

## 紐約華僑公立學校簡史

本校創立於前清宣統元年迄今六十有一年矣當時紐約中華公所主席陳煥章先生倡導其事初借勿街舊天主教堂為校舍開學時學生二十人中經三遷至民國十八年向市教育局購置勿街六十四號市立第一〇八小學校址為校舍民國四十七年拆卸改建暫借市立第二十三小學上課民國五十年中華大樓改建完竣本校遷返原址從此設備漸增學生漸多規模亦粗具

本校首屆校長為朱兆華先生遷為程祖彝區公沛兩先生民國四年區校長去職校務由教員負責至民國十一年恢復校長制組織校董會及訂立選舉校長章程薛修先生膺第一屆選任校長繼之者為梅哲之譚秋平黃祐寬司徒燦盧心奮伍序彝李卓山劉恩初莫其鑫陳冠中諸先生董事長則照章由中華公所主席兼任歷屆校長均能於艱苦之環境求校務之改進陳故校長冠中任職較久貢獻較宏不幸去秋積勞病逝遺缺由教務主任何錫源先生代理

本校現有班級由幼稚園小學以至初中高中及音樂美術樂隊暨各科補習班並增設星期六星期日班總計九十二班學生共二千六百餘人華路藍縷與時俱進此皆仰賴僑團僑胞之熱心扶持校董同仁之苦心擘劃與夫教師職員之戮力工作共赴事功有以致之

裕芬等服務僑社有年忝董校務深知僑教重要今後僑生更多校務益繁鑒往思來亟謀有所策勵諸如編制之擴展課程之改進校舍設備應如何增加基金經費應如何籌措均須悉心研討迅付實施以期發揚中華文化培植優秀青年進一步與友邦作文化之交流對祖國贊中興之大業斯均為吾人日夕所企求亦為吾人應負之責任而竊願與我全體僑胞共同努力以促其成者也

紐約中華公所主席 楊裕芬敬撰  
副董事 長 陳祚昌拜書

中華民國五十九年二月

## 華僑學校始創於教會

# NYCS was founded at local church in 1909



CLASS. EXCELLENCE. PRIDE.  
IT'S IN ALL OF US.

## The New York Chinese School Crimson Kings Drum, Fife and Bugle Corps







紐約洪門致公堂赴舊金山  
三藩市洪門致公總堂募  
款，請求捐款籌建 紐約  
華僑公立學校

Record Shows in 1929: the  
Free Masons Headquarter in  
New York sent messengers  
to the CCBA in San  
Francisco to request  
donations for setting up  
NYCS.

美國紐約致公總分堂  
CHEE KUNG TONG  
THE CHINESE FREE MASON  
20 Mott Street New York City  
N.Y.U.S.A.

三藩市致公總堂會長書記先生鑒  
初任叔父昆仲洪鑒：敬啟者本埠  
中華公所派劉孔驥、黃浣世兩先生  
為購置本埠華僑公立學校「遊埠募捐專員」，  
經于本月一號出發，不久到貴埠勸捐。  
但劉、黃兩位先生係本總分堂是年察部  
長，用特函介紹，到時尚希勸一切，助其得  
為成績，以振興華僑教育，實為厚幸。為此  
即頌  
洪祺  
十八年九月六日  
紐約致公總分堂啟

本埠接待團與代表團攝於中華會館前

「三藩市致公總堂會長、書記先生暨列位  
叔父昆仲 洪鑒  
敬啟者  
本埠中華公所派劉孔驥、黃浣世兩先生，  
為購置本埠華僑公立學校「遊埠募捐專員」，  
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即頌  
洪祺  
十八年九月六日  
紐約致公總分堂啟」

孔子聖誕  
孔子聖誕早鋪排一切九椅搭枋整備  
陸光展懸掛旂英伴 聖像座中又  
懸掛日晷衣旂旂燈籠光怪陸離大  
有可觀至是日下午二點半奉梓紳商  
耆耆老親行鞠躬禮去觀在山人海  
行禮時適遇心君君由法國到觀名親  
到行禮時時教樂喧闐聲雷動極  
一時之盛至四點鐘時華僑以堂華  
僑耆老親行鞠躬禮去觀在山人海  
行禮時適遇心君君由法國到觀名親  
到行禮時時教樂喧闐聲雷動極  
一時之盛至四點鐘時華僑以堂華

Records show: The New York Chinese  
School opened on August 28, 1909 A grand  
ceremony to worship Confucius was held.

