



NIHONGO

DUBLIN JEROME HIGH SCHOOL SPRING 2022

MEET IYA SENSEI

JEROME'S NEW JAPANESE
TEACHER

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

WAGASHI WORKSHOP

NATIONAL JAPANESE

EXAM AWARDS

INAUGURAL

JNHS

INDUCTION

JAPAN BOWL 2022

JEROME TAKES 1ST PLACE!

IYA NEMASTIL

DJHS Japanese Teacher



Hello! My name is Iya Nemastil and this year was my first year teaching Japanese at Dublin Jerome High School. I came here from Marysville Schools where I wrote the curriculum and taught Japanese for seven years. I would say my expertise is communicative teaching in the target language as well as finding all sorts of authentic source goodies to make my students interpret in class. I want to give my students the opportunity to interact with language and culture that I wish I had when starting my language journey. It's been a truly fantastic experience working with so many incredible people. I am astounded by the character and perseverance of our students and how they come to school every day working their hardest. The students here are so driven and want to learn something new every day. They ask to do projects! ! ! They make my job so much fun! Coming back slowly from the impact that COVID-19 had on student learning has been a challenge, not just for Japanese but for all classes. My level 2, 3, and 4 students started off this year with such a variety of proficiency and language ability, and I was able to set different learning goals and challenges for their individual needs. It's been such a pleasure watching them all grow, and it's like we've created a little family in each class and now they have to leave me! I wish I had a little more time to get to know my seniors, but I know they are destined for greatness, and I can't wait to see what they do in the world!

My goal is to develop a space in my classroom where students can take risks, challenge themselves, and not be afraid to make mistakes. Working in such a competitive environment, I have noticed that sometimes students can be a little apprehensive when it comes to speaking and creating with language if they are not a hundred percent sure of themselves. My hopes are that as students get to know me, my expectations, and my teaching style, that they will grow with confidence. Some of your children might come home and tell you that sensei doesn't have any desks in her classroom. This is true! I am a firm believer in removing both physical and mental barriers that can sometimes hinder communication.

I have only chairs and this allows for flexibility, differentiated seating, circles, stations, groupings, etc. Next year I will have a class set of mini white-boards which can serve as a hard surface as well. I am very excited! We do a lot of character recognition and writing practice during class, alongside interpreting authentic sources, so I recommend also getting a white board for home to practice new kanji.

Outside of school, I am a mom to three girls aged 5, 3, and 1. My house is very loud :) We moved to Dublin in October, and I am excited to explore the area some more this summer with my family, and maybe finish unpacking the random things I shoved into boxes. My oldest will be starting kindergarten at Scottish Corners in August. I have also signed her up for a summer Japanese language and culture camp through a friend of mine, and those that are interested in such an opportunity for your younger children, please don't hesitate to check out:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGUwbyjZmTeyiwjt78fP7xbT56kaKsX06KyW8kmH0rjgONag/viewform> and all her contact information is there.

I know Dublin has many beautiful parks and playgrounds, and we are excited to visit all the new places and try all of the new foods here as well.

JNHS INDUCTION PHOTOS

For more photos look here: <http://www.iyasensei.com/induction-2022-photos.html>



LUCY WOHLERS

Junior



For those who wish to expand their knowledge of Japan and Japanese culture, Stanford's Reischauer Scholars Program (RSP) allows students, 10th-12th grade, from across the country to learn about Japanese history and politics. The program includes a panel of expert professors and intellectuals. In 2021, the lecturers included multiple expert professors from Stanford University, Michigan State University, and more. That same year, the lecturers also included a practicing Buddhist monk, the Consulate General of Sapporo, and actor George Takei. Utilizing traditional readings, lectures, and specialized lessons – such as historical film studies – students gain a deep understanding of Japan. The course culminated in a large, professional presentation to your peers and a formal research paper. Honorees will be selected among the students for exceptional research papers, and recognized in a special celebration for their efforts.

