

AATJ NEWSLETTER

全米日本語教育学会 American Association of Teachers of Japanese



Message from the President

NOBUKO CHIKAMATSU

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AND MORE

Greetings everyone! Spring has finally arrived here in the Windy City of Chicago and along the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan! I imagine many of you are busy wrapping up the academic year, hopefully while enjoying a bit of spring wherever you are. My university is already deep into preparations for graduation events. This time of the year brings joy and excitement, but also often bittersweet feelings as we look back over the past year and reflect on our students' challenges and accomplishments. I commend you for being there, guiding, supporting, and cheering them on as they step into the next chapter of their lives.

One of my proudest moments this spring was having the opportunity for my students to meet Mr. Daisuke Muramoto, a Japanese comedian of the duo Woman Rush Hour. As part of our screening event for the documentary, [I am a coMEDIAN](#) (2022), Mr. Muramoto visited our campus and engaged in a lively conversation with my students. Known for his fast-paced, ranting style, our students stood ready with questions for him. However, the exchange took an unexpected (and heartwarming) turn when Mr. Muramoto started to ask them their reasons for learning Japanese, cultural interests, and family backgrounds. Hearing the students' laughter and thoughtful discussion, a lively blend of humor and reflection on social issues, I saw the art of language coming to life. The students were deeply moved by his determination to do comedy in English, which, in turn, inspired them to continue their own language learning journey.

AATJ has been very active since our February newsletter. In early March, an AATJ delegation, Executive Director Katie Ross, Immediate Past President Yoshiko Mori, Advocacy Co-Director Patty Breun, and myself visited Capitol Hill to attend [Language Advocacy Days 2025](#), organized by JNCL-NCLIS. We visited congressional and senate offices to advocate for language education-related legislation. On March 13, we held the [AATJ 2025 Spring Conference](#) in Columbus, Ohio, a vibrant gathering made possible by the tireless work and dedication of conference co-directors, Jae Takeuchi and Yoshihiro Mochizuki. The conference kicked off with Wednesday's welcome reception and continued Thursday with five concurrent sessions featuring 30 individual papers and five panels. The conference also hosted [SIG](#) meetings, followed by heartfelt recognition of Hiroshi Nara sensei for his long service as chief editor of [Japanese Language and Literature](#) (JLL). The highlight was the [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) ceremony for Mari Noda sensei. Photos from the conference have been shared on the AATJ Facebook page.

After this conference, I stayed in Columbus to attend the Friday portion of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) conference, enjoying presentations by AATJ members, the Classical Japanese SIG meeting, and the Japan Foundation reception. Attendees connected with familiar and new colleagues across a range of disciplines. Looking ahead, we plan to offer more AATJ-affiliated programs on the Friday following our Vancouver AATJ conference in March 2026.

This spring also saw strong participation in other AATJ programs. Over 1,000 students completed the [National Japanese Exam](#) (NJE) between early March and mid-April. We have also been receiving a steady stream of applications for [Japanese National Honor Society](#) (JNHS) inductions from high schools and colleges. We just sent out the first batch of certificates and codes, and the number of inductees continues to grow! Meanwhile, the spring issue of the JLL has been published under the leadership of our new chief editor, Suwako Watanabe. We invite you to [submit](#) your research articles, project reports, and book reviews to JLL.

On April 19, Kei Tsukamaki sensei (ACTFL 2025 Teacher of the Year) shared her teaching practices and philosophy in a special [webinar](#). During the same weekend, AATJ officers and administrative staff gathered in Boulder, Colorado, to discuss AATJ's future goals. I am grateful to Katie Ross, Michiyo Colclasure (JLPT Coordinator), and Susan Schmidt (Emeritus Executive Director) for their hospitality and leadership for this event.

This issue includes more detailed reports about all of these activities. I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful happenings across our AATJ community. We wish you a strong and satisfying conclusion to the academic year and we look forward to seeing you at AATJ events in the new academic year of 2025–2026!

Message from the Vice Presidents



KATE DAVIS
K-12



STEPHEN LUFT
POST-SECONDARY

It is Spring again, and we hope that everyone is enjoying the green and the flowers as the school year begins to wind down. It was wonderful to be able to participate in the AATJ Spring Conference again, and to see many of you there in Columbus. We are looking forward to seeing many of you once again at the Fall ACTFL Conference in New Orleans in November.

The second affiliate meeting of the year was held on Sunday, May 4th. Affiliate officers had the opportunity to hear reports from Nobuko Chikamatsu sensei, as well as Advocacy Directors, Shinsuke Tsuchiya sensei and Patty Breun sensei. Members also exchanged ideas on increasing member involvement, so please watch for ways to get involved with your affiliation next school year!

This year, for the first time we will offer the K-12 Growing Program Award. This award recognizes exemplary programs at the K-12 level that have no more than one full-time or one or two part-time instructors. We encourage members to nominate eligible programs for this new award. We will continue to offer the Teacher Awards, and we encourage members to either nominate others or self-nominate for this award. Lastly, new teachers are also encouraged to apply for the Cheng & Tsui Professional Development Grant. Details about these awards can be found [at the AATJ website](#).

学年度が終わりに近づいてくるにつれ、新緑がますます輝いてきましたが、皆様お元気でご活躍のことと存じます。3月にはオハイオ州コロンバス市で開催された全米日本語教師協会(AATJ)の春季学会に久しぶりに参加でき、多くの先生方とお会いし、交流を深めることができました。11月にニューオーリンズで開催されるACTFL秋季学会でも、また多くの先生方にお会いできることを楽しみにしています。

5月4日(日)には今年度2回目のアフィリエイト・ミーティングが開催され、近松会長をはじめ、アドボカシー担当の土屋先生とブリューン先生からもご報告をいただきました。また、会員が参加できる機会を増やすための意見交換も行われました。全米各地の地域教師会に参加できる機会があれば、ぜひ参加していただけたらと思います。

今年初めて、K-12 GROWING PROGRAM AWARDを実施いたします。この賞は、K-12レベルの優れたプログラムを表彰するもので、フルタイムの教師が1人だけ、またはパートタイムの教師が1人か2人だけのものを対象としています。AATJの皆様には、この新しい賞の対象となるプログラムを推薦していただくようお願いいたします。また、TEACHER AWARDSは引き続き実施しておりますので、会員の皆様はぜひ他薦または自薦でご応募ください。更に、新人教師には、CHENG & TSUIプロフェッショナル・ディベロップメント・グラントが提供されています。これらの賞の詳細については[AATJのウェブサイト](#)をご覧ください。幸いです。

AATJ Spring Conference Report

JAE DIBELLO TAKEUCHI

2025 SPRING CONFERENCE CO-DIRECTOR



The **2025 Annual Spring Conference** was held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 in Columbus, Ohio. On Thursday, we had thirty individual paper presentations and five panels, as well as four Special Interest Group meetings and a lunchtime workshop, along with an additional Special Interest Group meeting that was held on Friday. Thursday's events were capped off with the recognition of Professor Hiroshi Nara, the longtime coordinating editor of Japanese Language and Literature, followed by the lifetime achievement award, which was presented to Professor Mari Noda of The Ohio State University. Professor Noda then delivered the keynote address, titled "Remembering the Future Part 2."

