SEPTEMBER 2026 | VOL. 15 | NO. 3

AATJ NEWSLETTER

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

全米日本語教育学会

In this issue...

Links to articles:

JAPANESE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

FALL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

NENGAJO CONTEST

NATIONAL JAPANESE EXAM

JFLA URAWA PARTICIPANTS' EXPERIENCE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - SPRING CONFERENCE

AND MORE!

Message from the President

WILLIAM MATSUZAKI

Greetings to all AATJ members! Many of you have just started the school year, while some of you are already in the second month of teaching. I hope everyone is off to a great start and enjoying the new school year, full of hope and renewed energy. There is nothing like the beginning of the year when both the adults and students are full of positive energy, and eager to learn. As I start my school year at a new school, I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to serve my new school as well as AATJ.

As we continue to encourage more proposals and submission for the Japanese Language and Literature Journal, I appreciated the webinar on September 5th by Mariko Wei sensei and Suwako Watanabe sensei entitled, AATJ Conference Proposals to JLL Publications: Guidelines for Proposal Writing and Academic Publishing. The practical tips in writing proposals and submitting work for academic publishing were very helpful. Thank you to Yoshiko Saito-Abbott sensei and Kazue Masuyama sensei for organizing this awesome professional development opportunity. This past month, we also had an opportunity to gain a better understanding of JNHS through the wonderful presentation given by Yayoi Takeuchi sensei and Tomoko Baker sensei, our JNHS Co-Directors.

Next month, we have the AATJ Annual Fall Meeting, part of ACTFL, which will be held in San Antonio, TX. This is especially special to me as I just moved from Texas, having lived there for eight years previously. A special appreciation to Makiko Fukuda sensei, Jun Takahashi sensei, and Jaimelynn Tateyama sensei for all of their hard work to prepare for this conference.

This year, we will hold our general meeting online on October 18th from 5:00 - 6:30pm (Eastern Time) to go over reports by the directors and all of the important information about the organization. I am very excited that this will allow us to reimagine some of the time during the General Meeting slot to have more opportunities for AATJ members to network, interact with each other, and use that time for more collaboration. As we continue to look at various events, I appreciate everyone's willingness to honor the past and traditions of AATJ and this field, while reimagining the possibilities for our members moving forward.

We are currently in the officer election season. Please vote for the next President-elect and the Vice President, representing K-12. Please note that we are using the new AATJ Portal to vote for these important positions. We appreciate the four people who accepted the nomination and have submitted their materials. I would also like to express my gratitude for Yoshiko Mori sensei (chair), Ann Jordan sensei, Yoshihiro Mochizuki sensei, and Nobuaki Takahashi sensei for serving on the Officer Nominating Committee. We encourage each of you to think about your interests in a director's or an officer's role. It is vital that we have a variety of voices and represent an array of experiences. Having experience as a director is helpful in gaining insights to an officer's role. If you are interested or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the officers or Katie Ross, our Executive Director, for more information.

I wish everyone a wonderful school year and I am looking forward to seeing you during the virtual General Meeting on October 18th and in San Antonio during the Fall Conference during ACTFL.

Message from the Vice Presidents

KATE DAVIS
K-12

ATSUSHI HASEGAWA
POST-SECONDARY

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating summer, and that your fall classes are off to a great start.

AATJ's Fall Conference will once again be held in conjunction with ACTFL from November 20-22 in San Antonio, TX. As always, ACTFL offers an incredible array of practical teaching strategies, innovative research, and insights spanning general language pedagogy as well as Japanese language education. Beyond the sessions, it serves as a wonderful venue to connect with fellow educators, exchange fresh perspectives, and build lasting professional networks. We encourage as many members as possible to join us.

Your dedication to expanding Japanese language education and fostering cultural understanding in your communities inspires us every day. Thank you for your passion and commitment, and we look forward to supporting and working alongside you throughout the coming year!

新学期を迎え、皆様いかがお過ごしでしょうか。実り多き夏休みを過ごされ、秋学期のクラスも順調にスタートしていることとお慶び申し上げます。

さて、今年のAATJ秋季大会（ACTFLでの共催）も、11月20日～22日にテキサス州サンアントニオにて開催されます。ACTFLでは例年通り、幅広く応用可能な教授法や活動アイディアまで、実践的な指導法や最新の研究成果、貴重な知見が幅広く紹介されます。また、セッションへの参加にとどまらず、全国の日本語教育・外国語教育関係者と交流し、新たな視点を共有しながら指導者同士の繋がりを深める絶好の機会でもあります。一人でも多くの会員の皆様のご参加を心よりお待ちしております。

各地で日本語教育の普及と相互理解の促進に尽力されている皆様の情熱には、いつも大変励まされております。日頃のご尽力に心より感謝申し上げますとともに、今年度も皆様の活動をしっかりとサポートし、共に日本語教育を高めていけることを楽しみにしております。

AATJ Virtual General Meeting 2026

Dear AATJ Members,
You are cordially invited to attend the 2026 AATJ General Membership Meeting, to be held virtually on Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 5:00 pm EDT.
This meeting is available to all current AATJ members. To join or renew your membership, please do so at https://members.aatj.org .
Please join us to (virtually) meet the AATJ leadership, learn what AATJ has been up to, and what is upcoming for Japanese language education in the US!
Please use this link to register: https://members.aatj.org/events/2026-aatj-general-membership-meeting You must be logged into your member account to register.
Registration is not necessary, but it is strongly encouraged to help us prepare.

Japanese Linguistics and Pedagogy SIG

The Japanese Linguistics and Pedagogy SIG welcomes educators, researchers, graduate students, and anyone interested in exploring Japanese linguistics in relation to Japanese language teaching and learning.
We meet regularly online for informal presentations, discussions, and reading groups in a welcoming and collaborative environment. Whether or not you have formal training in linguistics, we hope you will join us.
If you are interested in participating, please visit our SIG webpage and complete the Google Form. We will send you information about upcoming meetings and other SIG activities.

Message from the Executive Director

KATIE ROSS

Hello AATJ members, and welcome back to the school year! I hope each of you had some time to relax and regroup over the summer months. This summer I was able to visit family and friends in Japan, visit extended family in the US, and, finally, drop off my son at college for his freshman year at the University of Colorado Boulder. Of course, the AATJ office is also at the University of Colorado Boulder, so he is not far away from me.

For the majority of AATJ members, the school year has just begun—I hope the 2026-2027 school year is off to a stellar start! At AATJ, we are busy planning the 2026 Fall Conference which will be held at the ACTFL Convention in San Antonio, Texas in November. Our hard-working directors have also planned some helpful webinars this fall—Proposal Writing and Japanese Honor Society. We are also holding the AATJ General Membership Meeting virtually on October 18. All AATJ members are invited to join. I hope to see you at one or more of these events this fall!

