



State Charter School Spotlight: Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence

4550 River Green Pkwy, Duluth, GA 30096

Year Open: 2020

Grade Levels Served: K-8

Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence's (YHALE) mission is to *provide a 21st century education to fully develop our children's bilingual and bi-literate potential, to broaden their awareness of other cultures of the world, and to prepare them for the competitive global marketplace.*

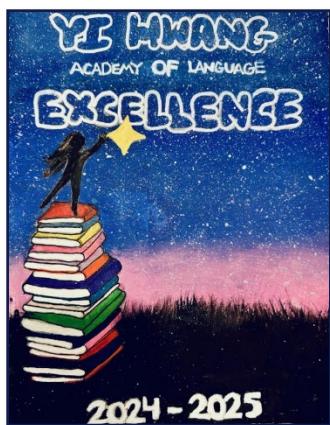
Describe your school in three words.

Innovative – We employ forward-thinking strategies to promote academic excellence, community engagement and sustainable growth planning.

Inclusive – We emphasize the creation of a welcoming learning environment where all students, regardless of their differences, have access to quality education.

Intellectual – We foster academic rigor and critical thinking, integrating the DLI model to cultivate a love for learning.

What programs are especially popular with students?



YHALE has recently added additional extracurricular activities, which have been met with overwhelming excitement from both students and parents. Our school newspaper/yearbook club runs the school newspaper, The Quill and Chronicle. The club is composed of students in grades 4-6. During school events, you can find the "reporters" wearing their "press badges" and interviewing students, staff and visitors. Our YHALE Newsroom is led by our Senior Editor and 6th grade teacher, Katelyn Lindsey.

Since 2021, our winning Chess Club has been the highlight of our school. Each year, more than ninety students participate in Chess Adventures' Bi-annual tournaments, an event that includes 15 schools across the state of Georgia. Our students have consistently finished in 1st or 2nd place every year! This year, our YHALE Chess Team took home 1st place!

What opportunities do students have to showcase their talents and passions?

Student life at YHALE is immersive, joyful, and rooted in our mission to nurture multilingual, globally minded learners. From arrival to dismissal, students engage in a language-rich environment where Korean and Mandarin are seamlessly integrated into daily instruction across all subjects.

Beyond the classroom, after-school programs offer students opportunities to pursue their interests while continuing to engage with language and culture. Popular offerings include chess, K-pop and Chinese dance, martial arts, coding, art, ballet, and music lessons.





Do you have a teacher or staff member whose story you'd like to share?

Ms. Ung, our Gifted Coordinator, joined our teaching staff this school year, and students and families are glad she joined us! She keeps our gifted and talented students motivated and engaged with activities ranging from examining forensic evidence to the students' Living Museum project. Our Gifted & Talented Program has reached new heights with hands-on learning that challenges and inspires.

What makes your school unique?



As Georgia's only charter school offering dual language immersion in both Korean and Mandarin Chinese, YHALE is built on the belief that students thrive when challenged intellectually and supported culturally.

From kindergarten forward, students engage in a 50/50 immersion model that integrates Korean or Mandarin with core content instruction. This early and sustained exposure helps students grow not only as bilingual speakers, but as globally aware thinkers.

One initiative we're especially proud of is the development of a Target Language Library, which will soon serve as a dedicated resource center to support biliteracy in Korean and Mandarin.

How does your school engage with its community?

At YHALE, we view community engagement as essential to our school culture. For incoming kindergarten families, the PTO hosts a "Popsicle Playdate" before school begins to help new families connect, ask questions, and feel welcomed. As school gets underway, the principal leads a month-long "Cheers and Tears" series to support the kindergarten transition. These early touchpoints help set the tone for a family-centered experience.

Throughout the year, our PTO, school leadership, and governing board work in close partnership to foster a collaborative environment rooted in trust and shared purpose. In response to parent feedback, the PTO successfully raised funds for a new school playground, creating a vibrant outdoor space that reflects our students' developmental needs.

One of the highlights of the year was our second annual International Night, which built on the overwhelming success of our first. The event brought together families, staff, and students to celebrate over 20 cultures represented in our school community. With food, music, and attire from around the world, the evening embodied the spirit of unity that defines YHALE.



<https://yhale.org/>