New this year: This year's conference was held after a one-year hiatus for ICJLE, and so, since this was the first spring conference since 2023, we added some new features designed to enhance the conference-going experience and maximize opportunities for attendees to meet and network with each other. First, we kicked off the conference with a welcome reception on Wednesday evening. This was a casual event intended to give attendees the chance to network and chat with each other. Everyone had a great time! Next, we started the morning on Thursday with an opening ceremony, giving everyone a chance to get oriented to the day's events.





The next big change was to incorporate meeting time for the SIGs into the program on Thursday. Three SIGs met during this time, the Study Abroad SIG, the Japanese Language Education Graduate Program Network SIG, and the Translating and Interpreting SIG, as well as the Japanese National Exam (JNE) group all held sessions which were impactful and well-attended. The AATJ Classical Japanese SIG met on Friday evening in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies 2025 Annual Conference. Some AATJ members also attended the Japan Foundation reception on Friday evening, which provided a wonderful opportunity to connect and engage with scholars across Japanese- and Japan-related fields.

In sum, the 2025 Spring Conference was a big success and we hope everyone who attended enjoyed it as much as we did! Next up is the 2026 Spring Conference, so get your abstracts ready and we hope to see you there!





Four SIGs and JNE hosted meetings at the 2025 Spring Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Below are the reports from those sessions. To learn more about our 11 SIGs, [click here](#).

SIG Reports

Translating & Interpreting

YUKIKO HANAWA,
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



The meeting was structured in a way with a few things as goals: a) to explore the variety of ways that translation is incorporated and practiced in Japanese language

courses and programs, b) the ways that these initiatives and established learning opportunities are integrated into the overall curriculum, and c) how we might further integrate translation praxis in language studies.

Over the next few months, we hope to:

- a) request survey participation of AATJ members to help us gain a deeper understanding of the place of “translation” in language learning
- b) produce an update of the list of existing Japanese language programs where “translation” courses are offered
- c) produce a list of where a minor or a major focus within Japanese language programs or a major in translation within world language programs are offered

Based on the input from the member educators, we hope to expand our activities in the form of workshops and panels at ACTFL, AATJ, and/or AAS in the future.

Japanese Language Education Graduate Program Network

JAE DIBELLO TAKEUCHI

INDIANA UNIVERSITY



The Japanese Language Education (JLE) Graduate Program Network SIG met at the 2025 AATJ Spring Conference. The meeting was attended by 16 members from across the U.S. We had a very fruitful discussion centered around current challenges facing JLE graduate education. Members were particularly concerned about student recruitment, funding, career placement and program maintenance. The brainstorming session led to some workable ideas, and three task forces were created. These groups will focus on creating a website to share information about JLE graduate programs, holding webinars and use of social media. AATJ members should stay tuned for updates, and anyone interested in joining the JLE Grad Program Network should check the [JLE SIG page on the AATJ website](#).

Classical Japanese

ELIZABETH OYLER

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



The Classical Japanese Language SIG met on the evening of March 14, 2025, and enjoyed a lively conversation among three round-table panelists, Małgorzata Citko-DuPlantis, Gian Piero Persiani, and

Kurtis Hanlon, in conversation with an audience of about 25 members. The three presentations addressed ways of helping create connections to classical language materials. Professor Citko-DuPlantis described using video games as a point of entry for students, encouraging them to examine these texts with an eye toward understanding both classical language and the Japanese culture upon which the games are based or with which they engage. Professor Persiani introduced ways of using primary sources and poetry games in the classical language classroom as he encourages students to learn poems and recognize kuzushiji. Professor Hanlon shared methodologies and activities to enliven the classical language learning experience and build community.

Auditors responded enthusiastically with questions and experiences with similar approaches, including a longer discussion of the intercollegiate uta-awase project. The group looks forward to continuing to exchange ideas and further the conversation at next year's meeting.

Study Abroad for Foreign Language Advancement

HIROAKI KAWAMURA
UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY, OH



SAFLA met during the conference. A total of 13 people gathered for the meeting. After a brief self-introduction, we discussed what we could do as a SAFLA SIG to contribute to the field of study abroad research and practice. Several ideas were shared. We are currently considering organizing an online information session about study abroad programs in Japan during the 2025-2026 academic year.

DEIB
YASUKO TAKATA RALLINGS,
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) SIG started in November 2024 with 35 members. The focus has been to build a community, and we have hosted monthly Zoom meetings to get to know one another and share ideas. Meetings typically last for one hour with two rounds of breakout room discussions. We anticipated challenges of gathering monthly because teachers are busy, but it has been sustainable thanks to a core group of members who regularly attend. We also had two member-initiated Zoom sessions in February. On February 8, Dr. Noriko Sugimori and Dr. Brian White (Kalamazoo College) gave a presentation titled "Incorporating Non-Traditional Grading Methods into Japanese Language Education: Reflections on Three Years of Practice" as a rehearsal before their presentation at the AATJ Spring Conference. Dr. Yumiko Ono (Western Carolina University) invited Mr. Akira Yoshikai from Japan to give a talk titled "「やさしい日本語」普及活動を通じた日本語学習者のための「国際バトンリレー」" on Feb 22. We appreciate the effort and willingness of SIG members to engage with each other. Due to the recent censuring of diversity and inclusion efforts in the US, we believe the presence and activities of our SIG will be increasingly important. We hope the DEIB SIG will continue to grow, providing safe space for AATJ members to gather, support and learn from each other. After our May meeting, we will take a summer break and resume meetings in September. To join the SIG, please visit the [DEIB SIG page](#) on the AATJ website.

Looking Ahead to the 2026 AATJ Spring Conference!

YOSHIHIRO MOCHIZUKI & MARIKO WEI
2026 SPRING CONFERENCE CO-DIRECTORS

We're excited to announce that the 2026 AATJ Annual Spring Conference will take place on **Thursday, March 12, 2026**, in **Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada**, in conjunction with the [2026 Association for Asian Studies \(AAS\) Annual Conference](#).

While many details are still being finalized, we hope to host a reception on the evening of **Wednesday, March 11**, and there will be additional AATJ events on **Friday, March 13**, during AAS.

So please mark your calendars for March 11–13, 2026, and plan to join us for another inspiring gathering of Japanese language educators. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months—we look forward to seeing you in Vancouver in 2026!

FALL 2025 AATJ OFFICER ELECTION

This October, AATJ will hold the election for the following two positions:

- President-elect: Higher Ed or K-12 teacher
- Vice-president: Higher Ed teacher

The Nomination Committee is seeking recommendations of AATJ members to be considered as candidates for either position. Please email your suggestions to aatj@aatj.org by June 30, 2025, including the following information:

- Name, institution, and email address of the person you are recommending
- Office for which you are recommending this person (President-elect or Vice-president)
- Brief statement explaining why this person would be a good candidate (very brief is fine)

For description of duties, please refer to Article IV of the [AATJ Bylaws](#).



