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For Immediate Release

Chinese Classes offered at British American School of Charlotte

Charlotte, NC – The British American School of Charlotte has begun a new Chinese foreign language programme for children from ages 6 to 12. School resumed after the Autumn half-term break on October 31st and children in years 1 through 7 were invited to begin attending optional Chinese classes offered at lunchtime three days a week. Pupils have enthusiastically joined in the classes and parents are very excited about the new language option. All pupils at the British American School of Charlotte take French beginning at age three.

Chinese lessons are being delivered by Elena Tao, a graduate of Tamkang University, Taiwan and Toledo University, Ohio and an experienced instructor of the Chinese language in the Charlotte area. Lessons began with a great surge of energy as, within seconds of class beginning, Mrs. Tao had the young learners greeting her in Mandarin. She is already speaking about arranging small performances of “lion dances” and other dramatic renditions from the Chinese community. As for the students themselves, the response has been uniformly enthusiastic: “a whole lot of fun” and “awesome” have been typical of the remarks heard just after class ends. The British American School of Charlotte has introduced Chinese lessons as part of its ongoing mission to make the school prepare its students for the globally mobile world of the 21st century.

The British American School is beginning its second year of operation. The school has nearly tripled in size since opening in September 2004 and currently has 52 pupils from Nursery through Year 7. Pupils are educated in combined age-group classrooms with curriculum tailored for individual pupils.

The British American School of Charlotte is part of the British Schools of America which were founded in 1998 when the first school opened in Washington D.C. The British Schools of Boston and Houston both opened in September 2000, the British School of Chicago opened in September 2001 and the British American School of Charlotte, the fifth school, opened in September 2004. It is anticipated during the next few years that the total number of British Schools of America will grow to 20, all located in major cities across the USA. Pupils at the British Schools of America follow the International Primary Curriculum, the National Curriculum of England through GCSEs and the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Teachers at the schools are recruited directly from the UK and are trained in the delivery of the National Curriculum, the IPC and the IB.

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