

Introduction Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

My name is Joe Nasseff (Zheng Laoshi). I'm a new teacher here at Lakes International Language Academy and I'd like to take this opportunity to let you get to know me better.

I'm originally from North Saint Paul, Minnesota. I studied at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Language and Literature (with a Mandarin focus) in 2009. During my studies, I spent one year abroad at Fudan University in Shanghai with the Alliance Program for Global Education.

After graduating, I moved back to China in 2010, where I've spent the past six and a half years teaching ESL. I've lived in Beijing, Shanghai, Lijiang, and for the past four years I've resided in Suzhou, a very beautiful city famous for its canals, gardens and painting, located about an hour northwest of Shanghai.

My wife Du Xue, who is originally from Lianyungang, a city in eastern China, and our two children, Oscar and Vivian, recently moved back to Saint Paul. In our free time, we like visiting parks, swimming, watching movies and playing games as a family. When I'm by myself, I like writing novels, listening to music and cooking spicy Sichuan food.

I'm very excited to be LILA's first Minnesota-born Mandarin immersion teacher. I look forward to teaching the students new characters, improving their pronunciation and grammar, but more importantly, giving them a greater understanding of Chinese culture and China as a country.

I'm eager to meet you all during our Enrollment Conferences. I hope we can learn more about each other, share what goals we have for the academic year, and discuss any concerns we might have. Have a great rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Joe Nasseff (Zheng Laoshi)