

# SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

## Highland Daycare



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### The Details

#### *Highland Daycare*

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#### Languages:

Mandarin Chinese.



#### Email:

[jhzhangccc@yahoo.com](mailto:jhzhangccc@yahoo.com)



#### Hours:

Monday through Friday  
8:30am to 6:00pm

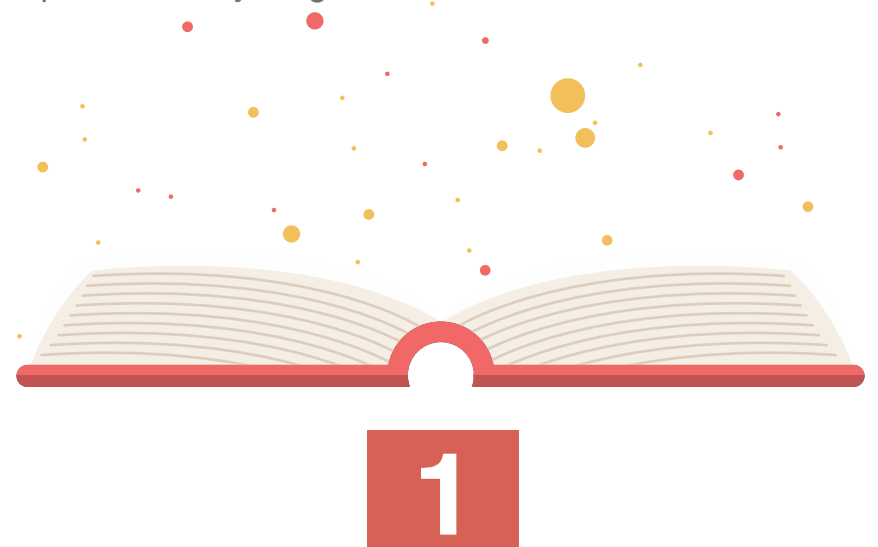
#### Phone:

301-515-0428

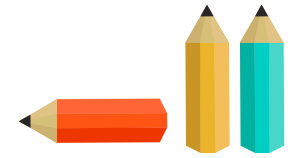
### The Story

Highland Chinese Immersion Daycare was started almost 20 years ago by a local Germantown mom. Wishing to be her child's first teacher and understanding the importance of a solid educational foundation, Tandy Zhang, opened the doors of her family daycare. As a native Chinese speaker and having taught kindergarten in Shanghai, China, starting her own immersion program seemed like a natural fit. Fast forward nearly two decades later, she has since moved her center to Clarksburg, in a spacious single family home, providing the perfect blend of education and language with a welcoming, home-style feel.

As one of the best and most affordable Chinese immersion programs in the DC region, Tandy has grown her idea into a successful and effective learning experience for young children.



# About the Staff & The Program



Highland Daycare boasts a small student-to-teacher ratio and all staff are both fluent in Chinese and English. Tandy and a co-teacher run the daily program and infuse fun and interactive games into their lessons.

What sets Highland Daycare' staff apart from other schools?

Highland Daycare staff understand the importance of building a strong educational foundation and go the extra mile to include parents in the planning process. Tandy personally meets with each parent every morning during drop-off and provides a summary of the intended learning activities for the day. And, every evening during pick-up, she also recounts how each child performed and suggests additional activities parents can do at home.

The curriculum is designed to expose preschoolers to a wide range of topics and subjects. Children as young as 3 years old are introduced to Chinese characters and skip counting by 2's, 3's, and 5's.