紀錄顯示：僑校於1909年8月28日舉行  
隆重祭孔儀式

整鳳儀等帶領華童學生排班而前行  
鞠躬禮畢唱頌 聖歌一首其步成整齊  
現在皆拍掌稱頌是日又有中國耆老  
諸學生到耆老禮大不乏人至晚七點時  
耆老九林孔先生由加拿大到講台未滿  
聖像祀畢即唱  
旅旅接宴會飲演說唱歌備極其樂







## 培养无数菁英，听听纽约市历史最悠久中文学校的故事

### 116年的学校面临着疫情后时代的新挑战与机遇

APRIL XU MAY 31, 2024

王宪筠校长於 5/14受邀 Documented 记者许可采访

Documented Simplified Version Only



Documented

一个周六的早晨，位于曼哈顿唐人街勿街62号的大楼里传出了孩子们的歌声和欢笑声。一堂中文音乐课正在如火如荼地进行着。一群4到6岁的孩子们排成三排，齐声唱着：“爱你哟，爱你哟，你是我的全宇宙”。他们的脸上洋溢着兴奋的笑容，跟着老师充满活力的动作随着欢快的歌曲一起将手举过头顶比成心型。这些孩子是纽约华侨学校（New York Chinese School）的学生，他们在为即将到来的文艺汇演作准备。创建于1909年的纽约华侨学校，是美东最大的中文学校，也是美国历史最悠久的中文学校之一。在过去的一个多世纪的时间里，该校经历了兴衰起伏，仍然延续着最初传承中华文化的使命，并不断拓展其提供的服务和资源，适应华人社区的需求。纽约华侨学校的历史亦是一部海外华人的教育微缩史，反映了曼哈顿唐人街的人口结构变化、华人移民的需求变化以及移民们为在保留文化根源及适应新国家环境之间达成平衡所作出的努力。



学生们在纽约华侨学校的中文音乐课上。摄影：纽约移民记事网 (Documented)记者许可

纽约移民记事网 (Documented) 采访了纽约中文学校的校长王宪筠 (Jennifer Wang) 以及一位学生的家长，为您讲述这个传奇且历史悠久的机构的故事。

在唐人街“市政厅”里的学校

说起纽约华侨学校，就不得不提到它坐落的纽约中华公所。许多人把唐人街历史最悠久的社区机构中华公所的主席比做唐人街的“市厅”的学校。

该校是隶属于中华公所的六十侨团之一，它的创立与发展离不开中华公所多年的扶持与帮助。

学校位于纽约中华公所大楼内，有多间教室和一个体育馆。19世纪中期，加州淘金潮吸引了成千上万名华人寻找新的机遇。然而，1869年，首条横贯美国东西的太平洋铁路竣工后，约2万名中国劳工一夜之间失去了工作。许多人辗转包括纽约在内的美国其他城市寻求生存空间。1882年《排华法案》令美国的华人移民处境更加艰难。在这样的背景下，中华公所于1883年成立，为纽约的华人移民提供了一个守望相助、获得社会服务和资源的避风港。

