the classroom and their environment. The Student Nature Guides have become more passionate as they become more matured in the way they manage their peers, and also becoming more confident in bringing the learning to others.