

All-Around Education and Linage with World

The Innovative Foreign Language Courses and Cross-border Mobile Learning of National Hsinchu Commercial and Vocational High School

(Courtesy of Chun-Shu Han at the Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



Through the subsidy provided by the K-12 Education Administration's (under the Ministry of Education) Vocational Education Quality Assurance Subsidy Program, National Hsinchu Commercial and Vocational High School's applied foreign language team has seen much progress in its innovative curriculum development and pedagogy. In a step-by-step manner, the team has promoted practical English teaching. In addition, combined with the implementation of the curriculum guidelines of the 12-year national education, the team has formed a professional community for teachers' discussions. Since the academic year of 2015, the school has successfully developed two sets of English guidebooks: "A Walk in the School" and "A Guide to the City of Wind in English," which were used in the English school tour course for the 10th graders of the Department of Applied Foreign Languages in the academic year of 2016 and the

Hsinchu tour course for the 11th graders of the Department of Applied Foreign Languages in the academic year of 2017, respectively. It has also striven to cooperate with the Hsinchu City Government to allow students to participate in the English local tour guiding services in Hsinchu. These courses are exclusively offered by National Hsinchu Commercial and Vocational High School and its research results were selected to be published in the High-Quality Vocational International Forum and won a third place prize.

As for the school's diverse range of elective courses, its English teachers introduced the "English Local Tour" course for the 10th graders in the comprehensive high school program through adopting the materials in "A Guide to the City of Wind in English," and the learning effect is significant. At a result presentation event, seven groups of students designed a brochure for different marketing attractions for a travel agency that is hosting a travel fair. At the presentation, the students introduced Hsinchu City's unique attractions and one-day travel plans in English. Together with self-produced featured films, presentation, and posters, they fully demonstrated their English skills, local cultural knowledge, and interpersonal skills. These 10th graders' outstanding performance totally amazed the observing teachers on the spot.

In addition, the school has proactively promoted cross-border mobile learning and become sister schools with five public schools, including South Korea's Uijeongbu Girls High School, Japan's Hachiman Syogyo High School, and one New Zealand's public school. In particular, the school has been sister schools with Uijeongbu Girls High School since 1996, and they have celebrated their 22nd anniversary. In addition to arranging mutual visits between the teachers and students on the both sides, it also arranges its students and families to serve as host families for international students, which is not only a challenge facing the host families, but is an opportunity for them to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural differences. This is of great help to enhance their international mobility.

The school has also introduced social resources and cooperated with the Rotary Club to host international exchange students jointly for a ten-month period. This cooperation model has entered the sixth year. So far, they have hosted students from the United States, Spain, Japan, Italy, and France. To allow exchange students from afar to fully experience Taiwanese students' school life, the international students participate in various activities organized by the school, such as the citizenship training course for 11th graders, shooting activities, creative marching on the school's sports day, karaoke competitions, cuisine club, glass art club, tennis club, volleyball club, archery experiencing, Chinese classes, international cultural exchanges club, cultural exchanges with students in various classes, outdoor Chinese-language teaching activities, exchange of gifts, and small angels and small host activities. In the process of exchanges, they can practice communicating with the international students in English or in the international students' native languages. This year, French student Zidan Zeng was invited to teach French daily conversation to the students of the Department of Applied Foreign Languages in a flexible time period. The students said that learning French from the French student at a similar age is an unforgettable memory in their lifetime. In the academic year of 2016, the school's student, Daimeng Qiu, also received a full grant from the Rotary Club to the United States for a 10-month exchange. As a cultural ambassador, the student played the role of a goodwill diplomat overseas and came back with a brand-new worldview, personal growth, and changes, and the experience was also shared with the school's students.

Through the subsidy program, the school innovated its foreign language courses, discussed relevant affairs in the professional community, and developed the diverse and practical elective courses," such as "Foreign Language Guide" and "English Local Travel," in line with the objective "spontaneous, interactive, and mutual beneficial" mentioned in the new curriculum guidelines of the 12-year national basic education that is being promoted by the Ministry of Education. This not only has unique and exemplary values, but also has remarkable results. The success of the curriculum and instructional design should be attributed to Mr. Zi-Jie Dai's planning, Pei-Yu Gao's and Xiao-Ling Wang's creative implementation, as well as the dedication of all the teachers at the

Department of Applied Foreign Languages. The school has been devoted to promoting international education and cross-border mobile learning, which not only enhances students' worldview, but brings the world to the school. Through educational resource sharing, students are given opportunities for exploration of diverse fields so as to develop their interdisciplinary abilities and daily life skills.