



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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Chinese Delegates Visit OUSD Schools

ORANGE, CA (April 19, 2013) – The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and the Bureau of Education, Guangzhou China, commemorated their alliance by touring two Orange Unified School District (OUSD) classrooms, followed by a partnership signing ceremony this past Monday.

Fletcher and Taft Elementary Schools were visited by an OCDE delegation team including six delegates from the Guangzhou Bureau of Education, Dr. Lilly Cheng, Director of the San Diego State University Confucius Institute, and Junbo Cheng, the Hanban North American Director.

Fletcher Elementary, one of just two schools in Orange County to offer a Mandarin Language Immersion Program, was the first stop on the tour. There, Carla Deckard's Mandarin Immersion students impressed the visiting delegates by singing songs and reading stories in Mandarin, the official language of both China and Taiwan.

The OCDE team then went on to tour special education classes at Fletcher and Taft Elementary Schools, giving the Chinese delegates a first-hand look at how OUSD mainstreams special needs students into general education classes with intervention support.

At the end of the day, a partnership signing ceremony took place at the Orange County Department of Education headquarters in Costa Mesa. OCDE and the Bureau of Education, Guangzhou China, agreed to a compact acknowledging their plans to expand resources that will further develop dual language programs in Orange County.

For information on the Fletcher Mandarin Immersion Program, please visit the OUSD website at <http://www.orangeusd.org/mandarin/>. Fletcher is currently enrolling students for the Mandarin Immersion program in kindergarten and first grade.

The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA

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