



# Watertown Public Schools

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Dear Students,

The China Pathways Program is an opportunity for Watertown students entering grades 8 -12 to learn about China and Chinese culture by participating in summer mini-courses and then traveling to China in April 2009. This letter is intended to explain the program and solicit your interest by June 1, 2008. The deadline for letting us know you are interested in participating is in two weeks, so please consider this opportunity now.

This China Pathways Program includes about 150 students from ten local school districts. Watertown is fortunate to have twenty seats in the program this coming school year. Last year, seven of your high school peers participated and had an amazing experience. You might have heard about their adventures, since they just returned from their trip and have been talking about it and showing the video of their travels <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOuyoLyAsOU>

This summer China Pathways mini-courses will be on topics like "A Day in the Life of a Teenager in China," "Made in China, from the Silk Road to Today's International Trade," "Understanding Chinese Culture through Digital Technology", and others on Chinese healing, literature, politics, and more. These mini-courses are offered on weekends and during a variety of times throughout July and August. Seminars run for about 20 hours, meet in local school districts, and are both face-to-face and online. Students who successfully complete two seminars qualify to travel to China for 10 days over April 2009 vacation in order to see and experience what they learned about in the seminars.

The Pathways to China Program is primarily funded by a Department of Education grant, so the summer mini-courses are free. The cost of the trip to China is about \$2400, and there are fund-raising activities during the school year to help defray the cost for students.

The China Pathways Project is a great chance to explore life, culture, history, the arts, and politics of China. Interesting mini-courses and exciting trips are planned which will give you a first-hand glimpse of life in the past, present, and future of China. These experiences will include visits to rural and urban centers, major sites, and school visits. We anticipate that interest will exceed capacity. We encourage you to express your interest through your thoughtful responses to the application questions below by June 1, 2008.

Please submit your answers to these questions either by email or a typed response to your principal (Mr. Noftsker [pnoftsker@watertown.k12.ma.us](mailto:pnoftsker@watertown.k12.ma.us), or Mr. Carter [kcarter@watertown.k12.ma.us](mailto:kcarter@watertown.k12.ma.us)).

**Your Name:**

**Current Grade:**

**Email Address:**

**Question 1: Why do you want to learn about China?**

**Question 2: Why would you be an asset to the China Pathways program?**

**Please submit your Letter of Interest to your principal, no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.**