根据纽约华侨学校提供的史料，1905年，清朝废除科举，倡办学校，并计划在海外发展侨校。1906年12月，由学部奏派内阁侍读梁庆桂赴美洲筹办华侨学校。几经一载，成绩显著，被后人称之为倡导北美侨教的“开山祖”。在美洲筹办华侨学校共计14所。纽约华侨学校由此应运而生。根据侨校历史记载，梁庆桂赴美兴学期间，向纽约中华公所当时的主席陈焕章提及应在海外发扬中华文化，启发侨胞知识，而陈焕章深感有此需要。由于华人子弟远离祖国，难有中华文化熏陶，故倡设立侨校以教化之，经各方赞同后成立。在中华公所主席陈焕章的倡导下，纽约华侨学校于1909年9月15日开办。

#### “上帝爱这所学校”

万事开头难。纽约华侨学校刚开办时暂借在勿街21号浸信会差传会址办学，不过学生仅二十余人，而筹措经费是当务之急。中华公所决议每年从公所拨出250美元作为经费来资助学校运作。此外，社区人士也积极为学校募款。该校提供的史料记载，1929年，隶属中华公所的纽约致公总分堂（现纽约洪门致公总分堂）派代表前往旧金山中华公所筹措办校经费。此后，学校于1913年迁至宰也街13号。由于纽约华人日增，入侨校的学生日众，而自立门户。至1929年，中华公所向市府洽购旧市立108小学为校舍。





1962年，纽约华侨学校正式于州教育厅注册为绝对特许学校。同年，该校搬入新建成的中华公所大楼并于此办学至今。王校长回忆起学校的峥嵘历史时说：“我觉得上帝爱这一所学校，我们也按照基督教义运营着作为一个非营利机构的学校。”她表示，学校最初借用当地教会的临时空间得以办学，自创办以来得到了华人社区的巨大帮助和支持。

纽约华侨学校曾位于唐人街勿街21号的第一个校址的今昔图片对比。图片由纽约华侨学校提供



1929年，隶属中华公所的纽约致公总分堂（现纽约洪门致公总分堂）

派代表前往旧金山中华公所筹措办校经费。图片由纽约华侨学校提供



纽约州参议员卡凡纳为纽约华侨学校校长王宪筠颁发嘉奖状。图片由纽约华侨学校提供

她提到，多年来，学校的运营依靠学费和捐款。例如，学校图书馆的启动资金就来自于李美步的捐款，她是史上第一位获得经济学博士学位的华人女性，也是著名的华人社区活动家。华人社区的许多组织和企业也是学校的主要捐助者。

为了满足华人社区不断发展的需求，纽约华侨学校于1963年开始提供周末和暑期课程。如今，学校主要为4到18岁的学生教授中文，还提供成人普通话和粤语课程。此外，学校还提供各种学科的辅导和课外活动，如成人英语班、美国公民入籍班、钢琴、小提琴、舞蹈、绘画和计算机课程。

王校长说：“我们的周末和课后项目仅收取可负担的学费，帮助许多工薪家庭照顾他们的孩子，使他们能够专注于工作。”这样的课程设置受到了许多家长的好评。王校长介绍，在疫情前，学校每年入学的人数鼎盛时高达2000多人。

尽管多年来不断扩展其项目，学校仍然坚持中华文化传统的四个道德标准：“礼、义、廉、耻”。学校每年都会举办祭孔大典，并派遣其屡获殊荣的鼓乐队“深红国王鼓乐队”参加华人社区的重要节庆或文化活动，但该乐队在疫情期间停止了运营。

“十年树木，百年树人，”王校长强调说，该校的使命不仅是教授学生语言，更重要的是传授中国传统和文化遗产，并在学生心中植入回馈社区的意识。

在过去的几个多世纪里，该校见证了许多杰出校友回到华人社区服务，其中包括三位前任或现任的唐人街公立学校的校长，以及医生、律师和其他专业人士。

随着学校的发展，它也吸引了许多没有或只有部分华裔血统的学生。王校长说：“我相信在全球化时代，学习第二或第三语言是一种趋势。”她指出，学校至少有30%的学生是非华裔或混血华裔。九个孩子的母亲、下曼哈顿居民贝拉特（Lynn Berat，音译）表达了谈及纽约华侨学校时充满感情：“我们与这所学校已有约20年的渊源。”



