

Summer Mandarin Tutoring Success

Tarwater Elementary School

Summer 2020

“The tutors were all wonderfully helpful, patient, and came prepared with the materials for the session. Our daughters were motivated and looked forward to talking with their tutors every week. This is our first time using online tutoring and we are very happy with the level of service that PeerSquared is offering. We definitely recommend it to other families in the community.”

- Thuy G, parent of a 2nd & 5th grader

Why PeerSquared?

In late spring 2020, Tarwater, a public K-6 school in Chandler, Arizona, like many schools was trying to find ways to keep students learning over the summer after a sudden switch to distance learning as a result of COVID-19. The school was also home to the Mandarin Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program where roughly 250 K-5 students spent half of their day learning math, science, and other subjects in both Mandarin and English. Because Mandarin was embedded into every subject and lesson (aside from ELA), it would be a tremendous loss for students to spend summer break with no Mandarin practice. The third quarter's transition to distance learning was already rough on students and had decreased opportunities for them to practice their speaking. While the community surrounding the school was considered to be upper-middle-class, private language tutoring was not cheap - at no less than \$45/hour with a native speaker. And when it came to language learning, nothing is more important than practice!



What Happened?

In May 2020, responding to the painful impact of COVID-19, PeerSquared CEO Michael Wang, a local of Chandler, AZ, reached out to Tarwater and offered to design a free summer peer tutoring program for the DLI students. With approval from the school, **10 local high school students from Chandler**, all advanced Mandarin speakers, were **trained to provide 1-on-1 tutoring** via Google Meets starting with the 2nd-grade class only. The materials they used were provided by the school and matched exactly what students had learned, thus allowing for more **effective curriculum-based tutoring**

However, after seeing the initial success, before school was

out for summer, Tarwater’s principal decided the **PeerSquared Mandarin Summer Peer Tutoring Program** would be expanded to all DLI students. As such, more high school volunteer tutors from the community were recruited and tutoring opened up to all DLI students. The free sessions scheduled via PeerSquared’s online tutoring platform were originally limited to once per week. Parents were very happy with the quality of the tutoring and the program quickly spread throughout each grade level in the DLI program. Ultimately, by the end of summer, the program served nearly 100 students, many up to two times per week!

- ➔ **12 high school tutors** 🧑🎓
- ➔ **100 K-5 students** 😊
- ➔ **480 tutoring sessions** MAR 21
- ➔ **97% SATISFACTION** 🎉

What was the Impact?

The Peersquared Mandarin Peer Tutoring Program was a resounding success, with students, parents, and teachers praising its impact. In fact, of the Tarwater families who took part in this program, **97% reported that peer tutoring is helpful** and **82% of students looked forward to more sessions with our peer tutors**.

By the end of the summer in late July, **480 30-min, online, 1-on-1 tutoring sessions** have been scheduled through PeerSquared’s tutoring platform and completed via Google Meet. After every session, students/parents are asked to answer three questions about their experience on a scale of 1 to 5. Averaging the results from the 210 responses (~50% response rate), here is what they reported:

- Did the tutor keep you engaged during this session?
4.97 / 5.00
- How helpful was this session for you? 4.95
- How engaged was the tutor during this session?
4.94

Here’s what some parents had to say about peer tutoring:

“You have some fantastic tutors, and since my son is learning a language no one in our family speaks, it is essential for him!”

- Audra J, kinder parent & HS teacher

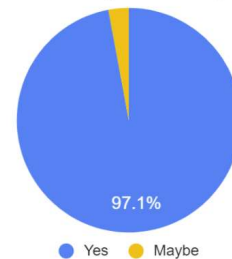
“Each of the tutors has been very helpful and engaging with each of our four kids. This has been great... [and] would definitely consider if there is continued virtual learning if still offered in the fall.”

- Chris T, 2nd-grade parent

“Hannah has been an excellent tutor. Just weekly practice makes us feel confident that the girls can bounce back and build upon what they learned. She’s patient, organized and makes the girls feel special. Both my daughters are participating and it’s been awesome.”

- Gabriel B, 2nd-grade parent

Do you think peer tutoring is a good supplemental learning resource for your child?



But not only did the students benefit...

The tutors benefited as well! PeerSquared recruited and trained 12 tutors from the Chandler, AZ area for this program. This summer program proved to be an enjoyable way for these local high schoolers to stay involved over the summer, earn volunteer hours, and grow professionally.

By the end of summer:

- **320 volunteer hours earned**
- **92%** of tutors agree that peer tutoring has enhanced their high school experience
- **100%** of tutors agree that they are making an impact as a peer tutor

Furthermore, at least three of these volunteer tutors continued as private tutors after the program ended. **Two tutors became student leaders and their own school's peer tutoring program to sustain the amazing impact of peer tutoring for their classmates and in their communities.**

About PeerSquared

PeerSquared is a public benefit corporation whose mission is to improve K-12 education through the power of students and their community. Just like in the Tarwater program, PeerSquared builds peer tutoring programs where trained peer tutors provide relatable and effective academic support for students at or close to their age. Programs build by PeerSquared emphasize accessibility, sustainability, and systematic integration to improve grades and engagement.

Visit peer-squared.info to learn more.

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