Spring Officers' Retreat

WILLIAM MATSUZAKI, PRESIDENT-ELECT
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, TX

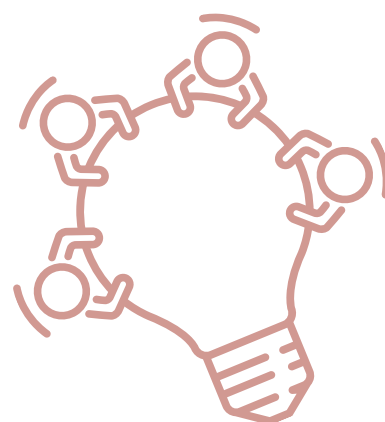
Overflowing with honor and humility, I was able to be part of the AATJ Spring Officers' Retreat in Boulder in mid-April. When I landed in Denver, I was able to catch up with Susan Schmidt, Emeritus Executive Director of AATJ, someone who I have looked up to since I started teaching Japanese in 1999. Her love and pride for AATJ is always so apparent.

Filled with excitement to be able to reunite with other officers and our new Executive Director, Katie Ross and Michiyo Colclasure, the JLPT Director, I sat in awe during dinner the first evening in the beauty of what the table represented. Honoring and respecting the people who have played key roles in building AATJ, and shepherding and respecting the new leadership and voices. This spectrum of experiences, voices, and needs mirroring our body of membership who we serve, was even more apparent in practice as we dove into various facets of the organization during the three-day retreat. Through the leadership of our president, Chikamatsu sensei and Katie, we were able to reflect on our journey and our traditions, while thinking about our future to better serve our membership, field, and organization. Another evidence of the importance of respecting the traditions, while embracing the future.

What initially brought me so closely to this organization when I first started teaching was the support and professional development given and the relational opportunities that this association provided. The respectful culture and high standards that were set by those before me, are some of the hallmarks that drive the decisions during our meetings. From partnerships, revising protocols, and rethinking programming, we not only look at what's beneficial the next year, but finding ways to make our organization and field be successful for the long haul.

Our initial discussion of our Bylaws, Mission Statement, and overall status of the organization gave us the shared lens and framing of our conversations during the retreat. From our continued evaluation of our partnerships, finding new ways to attract educators to be part of our organization, to examining our services to different educators within our field, our mission is our guiding light. We are grateful for Susan's work that brought stability to the organization, while Katie has worked on finding new ways to be more cost effective and bringing new ideas. Each aspect of the organization was discussed including the National

Japanese Exam, Japanese Language Proficiency Test, the Nengajo Contest, Teacher Awards, Local Affiliates, Special Interest Groups, ACTFL, as well as our Spring Conference, just to give a glimpse to the list of topics that we hit during the retreat. Michiyo-san did a fabulous job updating us on her work with JLPT with a growing demand for the test and the pivoting needed to make sure that it goes smoothly. I am so grateful that we were able to gather face-to-face for our retreat and work on so many aspects of the organization. As many researchers have said, face-to-face communication is crucial for building relationships and fostering trust. It helped facilitate the means to discuss more of the nuanced information and ultimately build a stronger team.



Annual Fall Conference, ACTFL 2025 in New Orleans

NOBUAKI TAKAHASHI, MAKIKO FUKUDA AND JAIMELYNN TATEYAMA

FALL CONFERENCE CO-DIRECTORS

The AATJ 2025 Fall Conference will be held during the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo from Friday, November 21st through Sunday, November 23rd, 2025 in New Orleans. On the [ACTFL website](#), you will find the schedule at a glance for the ACTFL convention and expo.

The goal of the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo is to provide a comprehensive professional development experience that will have an impact on language educators at all levels of teaching and in turn enable their students to succeed in their language learning process. The ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo is where language educators from around the world come to meet! This global event can bring language educators from distinct languages, levels, and assignments together, and learn from each other!



AATJ Affiliate Culture Activity Booth (2024)



AATJ Members at the AATJ Booth (2024)

During the 2025 ACTFL Annual Convention, AATJ will be having their Affiliate Meeting, Award Luncheon (which must be paid at the time of registration), AATJ General Meeting (free for all for AATJ members and guests) where you can connect with other teachers and have a chance to receive door prizes. Also, the AATJ Co-director meeting will be held so we encourage all of the AATJ directors to attend.



AATJ 2023 Fall Conference Luncheon in Philadelphia

In the exhibition area, AATJ will also be in the Japan Pavilion with other vendor booths where you can participate in cultural activities provided by various AATJ teachers and AATJ Affiliate groups. Vendors such as Kinokuniya, JPT America and The Japan Foundation Los Angeles are a few that will be in the Japan Pavilion. Please come to the conference to learn, bond and experience all that the ACTFL Convention and AATJ has to offer.



AATJ 2024 General Meeting in Philadelphia Registration

Registration is already open! Please check the [ACTFL site](#) for further details. AATJ is a Convention Partner Organization and you can register at a member rate.

Registration Rates

FULL CONVENTION:	EARLY BIRD (7/16/25)	ADVANCE (10/29/25)	LATE (after 10/29/25)
Member	\$370	\$395	\$500
Non-member	\$520	\$545	\$650
Student	\$175	\$200	\$250

ONE DAY ONSITE ONLY:	EARLY BIRD (7/16/25)	ADVANCE (10/29/25)	LATE (after 10/29/25)
One Day Member	\$355	\$380	\$485
One Day Non-member	\$490	\$515	\$620

To register for the ACTFL Convention, please go to [this website](#) and click on the “**Register Now**” button. If you are a current AATJ member, be sure to scroll down the ACTFL 2025 Registration page and use “**Convention Partner Organization Registration**” under **Option 2** in order to register at the lower member rate.

Stipend Award Program

To apply, [please go here](#). ACTFL sponsors this Stipend Award program to provide financial assistance in the amount of \$500 plus a travel allowance of \$253.00 to registrants for the Full Convention in the following categories to help offset ACTFL 2025 Convention expenses.

Housing

For details regarding hotel reservations, please go to the [ACTFL housing information page](#).

Hilton New Orleans Riverside \$264 Single/Double	Hampton Inn and Suites New Orleans Convention Center \$219 Single/ \$229 Double
New Orleans Marriott Warehouse District \$269 Single/Double	OMNI Riverfront Hotel \$242 Single/Double
Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans Convention Center \$219 Single/ \$229 Double	Renaissance New Orleans Warehouse Arts District \$249 Single/Double
Springhill Suites New Orleans Warehouse Arts District \$219 Single/Double	Courtyard New Orleans Warehouse Arts District \$229 Single/Double

For best availability and immediate confirmation, make your reservation online. Requests received via fax or mail may take longer to process. All hotel requests are processed on an availability basis. Please note that the Maritz is ACTFL's official housing company. Also, please note that no one will contact you directly via phone/email to book your hotel room(s) or offer you a "special discounted conference rate." There are multiple scamming companies that call and/or email exhibitors claiming to represent ACTFL housing. To be clear, these companies are in no way affiliated with ACTFL. Please disregard any calls or emails you may receive.