我们没有任何与中国有关的背景，但学校感觉就像是我们的另一个家。我的女儿们非常喜欢这里，每个人都对我们非常好，现任校长也很棒。”贝拉特说，送女儿们到学校的主要原因是认识到了语言学习的重要性。贝拉特的所有女儿都是纽约华侨学校的校友或在读学生。她已经从该校毕业的女儿们目前仍正在攻读与中国或中文相关的专业。她的大女儿林赛从四岁开始就在这所学校学习，现在是牛津大学中文研究专业的博士生。贝拉特说：“对我们来说，这已经成为我们生活方式的一部分。这不仅仅是对中文的短暂兴趣，而是具有深远意义的。”



纽约华侨学校1929年的毕业照的局部图。图片由纽约移民记事网 (Documented) 记者许可翻拍

## 116年历史的学校面临疫情及后疫情的挑战

然而，由于唐人街人口结构的变化和疫情的影响，学校目前正面临学生入学率和预算大幅下降的问题，艰难地从疫情中恢复。

据王校长介绍，近年来，唐人街人口老龄化日益严峻，新移民大量涌向法拉盛和布鲁克林。大多数家长选择将孩子就近送到家附近的学校和补习班，从而导致唐人街学龄儿童数量大幅减少。此外，新移民更重视孩子适应英语环境，而非中文教育。

疫情爆发时，唐人街的中文学校面临的情况异常严峻，有些学校迟迟无法从疫情影响中恢复，今年宣布关闭。许多学生自疫情以来选择上网课或就读附近的中文学校，再没有返回过这所学校。王校长指出，相较于疫情前在校生数量最高峰的2000多人，目前的在校生仅为400人。

生源的减少直接导致收入的下降。由于预算紧张，学校不得不暂停成立于1954年的鼓乐队的运营。此外，为了节省成本，学校的教师和志愿者还承担了清洁教室的责任。王校长强调，学校多年来一直提供学费低廉的课程，中文课每学期通常约为290美元。每年，学校为毕业生提供100至1000美元不等的奖学金。她说：“总的来说，我们是为所有学生提供几乎免费的语言课程。”她说，这项奖学金是由中华公所顾问伍锐贤

(Eric Ng) 和云吞公司创始人黄青新 (Chin Sun Wong) 赞助的，他们共同设立了这个毕业奖励基金。目前，学校已采取多项措施以增加招生和提高教育质量。这些措施包括与纽约市的大学建立合作关系，招募毕业生担任志愿教师，开展面向三州地区的在线营销，并继续提供在线课程。王校长说：“我们已经为社区服务了115年，即使在疫情期间也没有停歇过一天。我们希望继续坚持这一承诺。”

## The History of the Oldest Chinese School in NYC

The 116-year-old school is encountering both opportunities and new challenges in the post-pandemic era.

APRIL XU MAY 31, 2024



**Documented**

On a Saturday morning, the building at 62 Mott St. in Manhattan's Chinatown resonated with the joyful sounds of children singing and laughing. A Chinese music class was in full swing. "Love you, love you, you're my whole universe," sang a group of children aged 4 to 6, arranged in three rows. Their faces beamed with excitement as they raised their hands over their heads to form iconic heart shapes, following their teacher's energetic movements in a lively rendition of Chinese nursery rhymes. These children, students at the New York Chinese School (NYCS), were preparing for the upcoming cultural performance at the school. Founded in 1909, NYCS is the largest Chinese school on the East Coast and one of the oldest Chinese schools in the United States.

Over the past century, NYCS has experienced its share of ups and downs but has continued to uphold its original mission of preserving and promoting Chinese culture while meeting the changing needs of the Chinese community by expanding its services and resources. The history of the NYCS is a microcosm of the education history of Chinese immigrants in the U.S., reflecting changes in the demographic of Manhattan's Chinatown, the evolving needs of Chinese immigrants, and their efforts to balance preserving their cultural roots with adapting to the new environment of their new country.



