Confucius Classrooms

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Ten thousand students in 45 south central Kentucky classrooms are learning Chinese thanks to WKU’s Confucius Institute.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham explains how the curriculum is being taken to a whole new level.

Kung Fu, Calligraphy even tea ceremonies. These are some of the Chinese cultural experiences being taught in three affiliated Confucius Classrooms that were officially unveiled over the past week.

Students at the Bowling Green Housing Authority are getting their first look at a room that’s been transformed into a Confucius classroom.

 “The purpose of the Confucius classroom is to reach beyond the classroom and engage the community in which they reside.

The cultural focus at the Housing Authority will be Kung Fu classes offered to the kids.

 “It goes hand in hand with education, so there’s already been studies that martial arts enhances education. It’s a win/win for everyone.”

Tea ceremonies will be the highlight of the Confucius Classroom that opened this week at Barren County High school.

She really pushes for culture this year which I think is a very important component.”

I hope that one day when I have children, I’ll be able to teach them to be open to other cultures and not just stay in one culture.”

These classrooms, along with one in Simpson county, are the first Chinese classrooms in Kentucky to be affiliated with the C.I.

 “The Confucius Institute itself would be the engine that keeps the classroom going.”

Some older students at the Housing Authority have been able to visit China thanks to the CI. They’re excited to see the younger kids have this kind of opportunity.

It would just be nice to have these kids integrated with a culture that’s going to be such a powerhouse in the future, at a young age.”

This weekend, WKU will host the first U.S. meeting of United States Confucius Institutes.

Delegates from more than ninety universities will be attending.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.