AATJ Presentation Sessions for the 2025 AATJ Fall Conference will be announced in the next AATJ newsletter. Please stay tuned and come and join us in New Orleans for a wonderful experience of connecting and learning!



Affiliate Leaders Gather for the Second Meeting of the Year

KATE DAVIS

AATJ VICE-PRESIDENT, K-12

アフィリエイトメンバーが今年第二回会合に集結

K-12 Vice President Katharine (Kate) Davis held the second affiliate meeting of the year on Sunday, May 4th. Jared McClellan of the [Japan Foundation of Los Angeles](#) attended once again, mentioning an [online lecture series, “Japan and Kami,”](#) that AATJ members may be interested in. Mr. McClellan shared an important staffing update, that he will be managing “Advocacy Activities (アドボカシー活動)” as well as other projects. See [JFLA’s grants website](#) for details. Mr. McClellan reported JFLA is in the final stages of completing the Survey on Japanese Language Abroad (機関調査)—if someone from your institution did NOT submit a response, please write to jared_mcclellan@jpf.go.jp! Finally, he told us about a “Tea Time” event hosted at [CSU Fullerton](#), where around 80 people participated in Japanese conversation and networking. It sounded wonderfully successful! おめでとうございます!

Next, Chikamatsu sensei reminded us: of the [benefits of being an AATJ member](#); of upcoming deadlines for the [AATJ Growing Program Award](#), [Cheng & Tsui grant](#), and [Outstanding Teacher Award nominations](#); that registration is open for [ACTFL 2025 in New Orleans](#); and to check out (and submit to!) the [Japanese Language and Literature journal](#)! Finally, Chikamatsu sensei announced AATJ will **hold elections for two positions: President-Elect (K-12 or higher ed teacher) and Vice-President (higher ed)**. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, **please email aatj@aatj.org by June 30th!**

Advocacy team member Patty Breun shared about her experience in Washington DC, where she participated in the [Language Advocacy Days](#) (March 3-4). Teachers received training on how to talk to politicians as they advocate for language learning, and she was able to network with a wide range of people. She reported that Japanese was represented very well and even met a former JET who is now working in DC! She also encouraged members to participate in the virtual [Advocacy Action Day](#) in October.

To help advocate for YOUR program, contact Patty Breun and Shinsuke Tsuchiya at pbreun@madisoncountryday.org and s.tsuchiya@byu.edu. They need photos and videos to share on our social media!

Finally, members contributed to a discussion about encouraging member involvement. In breakout rooms, teachers discussed issues they are facing and solutions they have tried or have come up with to help encourage involvement among their members. Here is a short list of some of the major ideas/topics that they shared out:

- Create a Discord or Slack server (or another way to “virtually chat”)
- Consider targeted outreach strategies/incentives to encourage
- Use Google Drive to share materials, teaching plans, support officer transitions
- Organize joint workshops with other affiliates, related organizations
- Offer professional development hours (credit) to recognize participation
- Sponsor student contests; require teacher-membership for students to participate
- Establish officer categories (K-12 & higher ed) to better represent needs of groups
- Consider term limits, succession planning to encourage broader participation

Affiliate meetings are held four times throughout the calendar year: three meetings are virtual, and the fourth and final meeting occurs during the annual [ACTFL Conference](#) in November, this year in New Orleans. Any affiliate member is welcome to attend these meetings; it is helpful if at least two members from each AATJ affiliate can participate.

After each meeting, the slideshow, recording, and information will be shared with affiliate officers to distribute to their membership. Please reach out to your local officers or Kate Davis (katedavis003@gmail.com) if you did not receive this information.

Nominations Are Now Open

The **AATJ Teacher Awards** recognize outstanding teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching, advocacy, and leadership in Japanese education both locally and regionally. AATJ presents the awards to the recipients during the ACTFL Annual Convention each November. Awards are given annually in two categories:

- K-12 Level Teacher Award
- Post-secondary Award

For information on past awards, and about the procedure for nominating a colleague for a 2025 award, please see [this page on the AATJ website](#).

The [AATJ K-12 Growing Program Award](#) recognizes an exemplary Japanese language program at the K-12 level. AATJ will present the 2025 award to the recipient program during the ACTFL Annual Convention in November.

The deadline for both nominations is **June 30**. For information on past awards, and about the procedure for nominating a program for the 2025 award, please see [this page on the AATJ website](#). Please consider nominating a colleague or a program! We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Advocating for World Languages at JNCL-NCLIS

PATTY BRUEN

ADVOCACY CO-DIRECTOR

The Joint National Committee for Languages National Council for Languages and International Studies (JNCL-NCLIS) held their annual “fly in” on March 3-4. There were 176 attendees from across the nation who convened to advocate for World Languages. AATJ members Nobuko Chikamatsu, current President; Yoshiko Mori, Immediate Past President; Ann Jordan, President 2022; Katie Ross, AATJ Executive Director; Kei Tsukamaki, ACTFL Language Teacher of the Year; and I took part in the two day event.

On the first day we received training from JNCL-NCLIS. We were provided with 8 “requests” to address when we met with our state legislators the next day. Among the top priorities were bills already introduced that required additional support. Our job was to bring our legislators’ attention to encourage them to vote in favor and pass the bill or in some cases approve funding for programs that support world language.

One example is the Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching (BEST) Act (H.R. 1660), which supports the reintroduction of the revised BEST act. This act would provide funding to implement the Seal of Biliteracy programs at the state and district level. The Seal of Biliteracy enables colleges and universities as well as employers to distinguish the valuable expertise of bilingual students in both academia and the workplace.

Additionally, the World Language Education Assistance Program (World LEAP) Act (H.R.1572) was introduced by Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA), who are co-chairs of the World Language Caucus. Rep. Kiggans has a direct connection with Japan. First as a Youth for Understanding (YFU) exchange student, then as a JET Program participant and also with the US Military, she has lived in Japan for a number of years and keeps the connection with Japan alive through her work in government to support world language.

Prior to our training day we registered with “Advocacy Day,” a website and app which has extensive information about our senators and representatives. JNCL-NCLIS set up meetings for us within our state groups. We could view our schedule for the day on the Hill and become informed about our legislators.

During our training day we also had an informative session with Jon Bernstein, who works as a lobbyist for JNCL-NCLIS. We could ask him questions about the current state of the government and he gave us tips on how to make the most of our time in our legislator’s offices.

The next day, AATJ members joined their state groups to advocate. Most of our meetings were with staffers in our legislative offices, but sometimes we were fortunate to speak directly with our legislator. The group I was in from Wisconsin consisted of four people, including the president of JNCL-NCLIS Pablo Muirhead and two high school students. When we met with Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI 4th district)’s office, she was in the office between a couple meetings. She took a photo with us. One of the high school students who speaks German, Spanish and English had a sweet interaction during which Rep. Moore spoke a few phrases in each language. These moments were heartwarming and motivating.