To learn more about this legendary and historic institution, Documented spoke with Jennifer Wang, the current and 19th principal of NYCS, along with a parent of one of the students. The school in Chinatown's "City Hall." When talking about NYCS, one cannot overlook its location within the New York Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA). Many liken the chairman of CCBA, one of the oldest community organizations in Chinatown, to the "mayor" of Chinatown, and the New York Chinese School is the school situated within Chinatown's "City Hall." The school is one of the 60 associations affiliated with CCBA, and its establishment and development are closely tied to the years of support and assistance from CCBA. Located at the CCBA building, the school has multiple classrooms and a gymnasium. In the mid-19th century, the California Gold Rush attracted thousands of Chinese immigrants seeking new opportunities. However, the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 left around 20,000 Chinese laborers jobless. Many relocated to other U.S. cities, particularly New York. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 further worsened their plight. Against this backdrop, the CCBA was founded in 1883, serving as a sanctuary for Chinese immigrants in New York, fostering mutual support and providing access to social services and resources. Then in 1905, the Qing Dynasty abolished the imperial examination system, promoted the establishment of schools, and planned to develop overseas Chinese schools, according to the archives provided by NYCS. In December 1906, Qinggui Liang, a cabinet member of the Ministry of Education later heralded as the "pioneer of Chinese education in North America," helped establish 14 Chinese schools across North America.

NYCS was born out of this initiative. During Liang's visit to New York, he discussed with Huanzhang Chen, the chairman of CCBA at the time, about the significance of overseas Chinese preserving and promoting their Chinese heritage, a sentiment that resonated deeply with Chen. Because it was challenging to teach Chinese culture to Chinese children away from their homeland, Liang recommended that an overseas Chinese school be set up for Chinese culture promotion. Thus NYCS was established with full approval by all parties. Under Chen's advocacy, NYCS opened on September 15, 1909. "God loves this school" As with many things, the school's beginning was difficult. The school was temporarily run at 21 Mott Street in Manhattan, the Baptist Church, having only about 20 students. Raising funds was the urgent task at hand. CCBA decided to allocate \$250 per year from the organization to back up the school operation. Meanwhile, community members actively raised funds for the school. According to the school's historical records, in 1929, the Chee Kung Tong (The Chinese Free Mason) Headquarter in New York, one of the NYCCBA's affiliated organizations, sent members to the CCBA in San Francisco to fundraise for setting up NYCS.

The school later moved to 13 Doyer St. in 1913. As the number of Chinese in New York rose, and the number of students in NYCS increasing as a result, CCBA contacted the city government in 1929 to purchase the building of PS 108 located at 62 Mott Street. In 1962, NYCS was officially registered as an absolute charter school and approved by the New York State Department of Education. That same year, the school moved into the newly reconstructed CCBA building where it has remained ever since. "I think God loves this school, and we also operate it as a non-profit organization, adhering to Christian principles," said Principal Wang, recalling how the school started in a temporary space at a local church and received tremendous help and support from the Chinese community since its founding. Wang mentioned that over the years, the school's operations have relied on tuition and donations. For instance, the initial donation to start the school's library came from Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, the first Chinese woman to graduate with a PhD in economics in history and a prominent Chinese community activist. Chinese community organizations and businesses are also major donors to the school. To meet the evolving needs of the Chinese community, NYCS started offering weekend and summer classes in 1963. Today, the school primarily teaches Chinese to students aged 4 to 18 and also provides Adult Chinese and Cantonese classes. Additionally, it offers tutoring in various academic subjects and extracurricular activities, such as adult English classes, United States Citizenship Naturalization classes, piano, violin, dance, painting and computer classes.