Eating lots of crab in Niigata

Japanese National Honor Society

The Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) recognizes and encourages scholastic achievement and excellence in Japanese study for pre-college and college-level students.
Students who are nominated for JNHS receive Certificates of Excellence and a cord (optional) that can be worn for graduation.

For more information regarding JNHS, see our website here.
We have updated JNHS pricing for the 2026-2027 school year.

JNHS items are visible and accessible by AATJ members only. You will need to log into your AATJ member account at https://members.aatj.org and click on "AATJ Store." Remember—members can select the "Invoice" option at checkout if you need to submit an invoice to your school for payment.
Don't forget to submit the correct application form in addition to purchasing the correct JNHS items:
Pre-College Application
College Application

JNHS Chapter Fee	$ 25.00
JNHS College Student	$ 20.00
JNHS High School Student	$ 20.00
JNHS High School - Certificate Only	$ 10.00
JNHS High School - Cord Only	$ 10.00
JNHS Additional Shipping	$ 15.00

UPCOMING AATJ EVENTS	DATES (Subject to Change)
2027 AATJ Spring Conference Call for Proposals	September 6 – October 31 https://aatj.org/conferences-spring/
AATJ Election (President-Elect & Vice President)	October 1 – October 31, 2026 https://members.aatj.org
AATJ General Membership Meeting (Virtual)	October 18, 2026 5:00 pm EDT https://members.aatj.org
AATJ 2027 Membership Renewals Begin	Open Now
2026 AATJ/ACTFL Fall Conference (San Antonio, TX)	November 20-22, 2026
2027 AATJ Spring Conference Grant Application Period	December 2026 (TBA)
2026 JLPT	Dec 6, 2026
Japanese National Honor Society Applications More Information Here	Year-round
National Japanese Exam Registration Period	January 4 – February 12, 2027 (TBA)
JNHS 応援 Grant Application Period	January 1 – February 28, 2027 (TBA)
2027 AATJ Spring Conference Registration	January – March, 2027 (TBA)
National Japanese Exam Testing Period	March 1 – April 11, 2027 (TBA)
JNCL-NCLIS Language Advocacy Day 2027	March 1-2, 2027
2027 AATJ Spring Conference in Boston, MA	Wednesday, March 17 – Friday, March 19, 2027
2027 AATJ Officers' and Directors' Retreat	April 2027 (TBA)
JNHS 応援 Grant Recipients Notified	Apr 2027
NJE Exam Results Released	Around April 28, 2027 (TBA)
AATJ Nominations for President-Elect & Vice President	Jun 2027
2027 ACTFL / AATJ Fall Conference Grant Application Deadline	Jul 2027
Teacher Award Nominations due	Jul 2027
K-12 Growing Program Award Nominations due	Jul 2027
2027 JLPT Registration Period	August – September 2027

Annual Fall Conference at ACTFL 2026 in San Antonio

MAKIKO FUKUDA, JUN TAKAHASHI, AND JAIMELYNN TATEYAMA
FALL CONFERENCE CO-DIRECTORS

The AATJ Fall Conference will be held in person in New Orleans during the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo from Friday, November 20th through Sunday, November 22nd, 2026

AATJ will host seven sessions and twelve paper presentations, including six practice-oriented papers and six research-oriented papers. In addition, there are roundtable presentations, electronic poster presentations and other paper presentations presented by AATJ members sponsored by ACTFL. Please check the completed schedule below and also on our AATJ website at https://aatj.org/professional-development/conferences/
for more information.

In the exhibition area, AATJ will be in the Japan Pavilion with other vendor booths. One can participate in cultural activities sponsored by the AATJ local affiliate teachers at the AATJ booth. Vendors such as Kinokuniya, The Japan Foundation Los Angeles and JPT America are a few that will also be in the Japan Pavilion.

ACTFL 2025 Japan Pavilion

AATJ 2025 Cultural Activity Booth

The AATJ Teacher Award Luncheon will be held in room 220 of the Convention Center from 12:00pm-1:15pm on Saturday, November 22nd, 2026. This is a great opportunity to network with Japanese educators, supporters, and guests from the local community. Tickets are $44.00 and the last day to purchase tickets is November 14th. Please purchase a luncheon ticket when you register for the conference. Tickets can be purchased online through the ACTFL registration portal. It is listed as an "add-on." If you complete check-out without purchasing the luncheon ticket, you can still come back onto the ACTFL registration portal and purchase it afterward, as long as it's before the cutoff date. AATJ will not sell tickets at our booth and ACTFL will not have tickets for sale on-site. When you register, please verify that all workshops/special events are correct, as no changes or refunds will be permitted after November 14th. If you decide to select another workshop after November 14th, you will be required to pay the difference between the advance and the late pricing of the new activity selected. Those registering after November 14th will not be permitted to make changes to their selections once the registration process is complete. In addition to the sessions, presentations and luncheon, the AATJ Social will be held on Saturday evening, November 22nd 2026 from 6-8pm at Casa Rio, 430 East Commerce, San Antonio. The social dinner will provide a wonderful opportunity to network, reconnect with our members and learn more about AATJ. Dinner will be provided with amazing door prizes, please join us!!

2026 ACTFL Session Schedule by AATJ Members

AATJ Sponsored Sessions

FRIDAY, November 20, 2026

7:15am- 8:00am	First-Time Attendee Orientation and Welcome
8:30am- 10:00am	Opening General Session with Keynote Speaker
10:00am- 11:15am	ACTFL Welcome Coffee
10:30am- 11:15am	**Room: Exhibitor Workshop Rooms** Exhibitor Workshops **ATJ Booth Activity Time**
11:30am- 12:15pm	Session Room: 302A #3311 Evolving a High School Cultural Festival for K-16 and Community Advocacy Kazuko Saito, Hunter College, City University of New York Chizuko Wallestad, Osaka Metropolitan University (Language of presentation: Japanese)
12:30pm- 1:15pm	**Room: 302A** **AATJ Affiliate Representative Meeting/Lunch Break**
12:30 - 2:15 pm	Roundtable Room: 007D #3479 RT1-01 Assessing What Matters: A Roundtable on New AP Rubrics *Mieko Avello,* Miami Palmetto Senior High School *Kazue Masuyama,* California State University, Sacramento *(Language of presentation: Japanese)*
1:30pm-2:15pm	Session Room: 302A #2487 1:30pm-2:15pm Finding Our "Ibasho": Classrooms for All Learners Kei Tsukamaki, N/A Patty Breun, Madison Country Day School (Language of presentation: English)