In the evening we reconvened for a reception. Coincidentally, it was the evening in which the President addressed Congress. Despite her busy schedule, Rep. Kiggans came to the reception to receive an award and greet us. Some of us were able to catch her as she got off the elevator and get a photo with her and express our gratitude for her work. Her acceptance speech included many wonderful examples of how Japan is an important part of her life.

As Co-director of Advocacy, I sometimes wonder what are effective ways to advocate. Unfortunately, we see Japanese programs being cut without consideration of the impact. We write letters of support and sign petitions. We have webinars to talk about ways to advocate and as educators we work hard to keep ourselves visible and relevant. Continuing this is essential. Additionally, I learned there is more we can do.

- AATJ is a member of JNCL-NCLIS, which means we can request letters of support. In addition to support from AATJ and The Japan Foundation, this resource is one that could strengthen your case if your program is facing cuts.

- Call your legislators. During the training it was asked if this is truly the most effective way instead of writing letters. The lobbyist, Jon Bernstein, told us that this is indeed an effective way to be heard. Additionally, going in-person signals an additional commitment and is the most visible. In the past I have not been active in politics, but my time at this event taught me that it does not take long to call and request one thing each time. The staffers log these calls, and the phrase “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” is true in that it will stay on the minds of those who represent us.

Lastly, this year AATJ had an impressive representation at JNCL-NCLIS. We agreed that it is important to continue this.

October 8th is Advocacy Action Day. This event is virtual and an economical way to get involved. More information on [Advocacy Day can be found here](#). We hope to see you there!



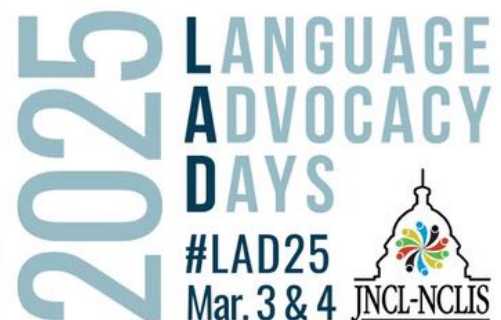
L to R: Katie Ross, Nobuko Chikamatsu, Yoshiko Mori, Kei Tsukamaki, Ann Jordan, Patty Breun.



Patty Breun and Yoshiko Mori on Capital Hill



With Rep Jen Kiggans (R-VA) at the evening reception.



The Global Network (GN) has launched its Facebook page to introduce affiliated organizations, with the first post featuring AATJ!

YOSHIKO MORI

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

日本語教育グローバルネットワーク Global Network for Japanese Language Education's Post



日本語教育グローバルネットワーク Global Network for Japanese Language Education

18h · 🌐

日本語教育グローバルネットワークの加盟団体の紹介

【全米日本語教育学会 (American Association of Teachers of Japanese)】

全米日本語教育学会 (AATJ) は、米国における日本語、言語学、文学、文化、および日本語教育の研究と学習を推進する非営利・非政治的な団体です。AATJは、1963年に設立された日本語教師会 (ATJ) と、1992年に設立された全米日本語教育協会 (NCJLT) が、2012年に統合して発足し、現在の体制となりました。

AATJは、日本語教育の専門性向上を支援し、日本語および外国語教育の発展を促進するとともに、研究交流を推進しています。また、各州や地域の関連団体と連携し、日本研究の発展にも貢献しています。

AATJの主な目的

- 日本語教育、言語学、文学、文化研究などの分野で、教師、研究者、学生の交流と協力を促進し、研究活動を支援するとともに、日本および日本文化に関する知識の深化を図る。
- 学会、セミナー、出版物などを通じて、会員同士の意見交換や情報共有の機会を提供する。
- 日本語と日本文化の教育において、研究に基づく指導法の開発を奨励し、教育者の指導力や専門性の向上を支援する。
- 日本研究や関連分野の国内外の動向に対応し、発展に貢献する。

主な活動

AATJは、これらの目的を達成するために、さまざまなイベントや取り組みを行っています。主な活動には、年2回の学会開催、セミナーなど専門能力育成プログラム、優秀な指導者やプログラムの表彰、学生向けプログラムなどがあります。また、四半期ごとのニュースレターや、学術誌 *Japanese Language and Literature* (年2回発行) の刊行、各州・地域の団体との連携を行っています。さらに、全米日本語試験 (NJE)、全米日本語優等生協会 (JNHS)、年賀状コンテスト、日本語能力試験 (JLPT) などのプログラムを実施し、求人情報、留学支援、奨学金情報の提供も行っています。

詳しくは、コメント欄のAATJ公式ウェブサイトをご覧ください。

写真は2024 AATJ/ACTFL Fall Conferenceで撮影

[Link to Global Network homepage](#)

[Link to Facebook page](#)



NCOLCTL Annual Conference

NOBUKO CHIKAMATSU

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

The National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages ([NCOLCTL](#)) held its [28th Annual Conference](#) in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, from April 24 to 27, 2025. Centered on the theme, "Digital Diversity and Ethics in LCTL Pedagogy," the conference featured two plenary talks, five colloquia, 45 individual presentations, and a poster session.

Two AATJ members, Takeda-Kolb sensei and Nakayama sensei, both from the University of Pennsylvania, contributed to the conference with presentations on timely topics: AI-assisted instruction for student video creation and instructor self-reflections, respectively. Their participation represented AATJ's active engagement with current developments in language pedagogy.

As AATJ is a member organization of NCOLCTL's Delegate Assembly, I was invited to attend their Executive Board meeting on Friday, where our former president, Satsutani sensei, currently serves. In the field of language education, we are all facing challenges such as budget cuts and policy shifts, and the impact on less commonly taught languages (LCTLs) is particularly severe. Japanese holds a distinctive position: it has grown to become one of the more commonly learned languages, yet it remains a minority language within the Eurocentric structure of language education in the United States. At the meeting, I underscored AATJ's responsibility to take an active leadership role in supporting the linguistically and culturally diverse community of LCTLs.

NCOLCTL offers **Graduate Student Research Support Grants** of 2,500 dollars to Ph.D. candidates at the dissertation research stage after defense. In 2024, ten graduate students were selected for this award. The application deadline for the next cycle is October 31, 2025. For more information [visit their website](#). Additionally, AATJ members receive a special discount on [NCOLCTL's membership](#), and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.



AATJ Professional Development

YOSHIKO SAITO-ABBOTT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, MONTEREY BAY

The AATJ, in collaboration with the Japan Foundation Los Angeles (JFLA), was honored to host a special webinar on April 19, 2025, featuring Ms. Kei Tsukamaki of Juanita High School in Kirkland, WA, the recipient of the 2025 ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year. This engaging hour-and-a-half long session brought together educators from across the country, offering a meaningful opportunity to learn, connect, and be inspired.