As a graduate from the RSP, I was able to experience unique and incredibly valuable lessons. I gave a presentation to my Japanese class on the history of the samurai, and I wrote a research paper on the effects of a declining birth rate on rural Japan. The course also taught me skills on how to think and write on the collegiate level. To achieve my accomplishments, I dedicated about 7-10 hours a week over 5 months, from February to June, to complete my coursework, including virtual meetings with my professors. While the course is rigorous, I believe that my time was well spent and worth the dedication. I felt prepared for college especially, and the program looks great on college applications too. Online applications for the program typically open in September and close in October.

Link for program information:

<https://spice.fsi.stanford.edu/fellowship/reischauer-scholars-program>

MIDORI OWENS

Parent



Hi everyone, I am Midori Owens. I was born and raised in Japan, living in the United States for 34 years since '88. I have 2 children, a girl and a boy, raised and living in Ohio. My son is a senior at Dublin Jerome High School learning Japanese in Nemastil sensei's class.

My strong desire for education for my children is to grow up as bilingual. I thought it would be my lifetime gift for them. Therefore, I have been speaking in Japanese with them from the time they were born. I wanted that skill to be useful and to become a bridge between Japan and the United States. It's strange to say it myself, but both of them have excellent hearing and understanding with common, everyday contents. Despite their hearing abilities, they both need an educators' push on reading and writing. That's why I was always looking for schools with a Japanese language curriculum around the Dublin area.

In the mid '90s, there was a class to teach Japanese for non-Japanese elementary students at the Japanese language supplementary school in Columbus every Saturday, and my daughter was able to enter there and graduated. Unfortunately, that particular class closed way before my son reached elementary school.

In Columbus, I found a Yochien kindergarten, where Japanese teachers have classes similar to Japan, and he was able to go two times a week for two years. So, we were able to enjoy many Japanese traditional events together. I made Japanese obento for his lunch every time he went to Yochien. I enjoyed creating all kinds of cute obento.

Nemastil sensei came to Jerome when my son was in 12th grade. The class began to learn many new Kanji, and I felt very happy that his teacher was ready to improve their ability. First of all, I like the style of her class. What I immediately noticed at home was that my son had a lot more time to use Japanese in conversations with me. In those conversations, it was clear that the teacher was working on a lot of words that he hadn't used before.

It's been a short year, and I am grateful for the environment where my son speaks Japanese regularly at home. Even when we are calling his grandmother in Japan, he can speak with her more smoothly than ever. Grandmother knows his ability has improved lately. She is also thankful for Nemastil sensei's effort at school.

I am looking forward to the next trip to Japan with my son when we can eat his favorite Kitakata ramen together.

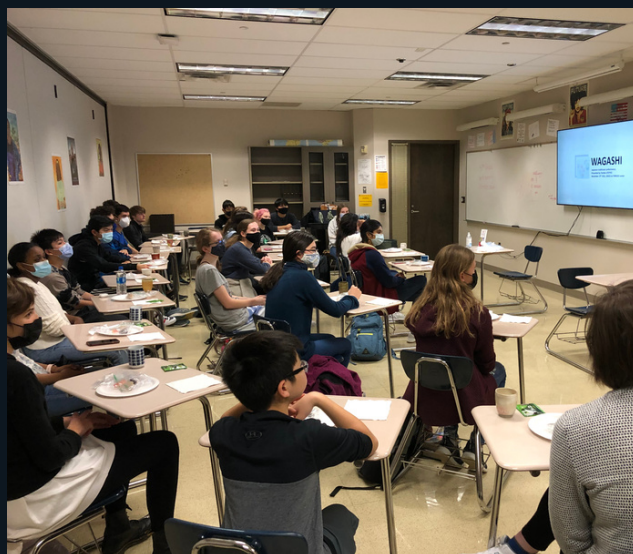
Thank you for your continuous effort to teach Japanese language and culture.

WAGASHI EXPERIENCE

On November 19, 2021 we had the honor of having Toshiko Sugii Steffes, an internationally published *wagashi* artist visit our school and present a workshop on how to make traditional Japanese sweets. She was amazing and our upper level students were able to watch her presentation and make their own *wagashi* along with having a cup of Japanese green tea. Here is her shop information:

https://www.etsy.com/shop/BlossomSweets?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing_id=816881110

I have ordered from her on multiple occasions. She also has an amazing recipe book out. She ships from Cleveland, Ohio and I definitely recommend trying her sweets! We are thankful to JASCO for helping create such an opportunity for our students.





RION SASAKI

Senior

現在私は、海外在学歴8年です。10歳の頃に日本を離れ、メキシコに4年間住み、その後、アメリカへ引っ越してきました。私はこの八年間で、日本に住んでいたらできないような数々の素晴らしい経験をすることができました。この経験は、自分の視野を育むことができ、そして同時に日本と海外の違いについて考えさせられるいいきっかけとなりました。今日は私が実感したアメリカと日本の違いについて話したいと思います。

まず、アメリカでは常に一人一人しっかりとした意見や理念を持っており、それを表に出し、自己を出すことをよしとしています。嫌なものは嫌！好きなものは好き！とてもハッキリとストレートに自分の意見を言います。他人の意見が自分と違ってても気にしません。しかし、日本では自己を出すことはあまり良くないものとみなされ、自分の意見を言う者がいれば、「空気が読めない者」や「うるさい 奴」としてあしらわれてしまいます。同調圧力が激しく、周りに合わせ、自己を出さないという方がいいという考え方が定着しています。また、日本人は質問に対する返答が「周りに合わせたり」、英語を話さなくてはこのプレッシャーで「YES」「NO」だけで終わってしまうことがあります。アメリカでこのような返答を続けると、「この人は自分の意見が全然ないのかな?」、「意見を求めても無駄なのかな?」と思われ、交友関係が広がらなくなってしまいます。実際に私も、アメリカに来てすぐの頃は、「英語で完璧に受け答えしなくちゃ」というプレッシャーから「英語が話せない自分」という存在に憤りを感じ、塞ぎ込んでしまいました。その結果、周りの人とうまく話せず、孤立してしまった過去がありました。そのため、アメリカに来た際には、私みたいにならないように、「周りの人に合わせなきゃ」、「英語が 喋 れないから周りの人に迷惑をかけないように静かに居よう」と言う考えは捨て去り、自分の意見をしっかりと持ち、何事にも恐れず、相手に明るく話しかけることが肝心です。

次に、日本人はよく謙遜をし、謙遜をすることが当然となっており、謙遜しない人を、「不遜」や「傲慢」などと悪い物へと括りつけてしまいます。しかし、アメリカでは謙遜は通じません！謙遜していると、「この人は自信がない」と思われてしまいます。アメリカ人にとって「自信がある言動」はとても大切なのです。例えば、自分が描いた絵が入賞して褒められた時に「いえいえ、まだまだ下手だから..」などと言ったら、アメリカ人は「あ、この人は自信がないんだな」と捉えてしまいます。褒められた時は素直に「ありがとう！努力した 甲斐 があった」等 と答えるのがベストです。日本人からすると 少し傲慢 傲慢 に聞こえるかもしれませんが、言語の背景に存在する文化を考えると自然な表現なのです。

私は日本に住んでいてはできない貴重な経験をする事ができ、それと同時に、上記のような文化や考え方の違いを知ることができました。これから海外に移り住む人や、新しい環境に 馴染 めていない人がいらっしゃれば、新しい環境と自分の過去にいた場所の違いを考え、どのようにしたら周りに 馴染 めるのか、どうすれば楽しくなるのかを模索してみてください。きっと、うまく行くはずですよ。何事も恐れずに挑戦してみてください。

HANNA ABIYE

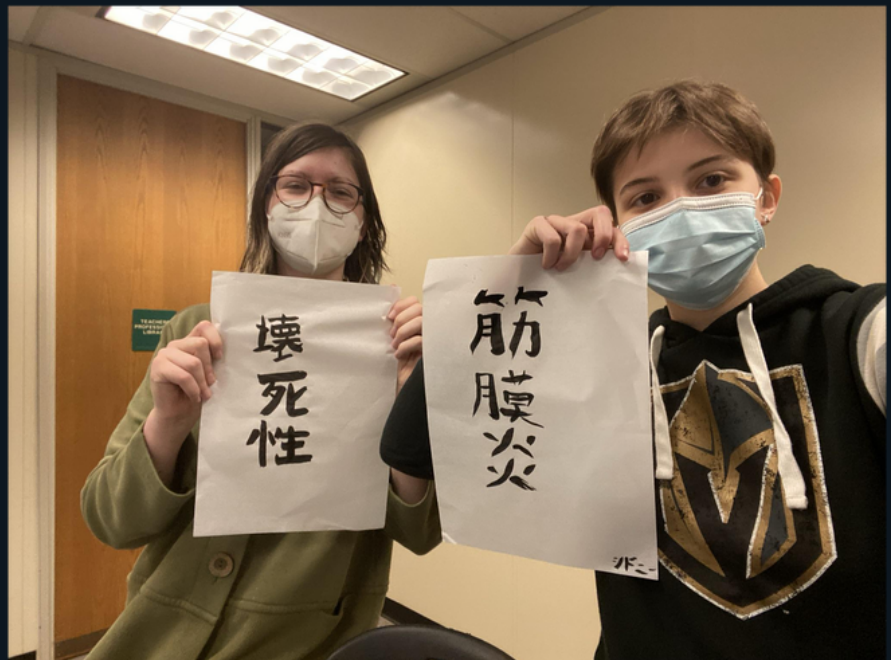
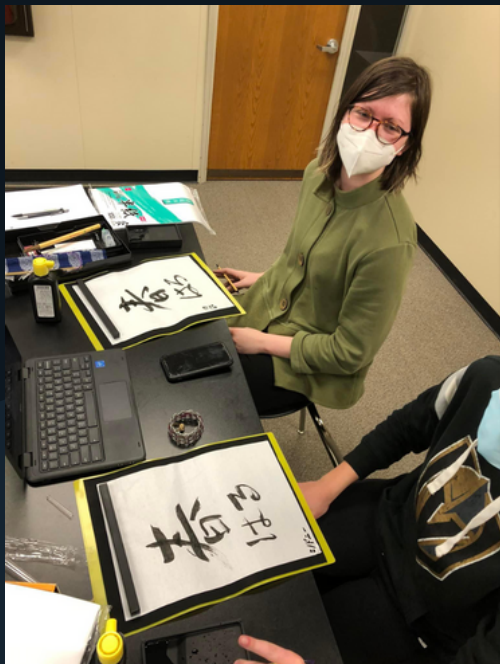
Sophomore

I chose to study Japanese because I've been interested in the culture and history of Japan for a while. Personally I'd recommend studying Japanese to others because it may be a difficult language but it's definitely fun once you get a handle on it. It's always good to challenge yourself and Japanese is a fun challenge to engage in. I enjoy Iya-sensei's class because she often allows us to explore the language on our own, and introduces activities that help us recognize vocabulary, kanji, and sentence structures. She also has activities where we engage with other students and not only practice our Japanese vocally but also build relationships with those in our class. My experiences in Japanese class are entertaining and fun, interacting with the others in the class as well as the activities we do makes me excited to go to Japanese class everyday. Thank you for reading, I hope you consider studying Japanese in the future.



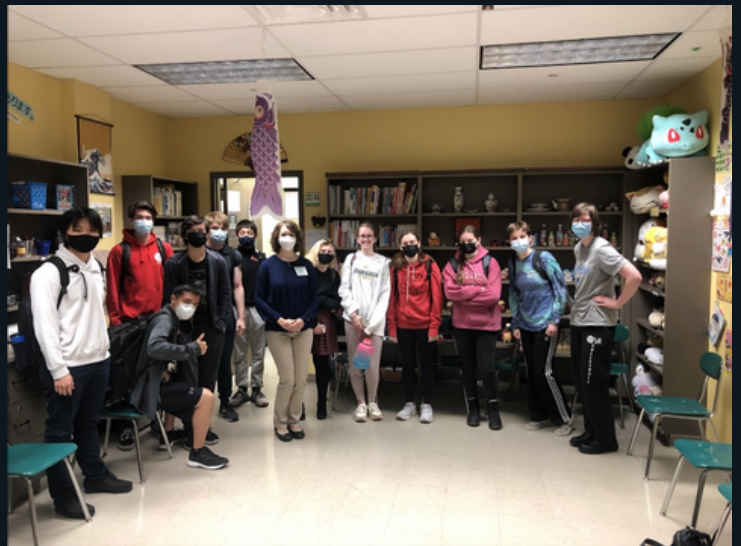
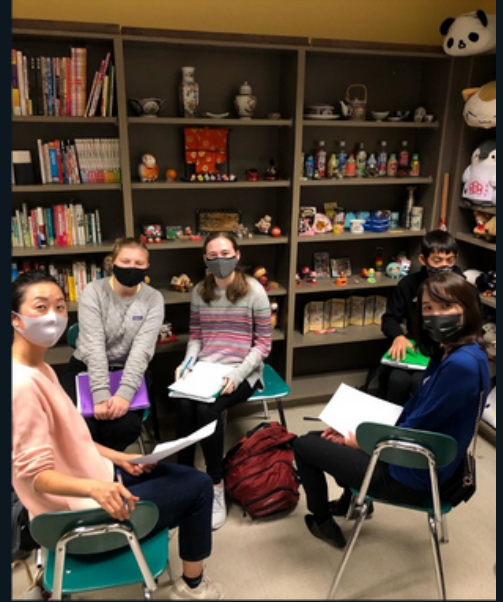
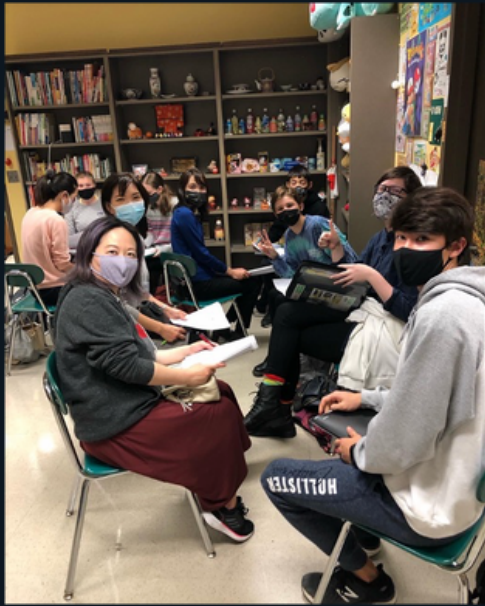
JAPAN BOWL 2022

Jordan Bahnub & Sydney Krasniewski



FUN THINGS

This year we have had the honor of having Japanese-speaking volunteers visit our classroom once a month in our level 2, 3, and AP classes. I look forward to seeing more of them next year! Here are some photos of things we have done in the classroom as well as during Japnaes club and special guest visits. There's a lot of eating!





RUTH ANINWEZE

8th Grade



Hello my name is Ruth. I'm in Japanese 1 and in 8th grade so I've had Iya Sensei for one year. Her teaching methods are different from most teachers because she doesn't use desks or tables, but it's a very interactive class and I enjoy learning in her class. I remember in the beginning of the year she gave us a google form to complete and share things about us, and we got to make the class rules together. I thought that was nice because it showed that she respects our value as students. She is a more hands-on teacher, and it feels like you're each getting individual attention without focusing on one student more than others. I've never been stressed out because of the workload, because the tests are retakeable and all the information is online or on paper.

SYDNEY KRASNIEWSKI

Sophomore

Hello, my name is Sydney. This year I took Japanese 3. Our class was relatively small but always lively. Throughout the year I learned a lot, formed friendships, and had a lot of fun. By the end of the year, the class definitely felt like a community to me. I would say the atmosphere of the class is my favorite part about it. I enjoyed how laid back it is while still being rigid enough so that we could learn. I especially enjoyed the number of things I was able to participate in as a result of this class. In March, my classmate and friend Jordan and I competed in the Ohio Japan Bowl- a Japanese language and culture competition. We won and as a prize got \$100 each to spend at the Japanese market. Another competition I was a part of was the Japanese Speech Contest. The contest helped me in new situations and allowed me to improve my speaking. I've learned a lot from this class, and I look forward to the program growing in the future.





NOAH HUCKABY

Freshman

On an average day in Japanese Class, I walk in and sit down in my chair. (As sensei is adverse to desks) I pull out my folder and set it on my lap. When sensei walks in and lights up the projector we begin. When I decided to take Japanese over my parents suggestion of Spanish, it was not a thought out choice. Unlike most of the people in my class I was and am not addicted to anime. My only background with Japan is that my uncle lived there, and on a business trip my dad brought back a stuffed totoro and the studio ghibli movie. It was on a whim that I decided to choose to learn 4 years of Japanese. On the first day of school I walked in and sat down. Sensei walked in and immediately started talking in full Japanese. I was shocked at how fast we started. Still am shocked actually. Looking back on this year really showed me that my teacher knew how best to teach this language. The immediate immersion into the Japanese language was an astounding experience and is really beneficial to anyone trying to learn Japanese. I would recommend this class to anyone eager to learn. Sensei is such an amazing teacher and will help anyone to learn Japanese.

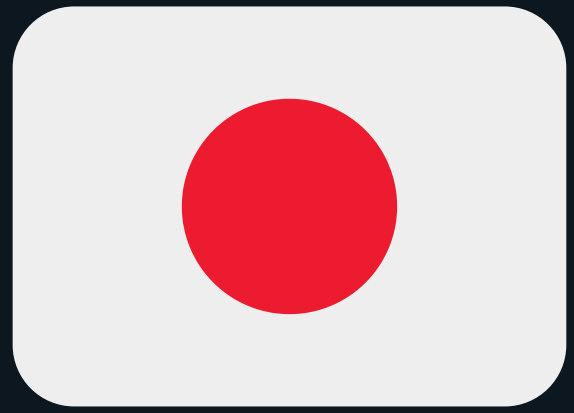
KONWEI DUONG

Freshman

Hi, my name is Konwei Duong, and I'm a freshman at Dublin Jerome. This is my second year learning Japanese and it has been a great experience. My first year of Japanese was pretty uneventful as I was learning remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Actually learning in class was tricky since we were unable to talk with each other without interrupting class for the majority of the year. I only picked up the basics: romaji, a little bit of hiragana, and a couple terms I thought I might need in the future. Japanese II has definitely challenged me. Every day is packed with fun class activities, learning, immersion in Japanese culture, and the occasional quiz. I'm really surprised and proud of my progress in this class- we've learned so much! My previous study habits haven't caught up with the rate we're learning at. My advice to anyone starting out with Japanese is to practice, practice, and practice some more. I'm terrible at this, but I think I could've and would've had a better time this year. I love the Japanese language and culture and this class reminds me everyday why I signed up to take Japanese in the first place. Japanese class with Iya Sensei is truly a memorable experience.



INAUGURAL JAPANESE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION



April 9, 2022 | 12:30 PM

DJHS Center for Performing Arts

This year we were able to induct our very first chapter of the Japanese National Honor Society, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese. Eligible students had to be in their second year of Japanese class, with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.5 GPA in their Japanese classes. I had the distinct pleasure of inducting 17 students on April 9 and we couldn't be more proud! The event included guest speeches by Ben Pachter of Japan-America Society of Central Ohio, and Jun Kawabe of Ohio Wesleyan University. Our students got to hear firsthand the wide range of benefits and experiences that studying Japanese can bring, as well as seniors got to say a few words on their own about their experience studying Japanese at DJHS. The ceremony included reading of the oath in both Japanese & English, as well as a candle lighting, and a delicious reception of Japanese finger-food afterwards. It was great to get a chance to mingle with parents as well as see how Japanese has impacted students personally. The mission of the Japanese Honor Society is to serve as a bridge of international understanding between the US and Japan as well as an ambassador to promote friendship between the two countries. JNHS members will teach Japanese to elementary school students for a period of 5 weeks as well as serve as tutors to the lower levels of Japanese at DJHS. Next school year I have big fundraising ideas.

2021 Inductees

Jordan Bahnub ベイナブ・ジョーダン
Eugene Burgei バーガイ・由真
Ella Cleveland クリーブランド・エラ
Sydney Krasniewski クラスヌスキー・シドニー
Timothy Marek マレック・ティモシー
Charles (Walker) Owens オーエンズ・ウォーカー
Samuel Willard ウィラード・サミュエル
Lucy Wohlers ウォーラーズ・ルーシー

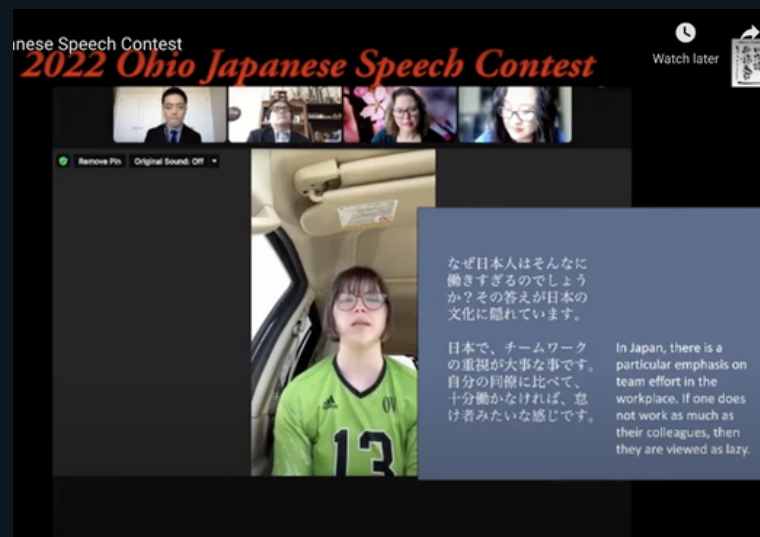
2022 Inductees

Hanna Abiye アビ・ハナ
Tiany Guo グオ・ティアニ
Maxwell Imamura 今村・マックス
Sylvia Johnson ジョンソン・シルビア
Liev Joseph ジョセフ・リエブ
Saya Ryan ライアン・さや
Emmanuel Sanchez サンチェス・エマヌエル
Saina Syed サイエッド・サイナ
Drean Szablewski サブレスキー・ドリーン

JASCO SPEECH CONTEST

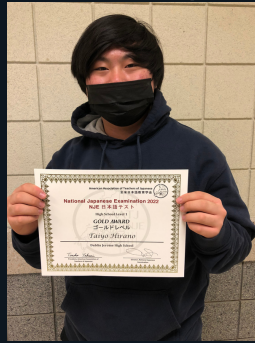
Every year the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio, or JASCO holds the Annual Japanese Speech Contest for high school and university students studying Japanese. In the high school category students submit a written essay and a recording of themselves reading it, after which it is judged by a group of native speakers and the top essays are narrowed down. This year I am proud to say that we had 4 essays chosen from our DJHS students, and they had the opportunity to perform these from memory as well as endure a question-answer session from a panel of judges on March 20 virtually over zoom, and it was streamed via youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtlg5rpauwA&t=776s>

This was a great way to showcase DJHS as well as get a chance to show off our Japanese skills! We couldn't be more proud of Sylvia Johnson, Timothy Marek, Jordan Bahnub, and Sydney Krasniewski for representing us on contest day. All four of them performed their speeches so well! Way to go! Can't wait to see what next year brings!