AATJ Sponsored Sessions

FRIDAY, November 20, 2026

2:30pm-3:15pm	Research-oriented Papers: AI and Virtual Learning in Japanese Education Room: 212B Session Chair: TBA #2706 2:30pm-2:45pm An Exploratory Case Study of Students' Use of AI in a Japanese Course Nana Suzumura-Smith, California State University, Long Beach (Language of presentation: Japanese) #3219 2:45pm-3:00pm Online Japanese-English Conversation: Effectiveness, Continuity, and AI Use Junko Hatanaka, University of Texas at Austin (Language of presentation: Japanese) # 3234 3:00pm-3:15pm Beyond Language Practice: Japan-U.S. Virtual Language Tables Chizuko Wallestad, Osaka Metropolitan University (Language of presentation: Japanese)
3:30pm-4:15pm	*Session* *Room: 302A* *#3226* *3:30pm-4:15pm* *When AP Meets College: Rethinking Language Projects* *Kazue Masuyama, California State University* *Meiko Avello, Miami Palmetto Senior High School* *(Language of presentation: Japanese)*
4:30pm-5:15pm	Session Room: 302A #2607 4:30pm-5:15pm Fostering Engagement, Respect, and Confidence in Intercultural Classrooms Kiyomi Chinen, California State University, Long Beach Yoshiko Saito-Abbott, California State University, Monterey Bay Shingo Satsutani, College of DuPage (Language of presentation: English)

AATJ Sponsored Sessions

FRIDAY, November 20, 2026

5:30pm-6:15pm	Practice-oriented Papers: Japanese Language Learning 1 Room: 213B Session Chair: TBA #2296 5:30pm-5:45pm Fostering AI Literacy Through AI Reflection in Japanese Language Learning Yuko Prefume, Baylor University (Language of presentation: English) #3524 5:45pm-6:00pm Assessing Interpersonal Communication through Micro-Skills Ren Tan, Emory University (Language of presentation: English) #2601 6:00pm-6:15pm Teaching Tense-Aspect Ambiguity in Japanese Toki 'When' Clauses Using SCOBA Priya Ananth, Middle Tennessee State University (Language of presentation: English)
6:30pm-7:45pm	*Room: Lonestar AB* *ACTFL Language Connect Ceremony*
7:45pm-9:30pm	AATJ Officers and Directors Meeting (Invite Only)

AATJ Sponsored Sessions

SATURDAY, November 21, 2026

8:00am-8:45am	Session Room: 302A #3231 From Plateau to Progress: Asset-based Approach to Build Learner Confidence Kayoko Ross, University of California, San Diego Naoki Iwamoto, University of California, San Diego Sachiko Kamioka, University of California, San Diego (Language of presentation: Japanese)
9:00am-9:45 am	AATJ Booth Activity Time
9:00am-9:45 am	Electronic Poster Presentations 1 Room: Electronic Posters, Exhibit Halls 2-3 #3278 EP1-02 Building a Curriculum Collaboratively: Content-based Instruction in Anime Aya McDaniel, Arizona State University *(Language of presentation: English)*
10:00am-10:45am	Session Room: 302A #2901 10:00am-10:45am Standards-based Grading in the Japanese Classroom Danielle Krug, Dublin Scioto High School Iya Nemastil, Dublin Jerome High School *(Language of presentation: English)* _____ *Session* *Room: 225A* *#2967* *10:00am-10:45am* *Promoting Global Engagement Through Collaborative Storytelling Projects* *Salah Ayari, Texas A&M University* *Naoko Ozaki, Rice University* *Yuki Waugh, Texas A&M University* *(Language of presentation: English)*

11:00 - 11:45 am	Research-oriented Papers: Perspectives in Japanese Contexts Room: 212B Session Chair: TBA #2894 11:0pam-11:15am Exploring Family Language Policy in a Multilingual Family in Japan Olga Garmaeva, Independent (Language of presentation: English) #3024 11:15am-11:30am Reinforcing or Challenging? Gender Representation in a Japanese Textbook Marco Aurelio Silva Fonseca, University of California, Irvine (Language of presentation: English) #3169 11:30am-11:45am Rethinking Creativity in Japanese Education Megumi Watanabe, Princeton University (Language of presentation: Japanese) _____ Roundtable Presentation 4 Room: 007D #3493 RT-4-04 Integrating Custom Chatbots into the Japanese Language Curriculum Akiko Meguro, Dickinson College Noriko Fujioka-Ito, University of Cincinnati *(Language of presentation: Japanese)*
12:00 - 1:15 pm	Room: 220 AATJ Teacher Award Luncheon Sponsored by AVANT
1:30 - 2:15 pm	Research-oriented Papers: Reflective Learning in Japanese Language Education Room 212B Session Chair: TBA #2796 1:30pm-1:45pm Intercultural Communication Breakdown Between English and Japanese at Work Nobuko Koyama, University of California, Davis (Language of presentation: English) #2939 1:45pm-2:00pm Native Japanese Speakers' Feelings When Spoken to by Japanese Learners Mika Koiso, University of South Florida (Language of presentation: Japanese) #3531 2:00pm-2:15pm Longitudinal Reflection in Japanese Courses with High-Impact Practices Reiko Ileleji, Ball State University (Language of presentation: English)

1:30 - 2:15 pm	Practice-oriented Papers: Community Connections & Advocacy Room: 213A #3377 2:00pm-2:15pm Speaking Beyond the Classroom: Video Journals in East Asian Languages Shunichi Maruyama Hyunju Ha, University of Pittsburgh (Language of presentation: English)
2:30 - 3:15 pm	Session Room: 302A #3083 2:30pm-3:15pm Engagement-Centered Design: Human-Centered Learning for Real-World Readiness Junko Tokuda Simpson, University of California, San Diego Izumi Takeda, University of California, San Diego Yasu-Hiko Tohsaku, University of California, San Diego (Language of presentation: Japanese) Session Room: 211 #3211 2:30pm-3:15pm Inquiry in Action: Empowering Student Agency in Multilingual Immersion *Yihyun Chang*, The International School of Portland Jacob Muune, The International school of Portland Paola Gagliardo, The International school of Portland Masami Maruki, The International school of Portland *(Language of presentation: English)* ***Practice-Oriented Paper Presentations: Student Center Culturally-based Activities*** *Room: 214C* *#2929* *2:30pm-2:45pm* *From Inquiry to Discovery: Student-Driven Learning through QFT and VLT* *Miyuki Yamamoto, University of Massachusetts* *(Language of presentation: Japanese)*