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## A day at Highland Daycare

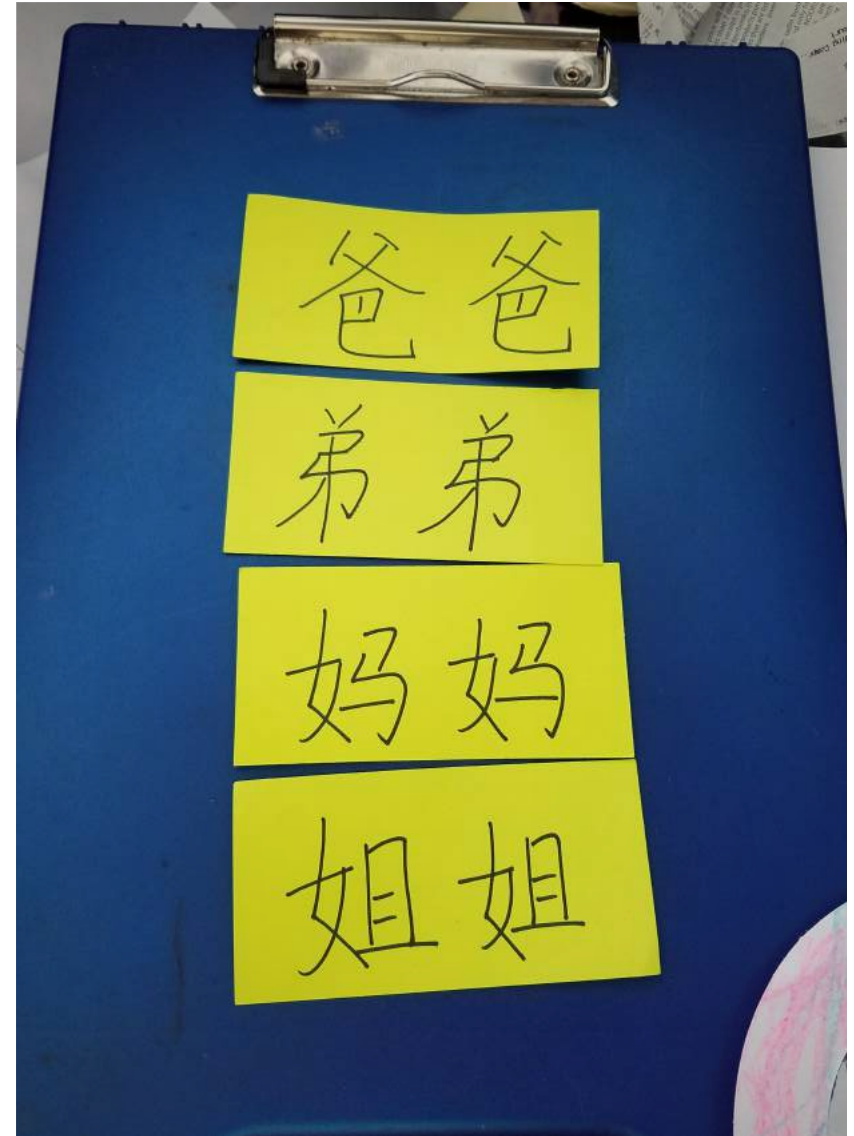


Every morning children are fed a nutritious breakfast and then transition into free play or outdoor play, before instructional time begins. During instructional time, Tandy alternates between English and Chinese and leads the children in sing-alongs, storytime, and learning new English vocabulary words and Chinese characters.

Next, is project time where children work together and have an opportunity to display their creativity.

Following lunch and a rest period, children come together for an afternoon discussion to review what they learned in the morning.

Throughout the day students complete arts and craft projects, listen to Bible stories, and continually hear Chinese spoken. At the end of each week, students take home flashcards of the new characters they learned and a journal to practice reading Chinese texts. As one of the leading immersion programs designed to build Chinese fluency, children at the Highland Daycare hear Chinese about 80-90% of the school day.