The webinar, titled "Fostering Positive Collaboration with Colleagues and Maintaining Optimism and Hope," focused on the importance of building supportive professional communities. Recognizing that creating a sense of community is vital not only for students' confidence and academic risk-taking but also for teachers' own growth, Ms. Tsukamaki encouraged participants to reflect on themselves as lifelong learners. She introduced practical skills and protocols to strengthen collegial relationships, enhance professional resilience, and promote sustained personal and professional success.

The topic was both timely and inspiring, offering participants meaningful strategies for maintaining positivity and collaboration in today's ever-changing educational environment. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Tsukamaki for her thoughtful leadership, and to all who attended and contributed to the success of this event. More information about the webinar can be found on [our website](#).

JLL Spring 2025 Issue Published!

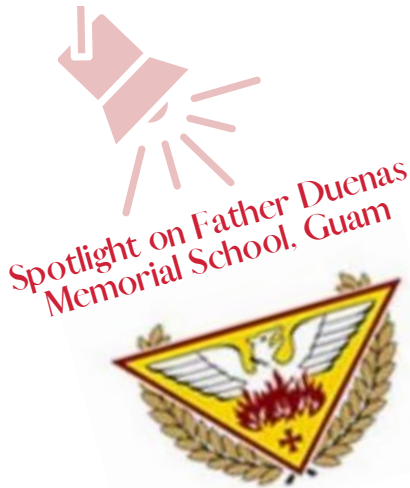
[Current and past issues are available here.](#)

[Submissions guidelines are here.](#)

[List of editors is here.](#)

Please consider submitting to the journal.





Japanese National Honor Society

YAYOI TAKEUCHI & KUMI KOBAYASHI

JNHS CO-DIRECTORS

In this newsletter, we are featuring Father Duenas Memorial School in the US Territory of Guam.

WAKANA BURNHAM

JAPANESE INSTRUCTOR

FATHER DUENAS MEMORIAL SCHOOL (FDMS)は、米国テリトリ一、日本から一番近い米国といわれるグアム、人口15万程度の小さい島にあるカソリックの男子高校です。第二次世界大戦後、FATHER DUENASを記念して1948年に創立されました。

外国語はもともと日本語とスペイン語の二か国語だけでしたが、2018年よりヘリテージのチャモロ語が増設され、現在では3外国語のプログラムになっています。外国語は9年生と10年生の必修選択科目です。1学年の生徒数は100~120人程度ですので、各外国語とも受講生は1学年35名前後、トータル70から80名がそれぞれ受講しています。さらに3年目の選択科目がある日本語とチャモロ語は、加えて8~15名前後の生徒が受講しています。

FDMSの日本語プログラムがJNHSのチャプターをいただいたのが2011年、以来毎年のように7から10名の生徒が認定を受けています。JNHSの推薦は担当の私が、選出は前任の教務主任の助言もあり、各候補生徒の別科における評価も併せて、JNHSコミッティーの先生方にご協力をお願いしています。認定後は認定された生徒も漏れた生徒も、私から各自に評価と期待とを話し、今後に繋がるように心がけています。

本学年度は50%の生徒が日本語2に引き続き日本語3を受講し、APの選択科目の増加に伴って日本語の選択が減少傾向にあった例年に比べ、にぎやかなクラスになりました。日本語3のクラスでは90%の生徒がJNHSをいただいており、昨年から開始したTOKYO TRIPにもほとんどの生徒が参加、本年度はその生徒が中心となって旅程をプラン、ファンドレージングも企画して大きい成果を上げています。

現在のJNHSの主要活動は、昼休みの日本語チュータリング、日本からのEXCHANGE PROGRAMのHELPとHOST(日本からの修学旅行やENGLISH CAMPの中学生や高校生の団体の半日或いは終日の学校訪問があります)、校内CULTURAL FOOD FESTIVALの参加運営(COOKINGを含む)、CHRISTMAS CONCERTの日本語クリスマスソングの参加とCONCESSION、そしてTOKYO TRIPのファンドレージング(CAR WASH)などがあります。校外活動ではグアム日本人会の春祭りのボランティア、GUAM NIHONGO CHALLENGE BOWLの参加とボランティアなどを行っています。

FDMSは小さい学校ですが、生徒の多くが祖父、父、兄が卒業生というBAND OF BROTHERS的な学校で、先輩後輩の繋がりも強いです。更に、JNHSの生徒はスポーツやクラブ、あるいはNHS以外でも活動を共にすることもあり、それらを通じて特にJNHSメンバーとして様々な事を伝達しているようです。

FDMSは過去にスペイン語でSNHSのチャプターをいただいたことがありましたが、担当教師の退職や引継ぎの不備などで、継続は数年でした。JNHSは10年以上の歴史ができていますし、校内でも認められています。日本語は私が2007年以来担当が変わらず、一人でも何とか続けていくことができています。今後もJNHSの生徒のみならず、日本語プログラムの生徒といっしょにJNHSと日本語を盛り立てていきたいと考えています。



2025 Guam Nihongo Challenge Bowl

2024 Tokyo Trip



At a station, checking maps



Visiting Temple University Tokyo Campus



Visiting Asakusa



Attending Sunday Mass at Kanda Catholic Church

NATIONAL JAPANESE EXAM



2025 NJE took place between March 3 through April 15, 2025. Over 1000 students from across the USA, who learn Japanese at middle schools, high schools, and colleges participated in the exam!

現場にあった使い方 いろいろNJE!

日本語プログラムのアセスメントツールとしてのNJE

セントオラフ大学アジア研究部日本語プログラムでは、2018年より日本語2年生の春学期中にNJEを実施しています。これは学生個人の能力を評価ではなく、学部とプログラムのアセスメントを目的としています。NJEがACTFLのガイドラインに準拠したスタンダードベースのテストであり、55分という短時間で一人あたり約10ドルの費用で実施できるからです。

特に今年は、学部の10年毎のプログラムアセスメントにおいて、NJEが重要なアセスメントツールとしての役割を果たしました。さらに、この春には、来年度から試験的に留学先として認められることになった大学以外の機関（IES）への語学能力レポートとしても、NJEの結果を活用することができました。

学生には、NJEの結果は個人の成績ではなく、私たち教員のプログラムのためのものだと説明し、プレッシャーをできるだけ与えないようにしています。毎年多くの学生が「難しかった」と言いますが、自身の能力がクラスの成績を超えたより広い基準のどこに位置しているのかを知る良い機会になっていると思います。

Rika Ito sensei
St. Olaf College



It's NOT JLPT.

It's NOT AAPPL.

It's NJE!