3:30 - 4:15 pm	Room: Exhibitor Workshop Rooms Exhibitor Workshops AATJ Booth Activity Time Electronic Poster Presentations 2 Room: Electronic Posters, Exhibit Halls 2-3 #2969 EP2-04 AI-Supported Script Revision for Video Projects in Third-Year Japanese Tomomi Kakegawa, University of Wisconsin *(Language of presentation: English)* #3522 EP2-14 Rethinking Beginner Japanese Textbooks Through CC BY-NC OER Chikako Cooke, University of Texas at Austin *(Language of presentation: Japanese)*
4:30 - 5:15 pm	Session Room: 302A #2582 4:30pm-5:15pm Teaching Global Issues Across Levels Through Student Collaboration Kumi Kobayashi, Los Gatos High School Yoko Eshita, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies (Language of presentation: English) **Practice-oriented Papers: Japanese Language Learning 2** Room: 213B #2768 4:30pm-4:45pm Classroom-to-Career Course Design in Japanese Language Class Junko Schwartzman, State University of New York, Binghamton (Language of presentation: Japanese) #2708 4:45pm-5:00pm Utilizing Canva for Interactive Activities in Online Japanese Instruction Setsu Kawada, Metropolitan University of Denver (Language of presentation: Japanese) #2742 5:00pm-5:15pm Benefits of Integrating Custom AI Chatbots into Japanese Course Curricula Noriko Fujioka-Ito, University of Cincinnati (Language of presentation: Japanese)

6:00pm-8:00pm	**Location: Casa Rio, 430 East Commerce, San Antonio** **AATJ Social, Dinner & Door Prizes**

Disclaimer: Final decisions regarding proposal acceptance and scheduling were made by ACTFL. This program was compiled based on a search of the official ACTFL Convention program for presentations related to Japanese language and Japanese studies. Some relevant presentations may have been unintentionally omitted.

AATJ Booth Activities

During the three-day convention, we will have the following activities at the AATJ Booth.
I hope you will visit our booth in person. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Friday, November 20 10:30 am – 11:15 am	Table #1: Cultural Activity Origami (JTAT)
11:15 am - 1:15 pm	Table #1 JNHS and AATJ Advocacy badge-making and promotional activities Table #2: AATJ PR
Saturday, November 21 9:00 am – 9:45 am	Table #1: Cultural Activity Origami (JTAT)
9:00 am – 9:45 am	Table #1 JNHS and AATJ Advocacy badge-making and promotional activities Table #2: AATJ PR
Saturday, November 21 3:30 pm -4:15 pm	Table #1: Cultural Activity Whisk Your Matcha (JTAT)
Sunday, November 22 9:00 am -9:45 am	Table #1: Cultural Activity Whisk Your Matcha (JTAT)
10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	JNHS Advocacy

Japanese Pavillion @Exhibition Hall:
https://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/ACTFL/ACTFL2026/Public/eventmap.aspx?shmode=E
*The Japanese pavilion consists of booth #'s 1916, 1919, 1920, 1922, 1923, and 1924.

Booth #	Exhibitors
1916	Kinokuniya Book Stores of America
1919	JPT America, Inc.
1920	
1922	The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles
1923	AATJ (American Association of Teachers of Japanese)
1924	Maruzen International Co., LTD.

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!

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.

https://www.actfl.org/convention-and-expo

Registration Rates

Join ACTFL and Save $200 on #ACTFL2026 Registration!

FULL CONVENTION:	EARLY BIRD (7/29/26)	ADVANCE (10/28/26)	LATE (after 10/28/26)
Member	$395	$425	$525
Non-member	$595	$625	$725
Student	$200	$230	$330

ONE DAY ONSITE ONLY:	EARLY BIRD (7/29/26)	ADVANCE (10/28/26)	LATE (after 10/28/26)
One Day Member	$380	$410	$510
One Day Non-member	$515	$545	$645

To register for the ACTFL Convention, please go to this website: **https://www.actfl.org/convention-and-expo** and click on the "Register Now" button. If you are a current AATJ member, be sure to scroll down the ACTFL 2026 Registration page and use "Convention Partner Organization Registration" under Option 2 in order to register at the lower member rate.

Housing

For details regarding hotel reservations, please go to **https://www.actfl.org/attend-2026/housing-instructions**

When you are ready to reserve your rooms, please click on this website: https://registration.experientevent.com/ShowAFL261

Official Hotels

Grand Hyatt San Antonio (Headquarter Hotel)

Rates start from $239.00 a night

La Quinta Inn& Suites Riverwalk

Rates start at $220.00 a night

Marriott Rivercenter

Rates start at $249.00 a night

Marriott Riverwalk

Rates start at $259.00 a night

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.

We would like to congratulate the following five AATJ members for being selected for The 2026 ACTFL Convention/AATJ Fall Conference Grant sponsored by the Oka Foundation (Mayumi and Masao Oka Sensei) (listed in alphabetical order)

Kanta Maruko (MA, Graduate student)
Ren Tan, (Emory University, Georgia)
Stacey Tarvin (Gilbert A Dater High School, Cincinnati, Ohio)
Fernando Yamamoto (The University of Texas at El Paso)
Ayako Yoshimura (University of North Texas, TX)

Through their generosity, the Oka Foundation will also be providing grants for the upcoming 2027 Spring Conference in Boston (March 18th-21st, 2027) to support travel, registration and lodging. Please check this website https://aatj.org/grants-scholarships/spring-conference-scholarships/ for more information

There are also other ways to receive support with funding:

*ACTFL has a First-time Attendee Stipend (Opened Spring 2026): First time attendees are invited to apply for a stipend to help offset the costs of attendance.
(*Funding options for professional development are subject to change due to evolving federal regulations, please continue to check and stay updated and informed through ACTFL website and other media platforms as they may impact eligibility and program terms)

More ways to help fund your 2026 ACTFL attendance are here:
https://www.actfl.org/attend-2026/funding-options-ideas

Join ACTFL!

To raise the visibility of Japanese language education and professionals, we highly encourage AATJ members to join ACTFL and take advantage of various volunteer opportunities, including roles as conference proposal reviewers or, even better, as board members. ACTFL memberships start as low as $54, but they often offer discounts and promotions.

ACTFL Volunteer: **https://www.actfl.org/career-development/volunteer**
Current Volunteer Opportunities: **(You may need a membership to access this).**
https://community.actfl.org/volunteeropportunities/opportunities-list-public

There are many ways for you to volunteer at ACTFL!
Below are the various opportunities that are offered:

- *Committee Member*
- *Committee Chair*
- *SIG Officer*
- *Mentor*
- *Pair & Share Advisor*
- *Board of Directors Member*
- *Annual Convention Proposal Reviewer*

Nengajo Contest 2027 – Year of the Sheep

BRIAN THOMPSON
NENGAJO CONTEST DIRECTOR

We are holding the annual AATJ Nengajo Contest in December! This year, as in previous years, the contest is open to students from Elementary to College levels. There are two categories (Artistic and Comical) for Lower Elementary (K-2), three categories (Artistic, Comical, and CGI) for Upper Elementary (3-5), and four categories (Artistic, Comical, CGI, and Encouragement) for Middle School, High School, and College levels. Please note that CGI is not an AI-generated image; students need to design and draw using a computer or tablet. We eagerly anticipate your students' fantastic artwork! The detailed rules, lesson plans and schedule as well as the application form will be available soon. Stay tuned!