## Word on the Street

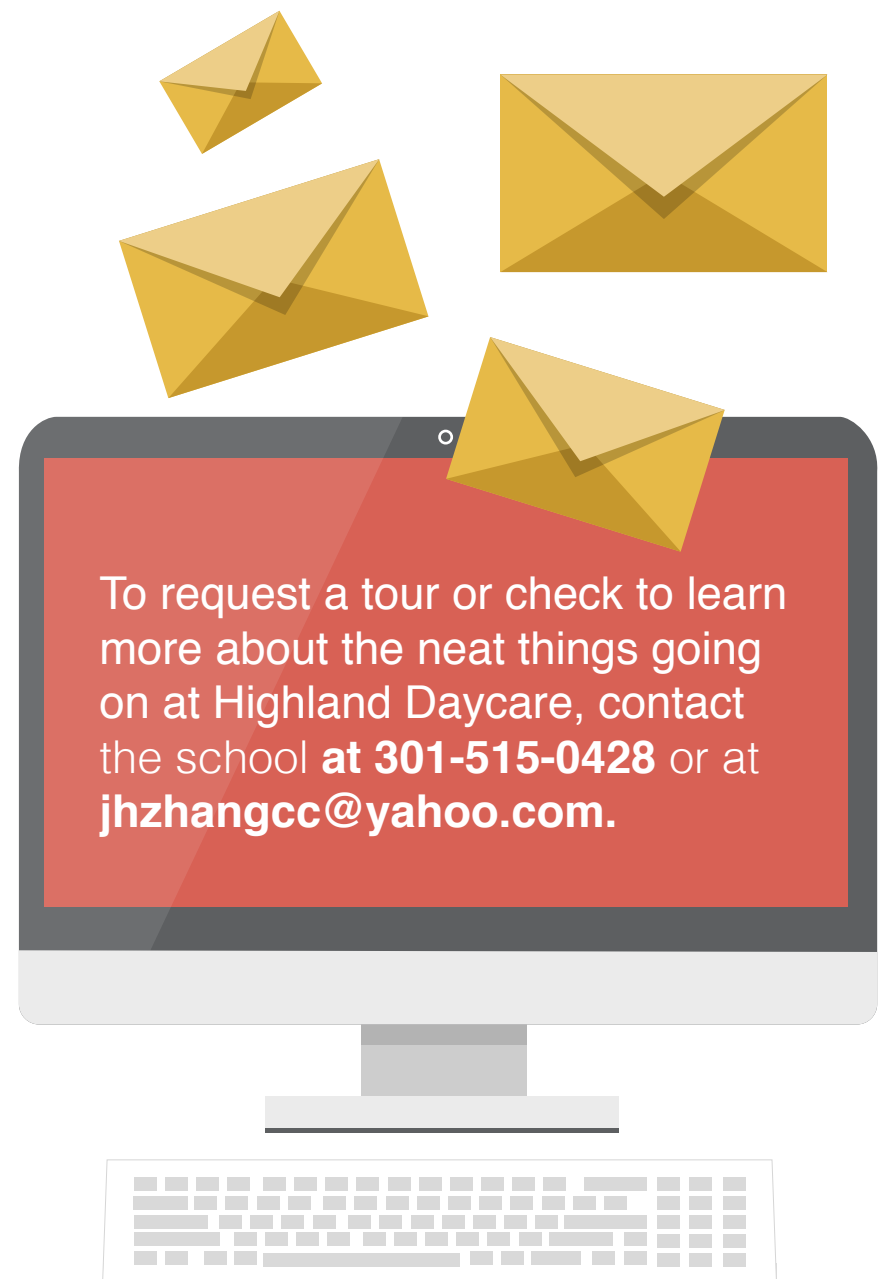
### *For monolingual parents raising bilingual kids...*

“Highland daycare is a true gem! Tucked away on a quiet cul-de-sac, in Clarksburg, right off of exit 18, it provides the best mix of convenience and safety.”

“I was so happy to find Highland Daycare. I had searched all over the DC area and couldn’t find an affordable and effective Chinese immersion program. I was overjoyed when I found Highland Daycare. Tandy keeps me up-to-date with everything my son is learning. And, the weekly flashcards and journals my son brings home help me reinforce the Chinese at home. As a monolingual mom, who doesn’t speak Chinese, having these resources are invaluable, and it’s amazing how much Chinese my son has learned in such a short period of time!”

### Quick Facts

- *All meals are provided (breakfast, lunch, snack)*
- *Less than a 15-minute drive from Germantown and Gaithersburg*
- *Each week children learn 3-6 new Chinese characters*



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