学外の試験って、高くて何度も受けられないし見た目も難しそうで、緊張する・・・

NJEは安価でローステイク。生教材がもとになっていて、受けて楽しい試験です。
賞が出るので、達成感とモチベーションを高めます！ サンプル練習問題集は[こちら](#)



試験結果って、人生や進路を左右するよね・・・

NJEはハイスティックな試験とは違って気軽に受けられるだけでなく、受けてモチベーションが上がった！という受験者も多くいます。 現場からの声は[こちら](#)



初級レベルでも受けられる試験が少なくて・・・

NJEのレベル1はおよそNovice Mid。中学生から大学生まで、日本語を1学期しか勉強していない学習者でも受験が可能です。 レベル詳細は[こちら](#)



総合点や合否だけだと何を頑張ればいいのかわからなくて・・・

NJEはスキミング力、スキヤニング力、語彙力、文法力、文脈からの推測力、文化能力のスキル別の評価が出るので得意項目、弱点がわかります。 NJE目的は[こちら](#)



試験会場まで行くのが大変で・・・。

大丈夫！ NJEはいつもの学校で受けられます。



ここをクリック！



NJE Information site : [こちら](#)

NJE sample download request : [こちら](#)

Questions? nje@aatj.org

試験開発メンバー募集 

NJEは現場の先生のプロフェッショナルデベロップメントの機会、そしてよりよい日本語教育と現場への波及効果も目指しています。



Save the Date!

On **October 18, 2025** the Ohio Association of Teachers of Japanese ([OATJ](#)) will host their 25th Anniversary Event. Educators are invited to our special conference and reception to celebrate the OATJ 25th year anniversary. The conference will be conducted in a hybrid format, allowing for both in-person and remote participation.

Conference Theme:

Reflecting on 25 years of Japanese language education in Ohio and looking to the future through collaboration.

オハイオでの日本語教育 25 年を振り返り、共に未来へ向けて

October 18, 2025, 1:00- 4:30 pm at The Ohio State University

Speakers:

- **Nobuko Chikamatsu** (Associate Professor, DePaul University and AATJ President)
Language Program Sustainability: Collaborating Across Disciplines and Borders
- **Yo Azama** (Lead Instructional Coach and World Language Curriculum Specialist, Salinas Union High School District) **Teaching Inside Out: A Way of Coming Alive in a Changing World**

The conference will be followed by a reception at The Ohio State University. Conference registration will open in late August 2025.





Illinois Association of Teachers of Japanese

NORIKO TAIRA YASOHAMA, IATJ PRESIDENT
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1990 under the leadership of Ms. Itsuko Mizuno of Murray Language Academy, part of Chicago Public Schools, the [Illinois Association of Teachers of Japanese](#) (IATJ) has grown into a vibrant community of educators committed to promoting Japanese language education, thanks to past presidents, officers and its active members. With approximately fifty members, our association includes educators from K-16 institutions, teaching Japanese as a second language (JSL), heritage language (JHL), and foreign language (JFL). We also have aspiring Japanese language educators. Each year, IATJ hosts two professional development workshops, one in the fall and one in the spring. The fall workshops are held at Elk Grove High School, and the spring workshops are co-hosted by the Japan Information Center at the Consulate of General of Japan in Chicago, held at the Center's lecture hall. Our workshops serve as a vital forum for educators from various levels to exchange ideas, address challenges, and enhance teaching practices in a very supportive atmosphere.

Our most recent workshop on March 9th, 2025, marked the launch of IATJ's new initiative to improve articulation between educational institutions and levels. Focusing on high school Japanese language curricula, the workshop featured insightful presentations by Margaret O'Connell-sensei from Evanston Township High School and Hikaru Takeyama-sensei from the University Laboratory High School at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. They shared curricula, pedagogical approaches, student demographics, extracurricular cultural activities, and challenges, thus providing valuable insights for participants. Q&A sessions and short breaks between presentations facilitated open dialogs among participants. IATJ will continue our efforts to facilitate articulation between educational institutions and levels. In the academic year 2025-2026, we are planning to host a workshop focusing on college curricula.

IATJ values in-person workshops where members from K-16 can engage in open conversations. The forum has been playing an important role, especially for solo teachers at their institutions. All our workshops are made possible by generous support of the Japanese Language Grant by the Japan Foundation in Los Angeles, and of the venues by the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago and a local high school. IATJ is grateful for their continued support for Japanese language education.

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J.LIVE 2025

TAKAE TSUJIOKA

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

We are happy to announce that the J.LIVE Talk 2025 will be held on Sunday, November 9th in-person on the George Washington University campus!

The preliminary round application for individual divisions will be open in September (September 1-30, 2025). We are again inviting applications from high school and college students. Please check our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) for details. We will provide up to \$500 to travel to Washington, DC for the finalists. Cash prizes will be awarded to Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners, and college Gold winners will be awarded a study abroad trip to Japan in Summer 2026.

We also have a high school group video competition. The submission period of the video is from October 10 to October 24. Please find the details, eligibility, and application forms on the [Group Video Competition webpage](#). Please note that for the High School Division Applications, there is a page that requires signatures by the applicants' parent or legal guardian, in addition to their instructor.

Common questions are answered on our [FAQs for Applicants](#) page. If you have additional questions, please [contact us by email](#). Please encourage your students to apply!

APPLICATION INVITED

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Individual: Sep. 30

Group video: Oct. 24



Visit our website for details!

We welcome sponsorship for J.LIVE Talk 2025.

J.LIVE Talk 2024 sponsors include:

日米友好基金



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Friendship Commission
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WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

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Resource Center

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SIGUR CENTER FOR
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NANZAN
UNIVERSITY

TOP

ICU
Expanding Potential

国際基督教大学
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

JCAW
Japan Commerce Association of Washington, D.C., Inc.

JCAW
FOUNDATION, INC.



Sojitz Foundation



Save the date!
J.LIVE Talk 2025
Final Round

Sunday, November 9th
at The George Washington University
800 21st St NW, Washington, DC 20052



2025 JUNIOR JAPAN BOWL REPORT

OVERVIEW

The **9th annual Junior Japan Bowl (J2B)**, a national competition of Japanese language and culture for U.S.-based elementary and middle school students, was held online on **Friday, April 25, 2025**. This year's event saw remarkable growth, with **644 students registered from 32 schools across 13 states** —a 20% increase from the previous year. Students competed in teams of 2 to 3 using Kahoot in a Zoom meeting.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

One of the biggest highlights this year was welcoming **Minister Fumito Miyake from the Embassy of Japan** as our special guest. He delivered inspiring opening remarks live via Zoom, encouraging students and educators to continue deepening their connection to Japanese language and culture.

We are also honored to share that in **November 2024, J-LEARN was awarded the Ambassador's Commendation** by the Embassy of Japan in recognition of its contributions to Japanese language education in the United States. This prestigious award further strengthens our commitment to supporting young learners of Japanese nationwide.