New Perspectives: Japan (NP:J)

Homestays, school visits, hands-on cultural activities… When your students experience Japan with NP:J, the memories—and the curiosity—last a lifetime!

NEW PERSPECTIVES JAPAN

Start your group's applications today:
laurasian.org/npj

Eligibility: U.S. Middle/High School Students and Teachers **Deadline:** Dec. 1, 2026 • **Travel:** Summer 2027

Affiliate Leaders Gather for the Third 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三回会合に集結

K-12 Vice President Katharine (Kate) Davis held the last virtual affiliate meeting of the calendar year on Saturday, August 29, 2026. AATJ President Will Matsuzaki started by sharing all the benefits that come with being an AATJ member, and made several announcements, including registration reminders for the fall AATJ/ACTFL conference, announcing the Oka Fund, the Call for Papers for the 2027 AATJ Spring Conference, submission to our journal, Japanese Language and Literature, and the 2027 officer elections in October. He also encouraged people to think about being involved with AATJ in leadership roles including various director and officer positions and stressed the importance of having various voices.

Mr. Jared McClellan of the **Japan Foundation of Los Angeles** attended once again, and shared the three main focuses of the Japan Foundation. Japanese Studies & Intellectual Exchange, Japanese Language Education Overseas, and Arts and Cultural Exchange. He highlighted the work of JF Los Angeles versus the work of JF New York. Furthermore, he highlighted the survey report on Japanese-Language Education Abroad that was conducted in 2024. Additionally, he highlighted the wonderful Japanese Language Education Grants and Support Programs that are available to bolster programs. The J-LEAP program has been a great partnership between the Japanese Foundation and the Laurasian Institution to place Japanese-language education Assistants in various schools. As always, the partnership between AATJ, affiliates, and Japan Foundation in advocating for programs that are in danger of partial or complete cut have been a pillar to helping the Japanese programs across the country. Please contact Mr. Jared McClellan at jared_mcclellan@jpf.go.jp for any additional information to help support you with your work in advocacy.

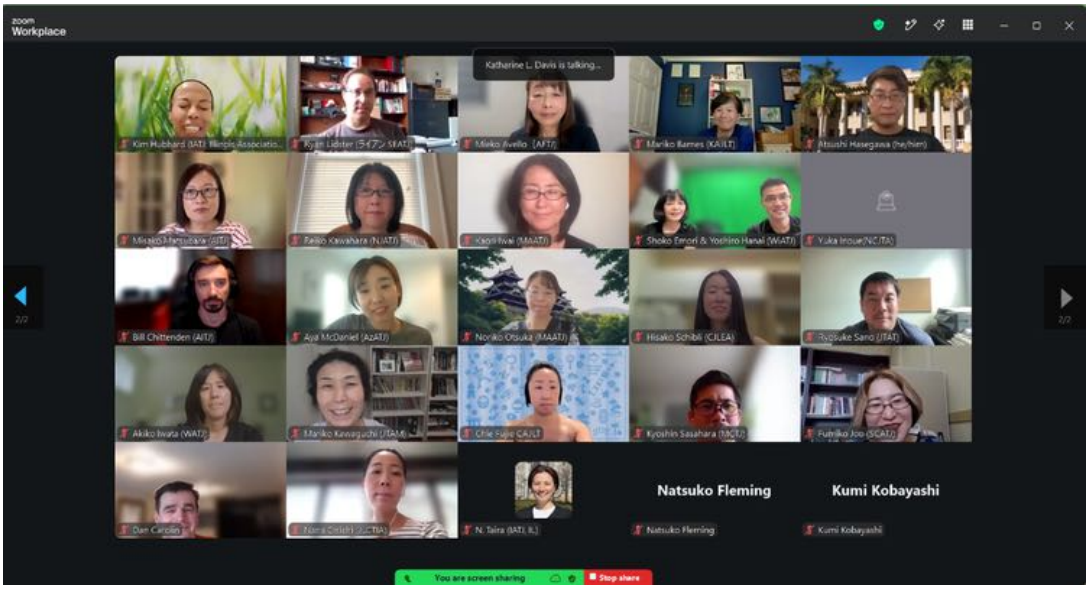
AATJ VP for K-12, Ms. Kate Davis, shared information about awards and grants available to AATJ members. Davis-sensei highlighted the “K-12 Growing Program Award” and encouraged teachers to **look into the details** and nominate a program. She also mentioned the AATJ Local Affiliate Meeting held on Friday, November 20th at 12:30pm in Room 302A during ACTFL.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of upcoming webinars, our first virtual AATJ General Membership Meeting on October 18th at 5:00pm Eastern Time, and the NJE survey.

It was a pleasure to see both familiar and new faces at the start of the 2026–2027 academic year, and AATJ sincerely appreciates the dedication and leadership of our affiliate officers.

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 San Antonio, TX. 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.



Call for Proposals: 2027 American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) Annual Spring Conference

The 2027 AATJ Annual Spring Conference will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2027, in Boston, Massachusetts, in conjunction with the 2027 Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. (Zenyasai takes place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 17).

We are delighted to announce our keynote speaker:

- Yoshiko Matsumoto sensei, Stanford University

The Call for Proposals opened on Sunday, September 6, 2026, and the submission deadline is Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

We invite proposals for individual papers, organized panels, and poster sessions:

- Individual papers are 20 minutes long, followed by 5 minutes for Q&A.
- Organized panels are 100 minutes long and typically include up to four active participants (three or four presenters, or three presenters plus one discussant). If a presentation in a panel is based on a collaborative project involving multiple people, please designate one presenter to serve as the representative. Panels may use their time flexibly but should allow at least 30 minutes for discussion with the audience.
- Poster sessions (Wednesday, March 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. EDT) are 60 minutes long. Graduate students and early-career professionals who have begun teaching within the past two years are encouraged to submit a poster proposal. Poster sessions provide an interactive opportunity to share research, innovative teaching practices, classroom projects, and works in progress while engaging in conversation and exchanging ideas with conference attendees.

This will be an in-person conference, and all presenters are required to attend and present in person. In addition, all presenters must be current AATJ members in good standing (i.e., annual membership dues must be paid) at the time of the conference.

Our conference brings together participants with diverse academic, professional, cultural, and personal backgrounds. Presenters are encouraged to create sessions that are welcoming and accessible to this broad audience and that promote meaningful participation and exchange of ideas.

Thanks to the Oka Professional Development Fund, five $1,000 scholarships will be available for participants in the 2027 AATJ Spring Conference. Priority will be given to three groups: (1) presenters, (2) graduate students, and (3) junior faculty/early-career instructors. Further details will be announced later this year, and early-career scholars are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal.

Advocating for the Japanese Program at UNCG

JESI ROUTH
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO2

Twelve years ago, I began supporting students at UNCG as an undergraduate student who simply wanted an extra space to practice Japanese. I never would have believed that 10 years later I would be teaching students in a formal capacity at the very school I fell in love with Japanese language and culture. My name is Jesi Routh and I teach the elementary level Japanese courses at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

From the start, I've always believed that if someone wants to learn Japanese, they need only begin. As a student, I facilitated many conversation hours, helping students who didn't have time to enroll in full-credit Japanese courses. It was during these days I began to understand the importance of speaking about our program and finding ways to connect students with the content in approachable ways.

While my journey deviated course for a while, every step along the way I delighted in sharing the importance of language learning with anyone and everyone that would listen. Conversations such as these reminded me of my passion for sharing Japanese and the love of learning new things with others. They kept me motivated as I worked towards my chosen career path. Even when such discussions were met with resistance and dismissive comments. Especially those conversations, as enraging as they could be.

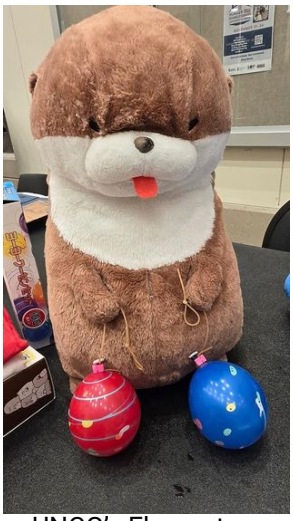
In this day and age of being connected to nearly every corner of the world instantaneously, where the device in our pockets can provide us with immediate translations, we are losing so many skills. It's one thing to directly translate a question, but another to understand the social clues and context to communicate with respect. With humility. To establish real connections.

This summer I had the honor of being part of a special training program for non-native teachers of Japanese put together by the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles. Among the many interactions, the great discussions and presentations, the experiences all catered to the needs of our schools, the greatest takeaway I have is the importance of fostering community beyond the classroom. In my 2 completed years of teaching experience, I've prided myself in my classroom community. However, my students deserve more. They need greater connection to the world around them. This was my missing piece.

As I've gotten more adjusted to the courseload I've been given and have found routines that work, balanced out responsibilities, including assuming the role of faculty advisor of the Japan Club on campus, I've been working on ways I can use my voice and make a difference for my students and for my Japanese program. This has manifested in hosting a workshop for my colleagues, presenting at multiple conferences, assisting with on campus events, and hosting a table for our program at multiple off-campus events.

Of these, the tabling opportunities have become a favorite of mine. Conversation and real-world connection with others in this capacity is more often than not rewarding. Many of the people I've spoken to at these events have not been interested in enrolling in university, some have just recently graduated, and some others still have been too young to be considering their college options. However, by being there, engaging with them, I'm certain that these encounters are just as meaningful. Especially as we celebrate the introduction of the Japanese Minor at UNCG and for many people in the community, they may not be aware of the growth happening amidst so much uncertainty.

As our program continues to grow, I'm more determined than ever to find ways to use my voice to garner even more support for our program. I plan to see this through community connections and finding, creating as needed, new opportunities for our Japanese Program to be highlighted and seen, and getting students involved as much as possible.
My work as an advocate for our Japanese program is just getting started. I'm forever grateful for the many wonderful people who make me excited to use my voice, even as I learn how to activate it: Dr. Takagi, Jaime-Sensei, Dr. Lidster, and many others who have inspired me.



UNCG's Elementary Japanese Mascot – ブレップ様 – after an event.

JNS 102 students hosting a table at the Hands-On Culture Jam event

Jesi in front of the Kita Urawa Station sign during the JFLA Training Program

Team J-Club after the Asian Autumn Festival on campus

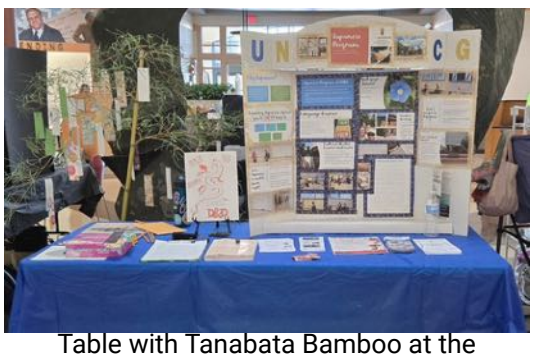


Table with Tanabata Bamboo at the Greensboro Public Library Anime Convention

Advocating for the Japanese Language and Culture Education

MIKYLA BOWEN

WHITE STATION MIDDLE SCHOOL

As a middle school Japanese teacher in Memphis, Tennessee, I am often my students' first introduction to Japanese language and culture. Many of my students enter my classroom with little to no prior knowledge of Japan beyond anime and stereotypes. Because of this, I see my role as extending beyond language instruction. Advocating for Japanese education also means providing students with meaningful cultural education and encouraging them to look beyond their surface-level ideas about Japan.

At my school, White Station Middle, I teach exploratory Japanese to students in grades 6–8 as well as an eighth grade Japanese 1 course that provides high school credit. In my exploratory classes, students learn basic Japanese language while exploring Japanese geography, traditions, school life, and contemporary culture. My goal is to expand my students' world views, to have a greater appreciation about other cultures, and to think more deeply about their own cultures and beliefs.

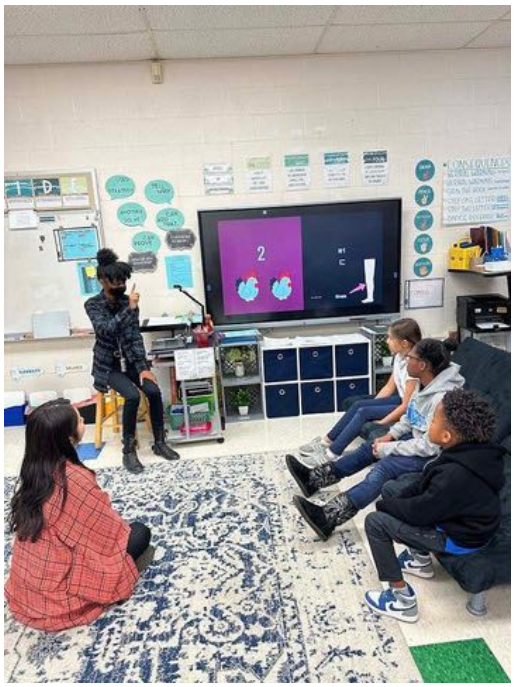
I also advocate for Japanese by encouraging students who may not initially be interested in language learning to continue their studies. Cultural projects like calendars, family photo albums, and travel brochures give students opportunities to discover aspects of Japan that personally interest them, while displaying student work throughout the school helps make the Japanese program visible to the wider school community. These efforts have helped me encourage students to continue into my honors Japanese program, including students who might not otherwise have considered studying a language.

My advocacy also extends beyond my classroom. I participate in community events such as the Memphis Public Libraries' Japanese Culture Club and have given Japanese language lectures at the Memphis Japan Festival. These opportunities allow me to share Japanese language and culture with people throughout my community while helping increase awareness of Japanese education.

Students play fukuwarai during an end-of-semester Japanese cultural festival

One activity that consistently excites my students is a Japanese music bracket. I introduce them to Japanese music from a variety of genres and time periods, from traditional songs to contemporary artists and popular music. Students listen to the songs, learn about the artists and cultural context, and vote for their favorites as the songs advance through a tournament-style bracket. The activity gives students an opportunity to experience authentic Japanese in a way that still feels fun and accessible. Many of my students become invested in the competition, often learning more about the artists outside of class and even recommending me songs or artists to use for the next music bracket.

When students discover something about Japan that genuinely interests them, they begin to see Japanese beyond just a class they are taking. It becomes a way to make connections with a new culture and community



Introducing students to Japanese numbers for the first time during a Japanese language lesson.

Students practice the hiragana they have learned through calligraphy

AATJ Awards Annoucement

ATSUSHI HASEGAWA
VICE-PRESIDENT, POST-SECONDARY

Each year AATJ recognizes one teacher from the K-12 level, and one teacher from higher education, who demonstrate excellence in teaching, advocacy, and leadership in Japanese education both locally and regionally. These teachers receive the annual AATJ Teacher Award, and are recognized at a ceremony honoring their achievements at the annual AATJ Fall Conference, held in conjunction with the ACTFL Conference each November. Nominating a colleague for one of these awards is an excellent way to support and honor a fellow Japanese language teacher. Please consider nominating a teacher you know! For more information, visit the **AATJ Teacher Awards page**.

Additionally, AATJ has added the K-12 Growing Program Award to the awards that are presented each year. This award recognizes K-12 programs that effectively use the resources they have to educate about Japan and the Japanese language, and make a meaningful impact on both individuals and communities. Any Japanese language program at the K-12 level that employs no more than one full time instructor, or two part-time instructors, is eligible for this award.

The K-12 Growing Program Award, unlike the Teacher Awards, recognizes a program rather than an individual. Thus, this award provides a complement to our annual Teacher Awards. We strongly encourage anyone who knows of a quality program that meets the criteria stated above to nominate the program for this award. For more information, visit the **AATJ K-12 Growing Program Award page**.

AATJ Officers' Election

We are currently running our AATJ officer election to select the President Elect and the Vice President–K-12. Candidate bios and statements have been posted on the AATJ website, and voting has started. **Please vote in October by logging on the AATJ Portal**

For President

- **Mieko Avello** (Miami Palmetto Senior High School/Florida International University-AFTJ)
- **Shinsuke Tsuchiya** (Brigham Young University-UATJ)

For Vice President (K-12)

- **Elizabeth Hojo** (The Woodlands College Park High School-JTAT)
- **Kazumi Yamashita-Iverson** (Maloney Magnet School-NECTJ)

We extend our deepest thanks to the AATJ Election Nominating Committee – Yoshiko Mori sensei- chair (Georgetown University), Ann Jordan sensei (Laurasian Institution), Yoshihiro Mochizuki sensei (University of Michigan), and Nobuaki Takahashi sensei (Elizabethtown College) – for their dedicated service and tireless hard work.

JNHS 応援 Grant 2025 年の活動を振り返り2026年の新たな活動へ

TOMOKO BAKER, JNHS CO-DIRECTOR

JNHS 応援 Grant は、AATJがJapanese National Honor Society（JNHS）の各チャプターの活動を応援するために設けている助成金です。2025年には「JNHS Mini Grant」という名称で実施されました。この助成金は、JNHSの 活動をさらに活発にし、それぞれのチャプターが取り組むさまざまな企画や活動を支援することを目的として います。

2025年には、高校4校と大学1校の計5校が助成対象に選ばれました。2025～2026年度には、各校のチャプ ターが助成金を活用し、さまざまな活動を行いました。今回のニューズレターでは、2025年度のJNHS 応援 Grantを活用して実施された2つのイベントについて、各チャプターのスポンサーの先生方から寄せられた報 告記事をご紹介します。

さらに、2026年度のJNHS 応援 Grantに選ばれた10校のチャプターとスポンサーの先生方をご紹介します。

生徒の主体性で未来の日本語教育をつくる

ドルベアー佳子

コロラド州ボルダー高校

ボルダー高校は、現在、学区内で唯一日本語プログラムを提供している高校です。しかし2年前、近隣中学校で実施されていた日本語プログラムが予算削減により廃止されました。その結果、日本語学習を継続する生徒が減少 し、本校の日本語プログラムの履修者数にも影響が生じました。

この状況を受け、ボルダー高校日本語ナショナル・オナー・ソサエティ（JNHS）の生徒たちは、自ら近隣中学校を訪問し、昼休みを利用して日本語プログラムの紹介活動を行いました。書道体験、日本の食べ物をデザインしたステッカーや消しゴムの配布、生徒の名前をカタカナで書いたネームタグ作り、簡単なアンケートなどを通して、日本語や日本文化の魅力を楽しく伝えました。活動を通して、多くの中学生が「ボルダー高校に日本語プログラムがある」こと を初めて知り、日本語学習への関心を高めるきっかけとなりました。

このアウトリーチ活動の結果、日本語プログラムの履修者数は昨年度よりわずかながら増加しました。また、他校に在籍しながら、日本語の授業のみをボルダー高校で履修する生徒を新たに2名迎えることができました。今回の取り組みを通して、生徒自身が主体的に地域へ働きかけることが、日本語プログラムの認知度向上や履修者の確保に つながるだけでなく、プログラムの維持・発展を支える大きな力になることを改めて実感しました。

今回の活動は、AATJ JNHSミニグラントのご支援によって実現することができました。心より感謝申し上げます。今 後も生徒が主体となって日本語・日本文化の魅力を地域に発信し、日本語教育の発展に貢献できるよう取り組んで まいります。

＜JNHSミニグラントで購入したもの＞

- 日本文化をテーマにしたステッカー
- アウトリーチ活動用ネームタグ
- 日本食・和菓子デザインの消しゴム
- 俳句コンテストの景品（盆栽LEGO、日本の文房具）
- カルチャーデーイベント用教材・食材（おにぎり用の米・のり・具材、抹茶ボバティー）
- 生徒のプレゼンテーション用ホワイトボード

Satoko Nourishirazi
West Boca Raton High School, Florida

Hello, my name is Satoko Nourishirazi., and I have been teaching Japanese at West Boca Raton Community High School in Florida for the past eight years. I am also the advisor for my school's Japanese National Honor Society. Our Honor Society members are actively involved in promoting Japanese language and culture both within and beyond our school community. They volunteer at Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, where they help support programs that introduce Japanese culture to the local community. At school, they also volunteer in lower-level Japanese classes, assisting their fellow students with language learning and serving as positive role models.

During the week of February 23–27, our Japanese National Honor Society students collaborated with the Japan Club to organize a week-long Japanese culture workshop funded by an AATJ grant. The goal of the program was to provide students with opportunities to experience Japanese culture through engaging, hands-on activities. Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of activities, including origami, candy sushi making, yukata try-ons, ikebana, matcha preparation, sumi-e painting, a kendama competition, hachimaki design, and a live taiko performance. The Honor Society students played an important role in preparing and facilitating these activities, giving them

valuable opportunities to take leadership roles while sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for Japanese culture with their peers.

Iam sincerely grateful to AATJ for providing the grant that made this enriching experience possible and for supporting our students in exploring and sharing Japanese language and culture.

今後のニューズレターでも、助成対象に選ばれたチャプターの活動を引き続きご紹介していく予定です。

2026年度 JNHS 応援 Grant
2026年度のJNHS 応援 Grantに選ばれたチャプターとスポンサーの先生方をご紹介します。
助成対象に選ばれた皆さん、おめでとうございます!

Joyce Arellano-Bravo — John F. Kennedy High School
Moeka Hashitani — University of Georgia
Hiroko Karch — Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School
Michiru Lowe — Rutgers University
Aya McDaniel — Arizona State University
Yuki Melvin — Lake Braddock Secondary School
Nicole Olson — Washington High School
Ann Tomatani — Iolani School
Minako Walther — Mountain View High School
Masanobu Yamashita — Sheldon High School

2026〜2027年度も、助成金を活用した各チャプターの様々な活動や、そこから生まれる新たな学びと交流の広がりを、引き続きご紹介していきたいと思います。

また、JNHS 応援Grantや各チャプターの活動についてご質問がありましたら、お気軽にお問い合わせください。
jnhs@aatj.org

【National JapaneseExam 説明会のご案内】

日本語学習の成果を、客観的に測る機会をクラス活動に取り入れてみませんか?
National Japanese Exam（NJE）は、American Association of Teachers of Japanese（AATJ）が主催する全米規模の日本語試験です。生徒の読解・聴解能力を測定し、全国的な評価や表彰が受けられる絶好の機会です。また、授業改善やプログラムの成果の可視化に加え、学校やご父兄にプログラ ムの意義や成果をご説明する際にもご活用いただけます。

「NJEとは何か」「JLPTとの違い」「どのような利点があるのか」といったご質問をよくいただきます。そのような疑問にお応えするため、教師会単位・学校単位など、ご要望に応じて説明会を開催いたします。

【説明会の内容】
・NJEの概要と実施方法
・生徒へのメリット（表彰・自信の向上など）
・授業での活用方法
・参加登録から実施までの流れ

【概要】
・所要時間：30〜45分程度（ご希望に応じて調整可能）
・日程：応相談
・形式：オンライン (Zoom等)
・費用：無料

ご関心がございましたら、ぜひこの機会をご活用ください。

National Japanese Exam
nje@aatj.org

AATJ Officers, Directors and Staff

Officers

President: **William Matsuzaki** (Columbus Academy, OH)
President Elect: **Jae DiBello Takeuchi** (Indiana University, IN)
I*mmediate Past President*: **Nobuko Chikamatsu** (DePaul University, IL)
Vice Presidents: **Kate Davis** (Troy Athens High School, Washtenaw Community College, MI), **Atsushi Hasegawa** (University of Hawaii, HI)

Directors

Global Network: **Nobuko Chikamatsu** (DePaul University, IL)
Professional Development: **Yoshiko Saito-Abbott** (California State University, Monterey Bay), **Kazue Masuyama** (California State University, Sacramento)
Advocacy: **Patricia Breun** (Madison Country Day School, WI), **Shinsuke Tsuchiya (**Brigham Young University)
Community and Belonging: **Andy Scott** (Kamehameha High School, Maui, HI), **Yasuko Takata Rallings** (Wake Forest University, NC)
Nengajo Contest: **Brian Thompson (Hagihara)** (University of South Florida, FL)
Japanese National Honor Society: **Tomoko Baker** (Morton Ranch HS, TX), **Yayoi Takeuchi,** (University of North Texas, TX)
National Japanese Exam: **Junko Tokuda Simpson** (University of California, San Diego)
Fall Conference (ACTFL-affiliated): **Jun Takahashi** (San Diego State University, CA), **Makiko Fukuda** (University of Texas, San Antonio, TX), **Jaimelynn Tateyama** (Moanalua High School, Oahu, HI)
Spring Conference (AAS-affiliated): **Mariko Wei** (Purdue University, IN), **Etsuyo Yuasa** (The Ohio State University, OH)
Japanese Language and Literature (journal): **Suwako Watanabe** (Portland State University, OR)

Staff

Executive Director: **Katie Ross**
Membership Coordinator: **Maiko T. Bacha**
JLPT Director: **Michiyo Colclasure**
Emeritus *Executive Director:* **Susan Schmidt**

American Association of Teachers of Japanese, Inc.
https://www.aatj.org/
Campus Box 366
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0366

2026 SIG Co-ordinators

AI and Technology	Ryo Nakayama	ryon@sas.upenn.edu
AP Japanese	Mieko Avello	avellosensei@gmail.com
Classical Japanese	Elizabeth Oyler	eaoyler@pitt.edu
Elementary School Japanese Education	Shiho Matsutaka	aatjelementarysig@gmail.com
Japanese as a Heritage Language	Masako Douglas	jhlsig@gmail.com
Japanese Language Education Graduate Program Network	Jae DiBello Takeuchi	jtake@iu.edu
Japanese Linguistics & Pedagogy	Mayumi Ajioka	mayumi.ajioka@unlv.edu
Japanese for Specific Purposes	Tomoko Takami	ttakami@sas.upenn.edu
Online Japanese Language Education	Magara Maeda	magara_maeda@jpf.go.jp
Proficiency Assessment	Ken-ichi Miura	ken-ichi.miura@fandm.edu
SAFLA (Study Abroad)	Hiroaki Kawamura	kawamura@findlay.edu
Translating and Interpreting	Yukiko Hanawa	yh14@nyu.edu

AATJ Membership Renewal

Thank you to the members who have renewed their AATJ membership for 2027!

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://members.aatj.org. We'll look forward to seeing you, online or in person!

Get Involved with AATJ!

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!

全米日本語教育学会

American Association of
Teachers of Japanese, Inc.
366 UCB
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0366