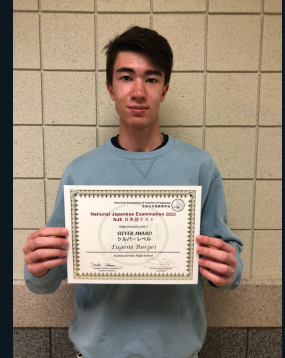
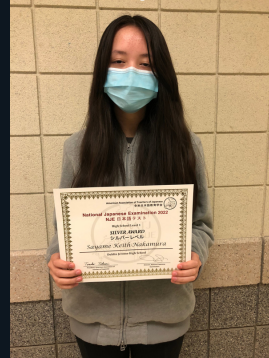


AATJ NATIONAL JAPANESE EXAM

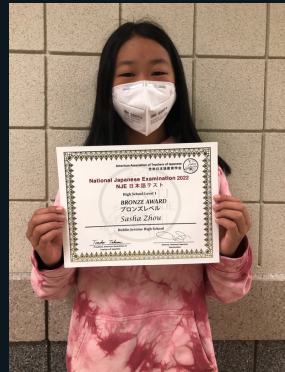
ゴールド レベル GOLD (above 90th percentile)



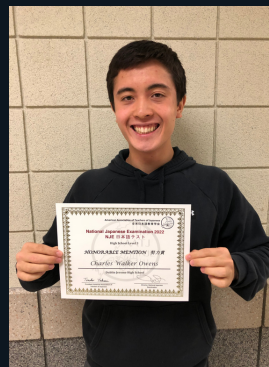
シルバー レベル SILVER (80th-89th percentiles)



ブロンズ レベル BRONZE (70th to 79th percentiles)



努力賞 HONORABLE MENTION
(60th to 69th percentiles)



ABDULLAH CHEEMA

Me before Japanese 1

Freshman



Me after Japanese 1

Hello, my name is Abdullah Cheema. I am a freshman who took Japanese 1 this year, and man, was it a great experience learning this language with all the fun activities and hard challenges. Although this isn't my first time trying Japanese, in fact it is my second, but the reason the first time didn't work out is due to a couple of factors. One, I was in Pakistan last year and the course was entirely online due to COVID, so when it was school time in Ohio, it was one a.m. in Pakistan. Two, I had to learn how to study and memorize new terms for the class and I didn't keep up with it and fell behind. Even though I dropped the course last year, I was determined to try again this year, and this worked out mostly because Iya Sensei is very helpful, nice, and teaches you the way to use the language. We have said the words out loud and make sentences sometimes without notes that help our fluency and our comfortability with the language. This, combined with her attitude of if you don't succeed the first time, you can try again, made my experience this year great. It is more satisfying to learn and experience this time around since I can actually be in the classroom, and I feel like I am getting the hang of it.

SUMMER EXPERIENCES

NIHONGO-BU PRESENTS

2022 SUMMER SEMINAR

FOR BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS

Free Japanese practice on zoom led by Japanese High Schoolers. You can also meet other students in the US that are learning Japanese!

Dates: June 19th - 25th or August 7th-13th

Beginner class content: (Hiragana/Katakana) phrases, basic grammar, writing, etc.

Intermediate class content: conversations, culture, AP Japanese Prep,
+ talk to **US college students studying in Japan**

For more information and registration:

nihongobu.wixsite.com/my-site

nihongo.bu.club@gmail.com

ORGANIZER

ERI MAEDA

