

# Tucson Japanese Language School ~ Midtown Tucson since 2015~

## Annual Report 2023-2024

### GREETINGS



Our school began in 2015 with the hope of fostering Japanese language and the culture of our children's heritage, and with the support of our dedicated staff and volunteers it has gradually transformed. We continually ask ourselves, "What kind of school is needed by our community?"

We will continue to evolve and improve our school to the best of our ability to support Japanese families and people who want to learn Japanese, and to nurture and support the desire to learn. We thank you for your kind and generous support, and hope that you will remain a part of our beloved school community in the coming years. