

# AATJ Webinar: Engage, Inspire, Advocate: Maximizing JNHS for Students and Programs

March 1, 2025

Kumi Kobayashi, Los Gatos High School, CA. JNHS Co-Director

Yayoi Takeuchi, University of North Texas, TX. JNHS Co-Director

Facilitator: Yoshiko Saito-Abbott, Ph.D., California State University, Monterey Bay  
AATJ Professional Development Director

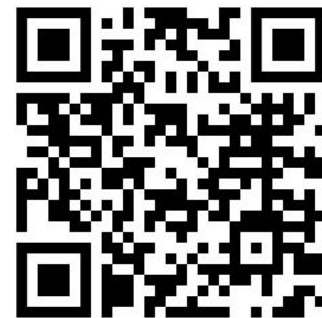


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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF JAPANESE

# AATJ Membership Benefits

**Membership registration: January 1 - December 31**

- Quarterly newsletter, semiannual journal
- Member rate for two annual conferences (ACTFL, AAS)
- Professional development programs
- Japanese National Honor Society (high school or college level)
- National Japanese Exam
- Membership in a regional or state Japanese language educators' association
- Teacher Awards
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- Japanese Language & Literature, bi-annual Journal





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# 2025 AATJ Spring Conference

Thursday, March 13, 2025  
Columbus, Ohio

- Five concurrent sessions
- Lifetime Achievement Award & Keynote
- Wed evening network event 5:30pm-7:30pm
- SIG meetings
- Publisher booths

[Program Available](#)  
[Register Now!](#)

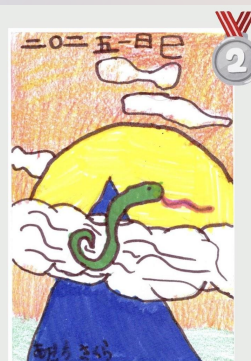
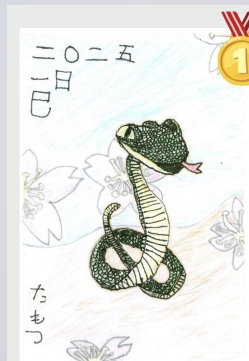




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# 2025 AATJ Nengajo Contest

Winners have been  
announced!





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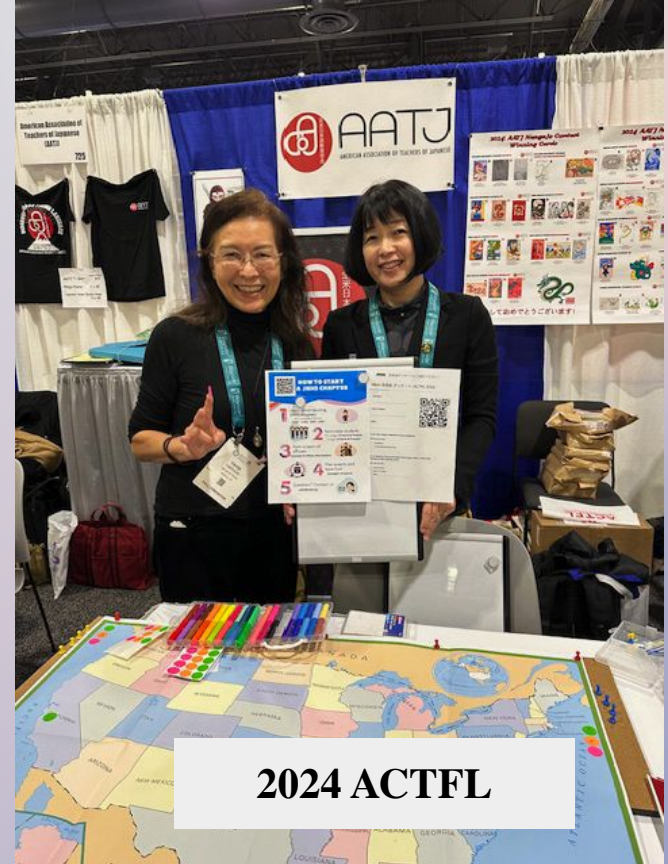
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# Japanese National Honor Society is a program

- To recognize students' academic achievement and **engage** students in community building activities
- To **inspire** students to become leaders of the community to actively contribute in the lives of the students and community
- To energize the program and keep high profile on campus (**Advocacy**)



2024 ACTFL



# We will explore...

- ✓ How many JNHS chapters are there?
- ✓ JNHS qualifications and the nomination process
- ✓ The benefits for students, educators, and programs
- ✓ Flexible engagement levels and collaboration opportunities
- ✓ Examples of chapter activities
- ✓ Q&A x 3
- ✓ Announcement and Feedback





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How many JNHS chapters  
are there ?



# JNHS: Numbers of Participating schools and students

- Comparison in numbers from the first year and the recent years

Pre-College	1st year 2011-2012	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Chapter #	132	112	121	134	128
Students	1661人	1355人	1526人	1788人	1735人

College	1st year 2007-2008	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Chapter #	15	39	42	51	53
Students	148人	264人	349人	293人	379人

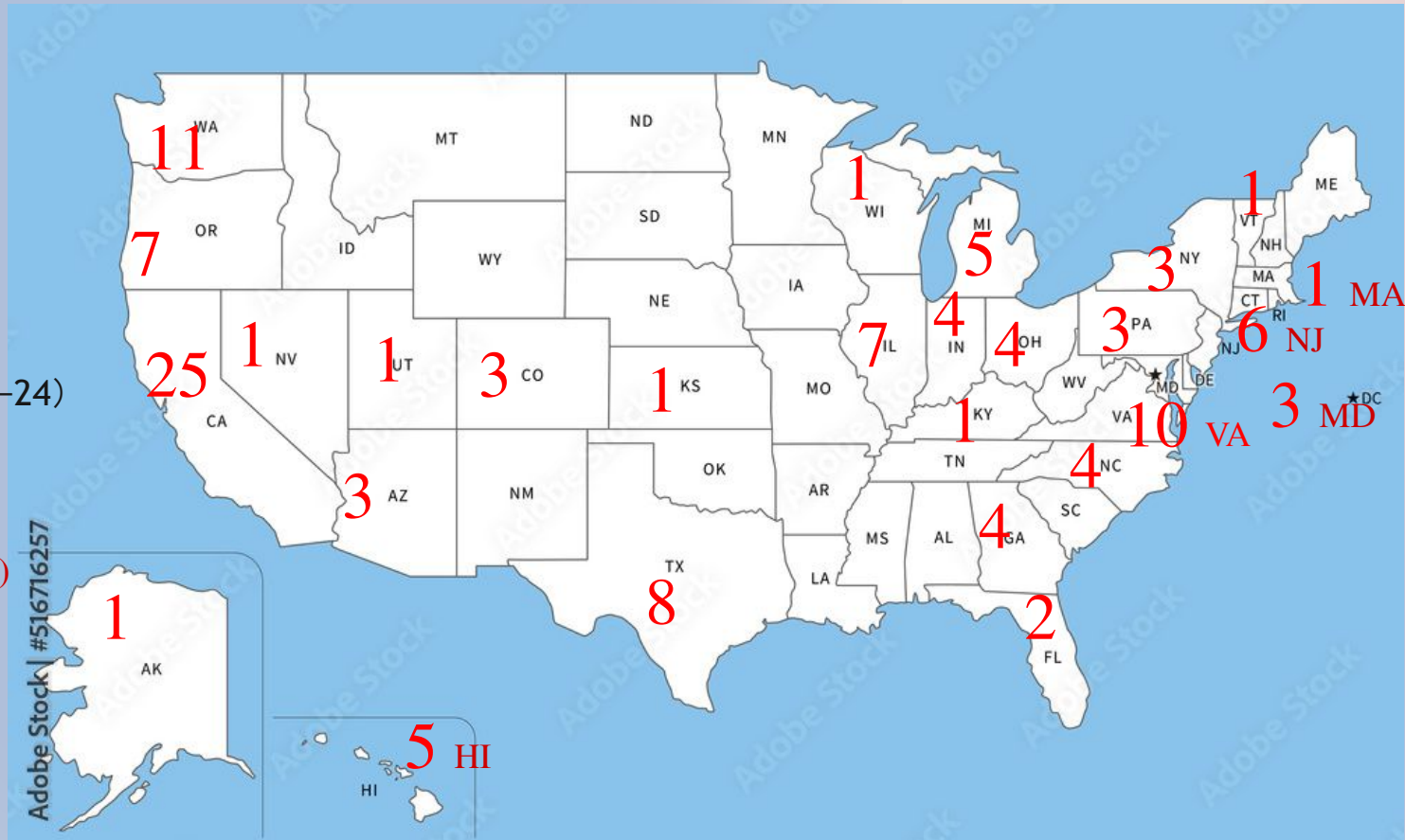
# JNHS

## Pre-College

Chapter  
locations (2023–24)

1  
International (Yokota HS)

1 Guam

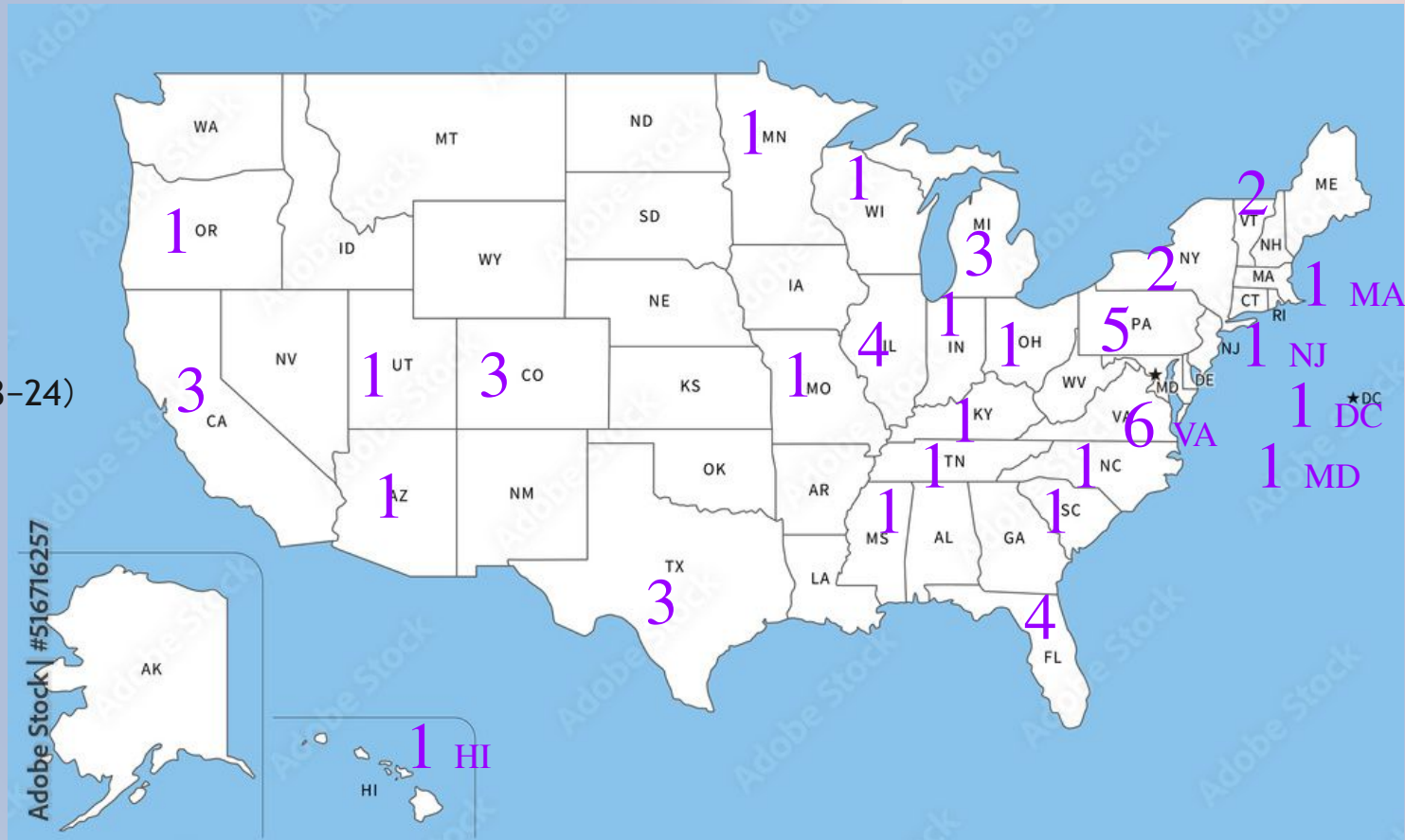


# JNHS

## College

### Chapter

Locations (2023–24)



# JNHS: Percentages by membership

Pre-College		2020	2022	2024	
%		22.3%	28.4%	34.9%	
Per # of teachers		93 chapters /417 K12 teachers	121 chapters /426 K12 teachers	128 chapters / 367 K12 teachers	

College		2020	2022	2024	
%		6.8%	6.6%	10.6%	
Per # of teachers		45 chapters/ 657 Post-secondary teachers	42 chapters/633 Post-secondary teachers)	53 chapters/ 500 Post-secondary teachers	





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# Benefits

# Benefits

## Pre-college

1. **Certificates of Excellence**
2. **Cord** (optional) to be worn during graduation



## College

1. **Certificates of Excellence**
2. **Cord** to be worn during graduation

**Their schools and instructors** are recognized on the AATJ website and in the AATJ Newsletter.

# Induction Ceremony: “Proud of my accomplishment”



# Benefits for Students (Los Gatos HS, CA)

**JNHS**というクラブに参加したから、

1. コミュニティのために  
なるボランティア活動を  
体験して、楽しいと感じ  
る

2. 自分たち以外にも日  
本の文化に興味を持っ  
ている人がコミュニティ  
にいることがわかる

3. イベントを開催するこ  
とで、日本文化のような  
異文化を体験できる場  
を提供できる

4. 日本語を学ぶ仲間  
のコミュニティの一員で  
あると感じている

5. 高校卒業後もこのよ  
うに地域に貢献してい  
きたいと思えるように  
なった



# Pre-College: Los Gatos High School, CA



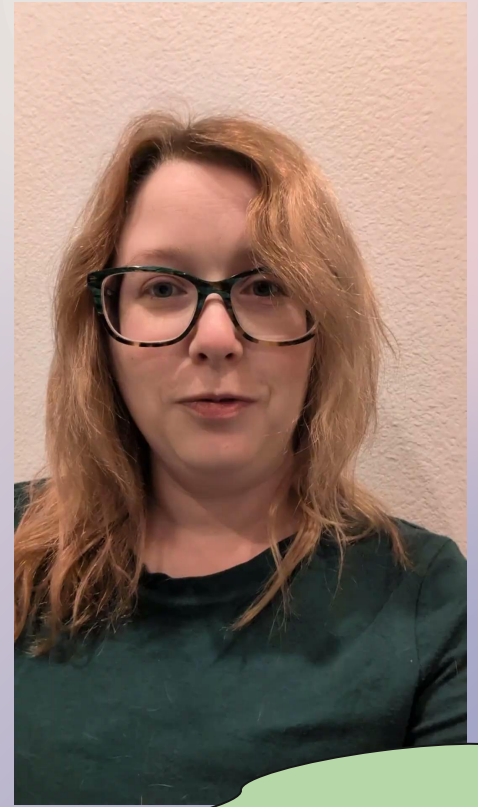
**Current  
Co-President  
Class of 2025**

# College

What does JNHS  
mean to you...?



Sam Proo  
Chemistry Major, Fall 2024



Lara Woodful  
Voice Actor, Spring 2010



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Pre-college chapter:  
中学・高校

# Qualification & Process

# Qualification of Students

**Academic criteria** for student induction in JNHS are as follows:

- completed the first term of his/her second-year Japanese language course in middle/junior high or a senior high school;
- maintained a 3.5 GPA in Japanese courses and an overall 3.0 GPA.

\* The sponsoring teacher is responsible to check the qualification. AATJ does not get involved.





# Qualification for School

- Schools offering both **middle/junior high** and **senior high school** level Japanese language classes may establish both JNHS Junior and JNHS Senior chapters within one school.
- Each JNHS chapter must operate independently.
- All accredited public and non-public middle/junior high and senior high schools are eligible to establish a chapter.

*\*The teachers must be members for **the current year of AATJ**.*



# Application Process

Sponsoring teachers then submit an application form together with

1. a list of students and
2. the applicable fee (a \$25 chapter fee per academic year; \$8 per nominated student; and \$8 each for red & white cords).

Shipping and handling charges are included in the fee.

\*Recommended to apply at least one month before they plan to honor students



College chapter  
大学

# Qualification & Process

# Qualification for College



- Took 5 semester courses (or 7 courses in quarter system)
- GPA: 3.5 in Japanese language courses; GPA: 3.0 overall
- Up to 2 transfer courses (or 3 quarter courses) can be counted towards GPA
- 2-Year College: Completion of 3 semesters (or 5 quarter courses)
- Nominate in the graduating semester to be inducted



:) Teachers identify students who are in good standing and close to graduation. Have those students submit internal application to the Chapter sponsor for review the above criteria.

# Application Process

- Sponsor (nominating teacher) must be a current member of AATJ
- Twice a year nomination: Fall and Spring
- Chapter fee: \$25 per year
- Student application fee: \$20 per student
- Takes about 4 weeks to receive the certificate and cord





# Q&A

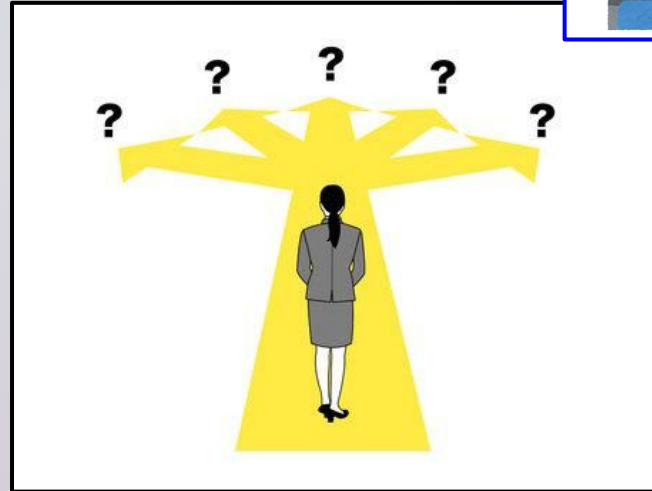
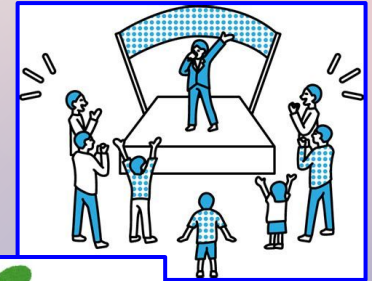
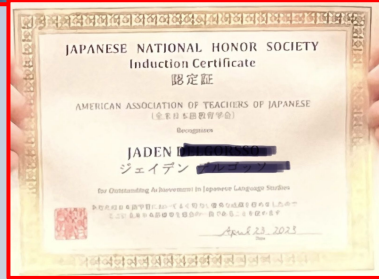
5 min

Pre-college chapter:

中学・高校

# Example of activities

# Explore a variety of ways to maximize the benefit of JNHS



# JNHS for Engage, Inspire and Advocate for Students and Programs!



- Build community
- Teach students to become active contributors
- Raise future leaders



# How to start a JNHS as a club



**Establish JNHS Executive Board at your chapter**

**Example of officer roles:**

- 1. Co-president**
- 2. Secretary**
- 3. Treasurer**
- 4. Media and Communications**
- 5. Event Planning Chair**

\*Officers and 先生 meet monthly

**Sample schedule for selecting JNHS officers:**

3月 : Officer Application opens

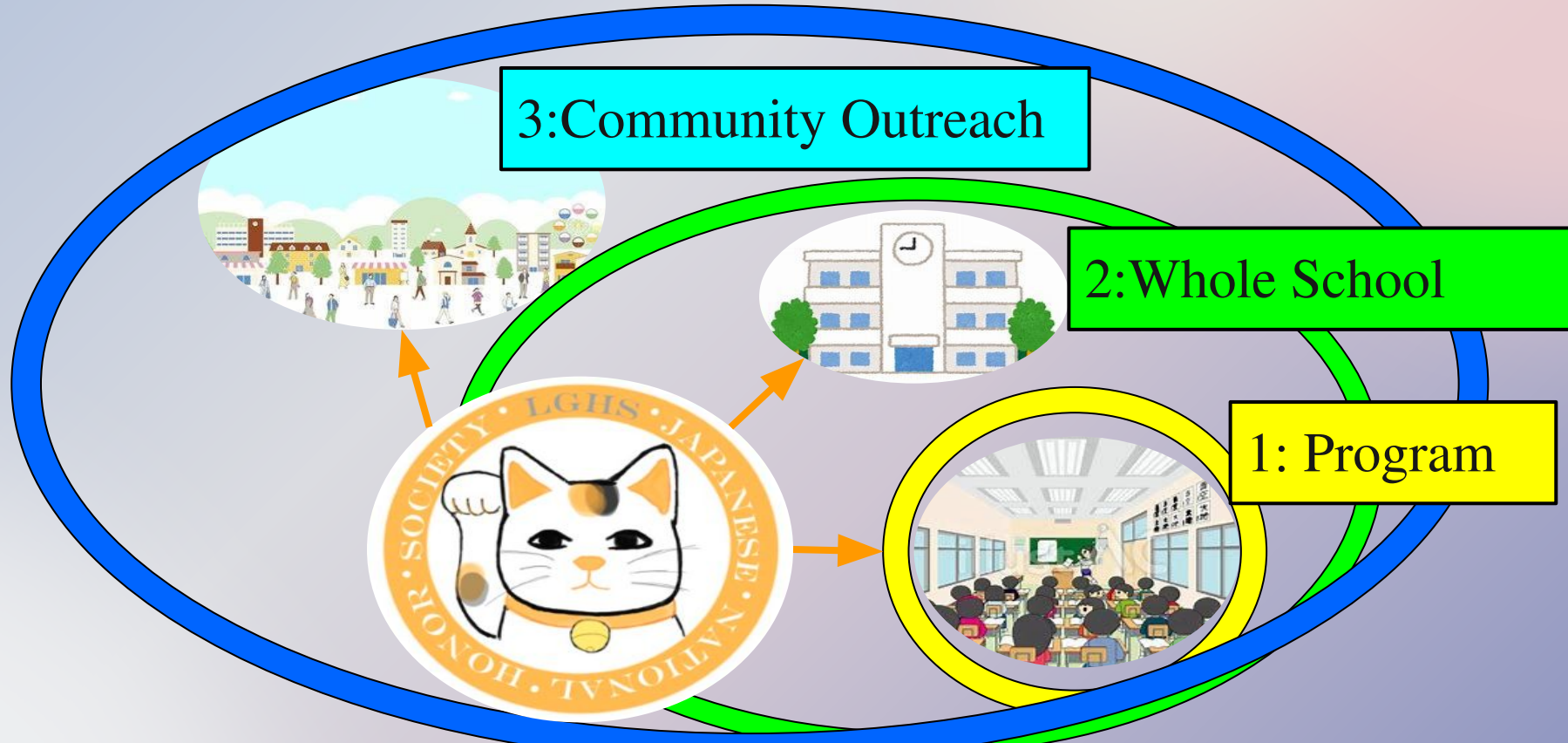
4月 : Interviews & Officer positions announced

5月 : New officers host the JNHS Induction Ceremony

**Pre-College Chapters**



# Engage and Inspire the Program and Beyond





# 1. Community Building **within** the JPN Program

- Weekly Lunch Meetings
- Peer tutoring (every Thu)
- Socials: Karaoke & Game Night (4 times/year)
- Sports Day (Oct)
- T-shirt design contest (Dec)
- Host potluck lunch for exchange students from Tokyo
- Bunkasai: group video sharing (Feb)
- Boba fundraising (April)
- End of year celebration & Induction Ceremony (May)



## 2. Community building **in whole school**



### Example 1: Annual Japanese Film Festival (Jan)

- Invite students, colleagues, administration, local community
- live music performers & alumni speakers
- Vendors





## 2. Community building **in whole school** (Cont')

### Example 2: Japanese food activity at whole school events

#### 1) Onigiri Action

#### 2) Edamame Challenge





### 3. Community Outreach

**Host JPN activity table for younger kids at local library**



**Participate in the International Festival at local elementary school**





### 3. Community Outreach



#### Los Gatos Holiday Parade



#### 8th Grade Welcome Night



**As a result JNHS raises future leaders of the Society!**



## JNHS Officers



# Q&A

5 min



College chapter:

大学

# Example of activities

- on campus
- community

# How to start a JNHS as a club



## **Establish JNHS Executive Board at your chapter**

- 1. President**
- 2. Vice President**
- 3. Secretary**
- 4. Treasurer**
- 5. Media and Communications**
- 6. Event Coordinator**

Sample schedule for selecting JNHS officers:

4月 : Election of

Next academic year office

10月 : Interviews for the nomination for JNHS

11月 : Officers assist the JNHS Induction Ceremony

\*Officers and 先生 meet by weekly



# 1. Community Building on Campus

- Weekly meetings
- Senpai—Kohai program, peer tutoring
- Guest speaker
- Game night
- Events with Japanese Culture Organization
- Bingo fundraising
- 勉強 and Ramen meeting
- Presentation Day
- Induction ceremony and reception





# 1. Community Building on campus

- Club meetings
- Presentation day
- Senpai-Kohai program
- Campus festival w/Japanese Culture Organization
- Cosplay festival
- Meet international students





# 1. Community Building on campus

- Cosplay Festival
- Game Night







# 1. Community Building on campus

- Presentation Day



## 2. Out to the Community

- Fundraising at local festival
- Participate at community events





# JNHS-CC @ UNT

University of North Texas

Celebration of Japanese language,  
culture,  
and leadership

Fundraiser at Dallas Akimatsuri



UNT Japanese Honor Society connects students on campus and beyond



# Japanese National Honor Society- CC Induction



Japanese Ho  
nd beyond



# Q&A

5 min

# HOW TO START A JNHS CHAPTER

1

Learn about existing  
JNHS chapters

AATJ Newsletter Articles

8/2020 - 11/2020 - 3/2021 - 5/2021



2

Nominate students

Pre-college: **Criteria & Process**

College: **Criteria & Process**

3

Form a team of  
officers

Example of officer descriptions



4

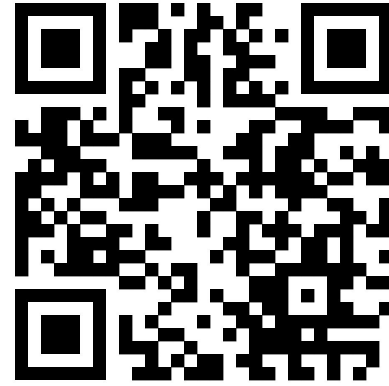
Plan events and  
have fun!

Example of events

5

Questions? Contact us!

[jnhs@aatj.org](mailto:jnhs@aatj.org)



[qr.codes/jxBcT4](https://qr.codes/jxBcT4)

Questions?  
Contact us!  
[jnhs@aatj.org](mailto:jnhs@aatj.org)

# Mini Grant for 5 schools, \$300 each

## Application detail:

- a. Submit itemized list and estimated amount (example: charter bus, etc.)
- b. Eligibility
  - i. Current AATJ Member
  - ii. Activity must involve JNHS as a part of advocacy, seeding money
  - iii. Require to write a report about activity
- c. Examples of use of the grant for chapter activities
  - i. Induction ceremony and reception
  - ii. Speaker honorarium/gift
  - iii. Onigiri action
  - iv. Japan Cultural Festival/activities support
  - v. JNHS T-shirts
  - vi. Expense for exchange projects such as pen pal postage
- d. This grant should not be used for...
  - i. JNHS Chapter fee
  - ii. JNHS Student application fee
  - iii. Delivery/mailing fee
  - iv. Gift card, etc.





# Mini Grant for 5 schools, \$300 each

- **Application period:** 3/1-4/30/ 2025
- **Mini Grant usage period:** 8/1/2025 - 7/31/2026
- **Sample activity:** Induction ceremony and reception, speaker honorarium, onigiri action, JNHS T-shirts, etc.
- **Mini Grant will not be used for...**
  - student application fee/postage

[AATJ Website](#)→Teachers→Other Grants→“JNHS Mini Grant”



# Q&A

5 min



# Let's join the JNHS Chapter mailing list!

## AATJ JNHS Chapter Mailing List Form

Complete this interest form if you would like to be part of a mailing list to further explore collaboration opportunities among JNHS chapters.

\* Indicates required question

Email \*

Your email



# Feedback Form

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3/1/2025

**B** *I* U  

Form description

1. Which level do you teach? \*

- ☐ K-12
- ☐ College level
- ☐ Other