"We offer affordable tuition for weekend and after-school programs, which helps many working class families take care of their children so they can focus on their work," said Wang.

The curriculum is well-received by many parents. According to Wang, the school's enrollment peaked at over 2,000 students per year before the pandemic.

Despite expanding its programs over the years, the school still adheres to the four moral standards from ancient China: "礼、义、廉、耻," which represent propriety, justice, integrity, and honor. The school hosts its Confucius Ceremony every year. It would send the Crimson Kings Drum Corps, its award-winning marching band, which stopped operating since the pandemic, to attend important festivals or cultural events in the Chinese community.

“It takes ten years to nurture a tree, but a hundred years to nurture a person,” Wang quoted a Chinese idiom. She emphasized that the school’s mission is not only to teach students languages but, more importantly, to impart Chinese traditions and cultural heritage and instill in them a sense of giving back to the community.

Over the past century, the school has witnessed numerous outstanding alumni returning to serve the Chinese community, including three former or current principals of public schools in Chinatown, as well as doctors, lawyers, and other professionals.

As the school grows, it also attracts many students with or without partial Chinese descent. “I believe that in the era of globalization, learning a second or third language is a trend,” said Wang. She noted that at least 30% of the students at the school are non-Chinese or of mixed Chinese descent. Lynn Berat, a mother of nine and resident of Lower Manhattan, expressed her deep affection for NYCS.

“We have associated with the school for about 20 years,” she said. “We don’t have any Chinese background, but the school feels like our home away from home. My daughters really love it. Everyone has always treated us wonderfully, and the current principal is fantastic.”

She highlighted the main reason for sending her daughters to NYCS as the importance of language learning. All of Berat’s daughters are either alumnae or current students at the school. Those who graduated from NYCS are pursuing majors related to China or Chinese. Her eldest daughter, Lindsay, who began studying at the school at the age of four, is now a doctoral student majoring in Chinese Studies at Oxford University. “For us, it has become our way of life. It’s not just a passing interest in Chinese; it’s deeply meaningful,” Berat added.

### **116-year-old school faces pandemic and post-pandemic challenges**

However, the school is grappling with a significant decline in student enrollment and budget due to demographic changes in Chinatown and the impact of the pandemic. It is now facing challenges in its recovery efforts.

According to Wang, one major backdrop is that in recent years, Chinatown has seen an aging population, with many new immigrants flocking to Flushing and Brooklyn. Most parents opt to enroll their children in schools and tutoring classes near their homes, leading to a significant decrease in school-age children in Chinatown. Additionally, new immigrants prioritize their children’s adaptation to an English-speaking environment over Chinese education. When the pandemic hit, the situation for Chinese schools in Chinatown was so dire that some couldn’t recover from the impact and announced closure this year. Many students either opted for virtual classes or enrolled in Chinese schools in their neighborhoods, and a significant number of them have yet to return to the school since the pandemic. Wang noted that the current enrollment is about 400 students, compared to the peak of 2,000 students before the pandemic.

The decrease in student enrollment directly leads to a decline in revenue. Facing budget constraints, the school suspended the operation of its marching band, which was founded in 1954.

Additionally, teachers and volunteers at the school have taken on the responsibility of cleaning the classrooms to save costs.

Wong highlighted that the school has been providing classes with affordable tuition over the years, typically around \$290 for Chinese classes per semester. Annually, the school offers scholarships to graduates, ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. “In general, we offer free language programs for all our students,” said Wang. She said the scholarship was sponsored by Consultant Eric Ng of the CCBA and Chin Sun Wong, the founder of Wonton Company. They have jointly established the graduation incentive fund.

The school has implemented several measures to help increase enrollment and improve education quality. These include establishing partnerships with universities in NYC to recruit graduate volunteer teachers, launching online marketing targeting the tri-state area, and continuing online programs. “We have been serving the community for 115 years, and we didn’t stop for a single day during the pandemic. We want to continue that commitment,” said Wang.

