

# Japanese, beyond elementary school?

Students who have studied Japanese in K-5 and middle school can continue to study the language in high school and college. Many more schools are offering Japanese as a result of College Board's implementation of the AP\* Japanese Language and Culture program—a student's achievement can be assessed and a passing score or higher is rewarded as college credit.



Beyond school, the working world awaits and exchanges such as the JET Programme and the Japan-U.S. Fulbright Program encourages and enhances the exchanges between US and Japan, allowing young professionals and educators to experience a different culture and reflect upon their interest to achieve greater aspirations.

- 2537 US participants were sent on the JET Programme (2009-2010 Programme Year).
- Over 2400 Fulbright Memorial Teacher Program scholars from the United States since 1952!

Participants in these programs become like bridges connecting the US to Japan and this perpetuates until the entire world is connected as one!

**“Japanese culture emphasizes traits important to success in life.”**

Lisa Hodge, Parent

## Why learn Japanese?

“Learning Japanese makes me feel special and happy. I feel special because I can talk to Japanese people.” *–Hannah*

“I think Japanese is a wonderful language to speak and to learn about. When I walk through the classroom door, I feel like I'm entering Japan. Did you know Japan has different holidays; they even have Children's Day. It is such a privilege for us to have our school offer Japanese.” *–Makaila*

“Japanese class makes me happy because some people think learning another language is hard but it is actually pretty easy.” *–Connor*

“If we learn it now we call it foreign language. But if we continue we call it a language.” *–Lucas*

“If you are not learning Japanese, you are missing big time. You get to learn about the different foods, what they do for fun and the beautiful sights. It feels so amazing when you go to Japanese class. When you learn something about Japan, you want to go to Japan and see it.” *–Joshua*

*Comments courtesy of Ms. Jessica Haxhi's 4th grade class, Maloney Magnet School, CT.*

**JAPAN FOUNDATION**  
LOS ANGELES



The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles  
333 S. Grand Ave., Suite 2250  
Los Angeles CA 90071

t 213 . 621 . 2267  
f 213 . 621 . 2590

<http://www.jflalc.org>  
[jflaeducation@jflalc.org](mailto:jflaeducation@jflalc.org)

For more information, please visit our website at  
<http://www.jflalc.org> (select *Advocacy*)

# ESSENTIAL

for **Young Scholars**

Learn a Unique Language  
Expand Cultural Awareness  
Prepare for Leadership in the Global Community of the Future

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# Japanese Cultural Icons

## Arts & Literature

Haruki Murakami

Author of *Hard-Boiled Wonderland* and *The End of the World*, winner of the Franz Kafka Prize

## Culinary Arts

Nobu Matsuhisa

Owner and chef of Nobu and Matsuhisa restaurants

## Architecture

Yoshio Taniguchi

Tadao Ando  
Arata Isozaki

## Fashion Design

Issey Miyake

Kenzo  
Rei Kawakubo

## Entertainment

Ken Watanabe

*Last Samurai*  
*Letters from Iwojima*

Hayao Miyazaki

*Spirited Away*

Seiji Ozawa

Past conductor for the Boston Symphony

Midori Goto

Legendary performer at Tanglewood  
Founder and President of Midori & Friends

## Baseball

Ichiro Suzuki

Center fielder, Seattle Mariners

Hideki Matsui

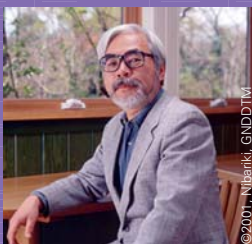
First Asian World Series MVP

Daisuke Matsuzaka

Starting pitcher, Boston Red Sox

## Nobel Laureates

16 Nobel Prizes in physics, chemistry, literature, peace, and physiology/medicine have been awarded to Japanese scholars—the most awarded to any Asian country.



## Japanese Culture

Japan is a leader in many fields that play a vital role in the well-being and richness of today's modern world. (See *purple box for a list of Japanese cultural icons.*) Influences from contemporary Japanese and pop culture such as anime, manga, and video games, all increasingly popular among today's students, have penetrated the global arena.

The richness of Japan's culture is not a recent phenomenon.

Hokusai's Great Wave Off Kanagawa is an internationally recognized artwork that has been praised by Vincent van Gogh and was a strong influence on Claude Debussy. Much of Japan's modern and pop culture is derived from traditional philosophies and aesthetics dating back many centuries.

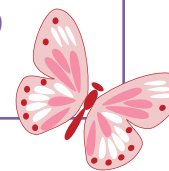


Not only is Japanese culture timeless, it is also borderless, drawing many Americans to its simplistic virtues such as the tea ceremony, ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) and Zen rituals. These customs have been practiced for hundreds of years in Japan, with aesthetics and logic reaching far beyond its time and appreciated worldwide.

The door to Japan's rich culture and history is open to students of the Japanese language. Being able to understand another language creates a deeper understanding of one's own language, culture, and society and a more balanced perspective of life. Students learning Japanese at a young age will acquire the language skills to increase their cultural awareness and maintain an edge over competition in their chosen career path.

## START EARLY

and give your children  
the opportunity to blossom into  
the global leaders of tomorrow!



## Japan/US Partnerships

Although Japan is a relatively small country, it competes favorably in business, science and technology sectors. Japan's GDP is slightly under 9% when compared to the rest of the world and 33.5% when combined with the US, a strategic trade and military partner in the Pacific Rim.

The positive US-Japan relationship is largely due to an "alliance, which is founded on shared values and shared interests that has served our people so well and has provided peace and security for the region in an unprecedented way."\* Japan is a vital partner in this shared pursuit with their leadership in R&D for the fields of robotic, biochemical and environmental sciences, computer & nano-technology, medicine, and consumer electronics.

## Japanese Innovation

Neon-bright lights illuminating the streets of Las Vegas and used as lightbulbs in homes and flashlights can be credited to the discovery of the bright-blue LEDs by Shuji Nakamura, a Japanese scientist and professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Since then, LEDs have found their way into scanners, printers, and color copiers (of which Japan produces 40% globally). There's a good chance that the machines in your offices and classrooms are a result of technological advances from Japan!

As our global community becomes increasingly interwoven through technological, business, and cultural interaction, communication and comprehension skills across cultures will be highly desirable. A working knowledge of the Japanese language will provide access to the various fields where Japan is a known leader, increasing career possibilities and employment options.

\*President Barack Obama, November 13th, 2009, remarks