Ambassador Yamada and J-LEARN Members

COMPETITION THEMES

Participants demonstrated knowledge in the following categories:

- **Japanese Language:** Greetings, classroom expressions, onomatopoeia, proverbs, kanji
- **Cultural Topics:** Japanese homes, manners and etiquette, attractions, and Osaka
- **History:** Meiji, Taishō, Shōwa, Heisei, and Reiwa eras
- **Japanese Popular Culture:** Fashion, snacks (dagashi), drinks, and yōshoku (Western-influenced Japanese cuisine)

SCHOOLS

- Dunsmore Elementary School, CA
- Verdugo Woodlands Elementary School, CA
- Rosemont Middle School, CA
- Presidio Middle School, CA
- Woodrow Wilson Middle School, CA
- Japanese Learning Group, DC
- Washington Latin Public Charter School Cooper Campus, DC
- Omni International School, GA
- International Charter Academy of Georgia, CA
- Elkins Pointe Middle School, GA
- MUSUBI Heritage Japanese Language Learning Group in Iowa, IA
- Thomas Dooley Elementary School, IL
- Jane Addams Junior High School, IL
- Bloomington Indiana Japanese Language School, IA
- Washington Japanese Heritage Center, MD
- Washington Japanese Language School, MD
- South Academy of International Languages, NC
- Arts Impact Middle School (New 2025), OH
- Bunsold Middle School, OH
- Richmond Elementary School, OR
- Kelly Middle School, OR
- Fox Mill Elementary School, VA
- Great Falls Elementary School, VA
- Hayfield Secondary School, VA
- James Cooper Middle School, VA
- Langston Hughes Middle School, VA
- Liberty Middle School, VA
- Rachel Carson Middle School, VA
- South County Middle School, VA
- Dominion Christian School, VA
- McDonald International Elementary School, WA
- Milwaukee Doyoukai Japanese Saturday School, WI

TEAM WINNERS



	LEVEL 1 (GR.1-3)	LEVEL 2 (GR.4-6)	LEVEL3 (GR.7-8)
1	JAMES LUNA, TAIGA WILLIAMS, FUMIYA SAWAMURA, DUNSMORE ES, CA	NOAH DELMANZO & ROCCO SMITH GREAT FALLS ES, VA	LYNKA BACHER, MIKA BUSH, OLIVIA LAI ROSEMONT MS, CA
2	EMI LEE, KALIZE MUNAKATA, MAI HAGIWARA VERDUGO WOODLANDS ES, CA	KAI THORNE, KAI YAMAZAKI, KEITA TOHO DUNSMORE ES, CA	LENA ITO, LEAH DOUGLASS, YUNA ITO WASHINGTON JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, MD
3	ASHER BROWN & SEAN PALEN FOX MILL ES, VA	NOAH DELMANZO & ROCCO SMITH GREAT FALLS ES, VA	CHRISTOPHER KIM & VIVIENNE SUNG JAMES COOPER MS, VA
4	EMRYN SKOYLES & MAYA DELGIORNO GREAT FALLS ES, VA	CAYDEN MURPHY, RYAN SIEGEL, VERONIKA SANTOS, FOX MILL ES, VA	ETHAN KWONG, REIJI OGAWA, TOMOAKI NAKAGAWA, JANE ADDAMS JUNIOR HS, IL
5	HANA FERGUSON & SORA FERGUSON WASHINGTON KEISHO CENTER, MD	VIVIANE JEAN, SHO JESKEY, AKO NGUYEN THOMAS DOOLEY ES, IL	RYDER GARRISON & THOMAS FRANCIS ELKINS POINTE MS, GA

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS



	LEVEL 1 (GR.1-3)	LEVEL 2 (GR.4-6)	LEVEL3 (GR.7-8)
1	JAMES LUNA DUNSMORE ES, CA	NOAH DELMANZO GREAT FALLS ES, VA	MIKA BUSH ROSEMONT MS, CA
2	MIA SANO WASHINGTON KEISHO CENTER, MD	KAI THORNE DUNSMORE ES, CA	LYNKA BACHER ROSEMONT MS, CA
3	EMI LEE VERDUGO WOODLANDS ES, CA	RYAN SIEGEL FOX MILL ES, VA	LEAH DOUGLASS WASHINGTON JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, MD
4	TAIGA WILLIAMS DUNSMORE ES, CA	ISAAC YOUNGER FOX MILL ES, VA	OLIVIA LAI ROSEMONT MS, CA
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VOICES

It was fun bonding with teammates and seeing how everyone did, and it was crazy to see people from California and many other places. (Student, Level 2)

I enjoyed making posters with my teammates and playing Kahoot in class. I also liked Color Kingdom and being challenged during the competition. (Student, Level 2)

The students noticed that there were many cultural aspects they didn't know about Japan. That would be their motivation to learn more about Japan. (Tae Okuda, Woodrow Wilson MS)

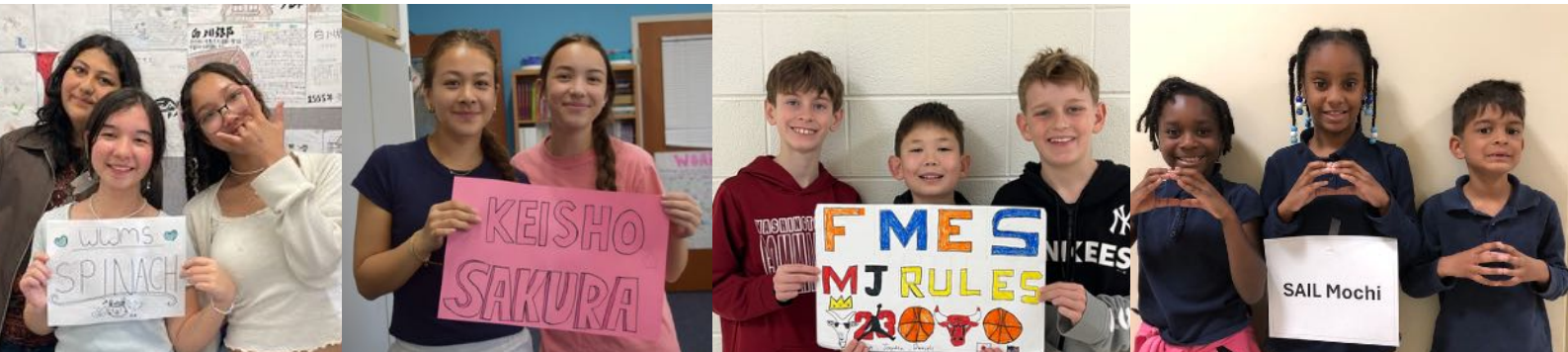
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Thank you to the members who have already renewed their AATJ membership for 2025!

If you have not renewed yet, please take a moment to make sure you are included in the benefits that membership brings: professional development opportunities like conferences and webinars; activities for your students like the Japanese National Honor Society; publications and other resources.

Renew online by going to <https://www.aatj.org/membership>. We'll look forward to seeing next year, online or in person!

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AATJ's activities and events thrive thanks to the dedication of our Directors, Co-directors, and many enthusiastic volunteers. Becoming involved in AATJ is not only rewarding, but it also provides outstanding opportunities for professional growth. There are countless ways for members to participate in AATJ's programs and events. Please let us know your areas of interest by selecting completing [this survey](#), selecting one or more areas of interest. We're excited to collaborate with you and look forward to your contributions!



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