

Diverse and Innovative Education at National Chunan Senior High School: Unleashing Students' Potential and Focusing on Balanced Development

(Courtesy of ZHU, YI-RU from the Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



To live up to the core value of talent development, which has been advocated in the 12-year national compulsory education, National Chunan Senior High School (NCSHS), a community-based school, has striven to develop featured programs and activities to encourage students to grow and develop professional knowledge in their own ways as citizens of the new generation while marching towards excellence.

Guided by the vision of “Featured Innovation and Excellence,” a variety of electives have been offered at NCSHS based on four major principles: potential unlocking, scientific verification, humanities development, and artistic cultivation for students to learn by themselves and systematically. Starting in the academic year of 2016, the school offered inter-class electives for ninth graders, such as cultural creativity as well as small business branding, hands-on geography, food and literature, math in daily life, history as well as TV and films, modern novels and films,

sport judgement rules and practice, eco-friendly chemical product manufacturing, and environmental protection and recycling. Given the lively nature in design, these courses have won over many students. Take Food and Literature for example, the course is divided into three levels:

Level 1: With a focus on the diverse nature of the Chinese language, it no longer concentrates on reading and comprehension. Through multi-dimensional courses, including reading of dietary literature, verbal expression, group discussion on scripts, and music and film appreciation, it aims to connect various aspects of our lives connected through food, enabling students to “listen to the fragrance of music and see the feelings of films.”

Level 2: Hands-on experience. Students are encouraged to discuss food in season and learn about fruit and vegetables in different seasons so that they may start to appreciate the food they eat. Then, they will move on to design recipes for food in season. As such, they get to learn more about the experience and affections that are involved in this process.

Level 3: Exploring food safety issues in-depth. Students need to bring their favorite dish, with which they discuss the food additives as well as food safety issues involved.

Furthermore, “Hands-on Geography” was designed to cultivate students’ care for humanities and culture, broaden their cultural perspectives, and encourage them to respect nature and environment. This was done through a series of practical courses, such as field trips, education-based international traveling, and service-learning. With three years into the implementation of the curriculum, students get to learn the basic knowledge and skills of geography, including contour line interpretation, usage of GPS devices, compass clinometers, and Google Earth, direction measurements, and mapping through a hands-on approach. Students can also visit the local Lu-Zhu-Nan community to observe landscapes and enhance their care for local cultures. Therefore, they will love geography, as well as the community where they grow up better, and become a kind, active, cooperative, and knowledgeable person.

Diverse development has been the feature of NCSHS with a focus on balanced development and an aim to unleash students' potential in every field. Therefore, NCSHS' students have brought home many awards at skills-based and physical competitions. Liao, Jia-Wen, a student from NCSHS, excelled himself through participating in 2016 World Robot Olympiad India (WRO India) and won the first place in the Robot soccer match, promoting Taiwan's reputation on the global stage.

Faced with the ever-changing future, and to live up to the values of the curriculum guidelines in the academic year of 2016, Li, Shi-Qing, the principal of NCSHS, will work together with the entire faculty and students in developing signature features of the school and designing innovative courses. With an aim to encourage students to think outside the box, develop an ability to coordinate inter-disciplinary knowledge, and help unlock their potential, students are able to put what they have learned into practice and take on responsibility as citizens of the ROC. As such, individual as well as the entire societal lives will be taken up to the next level.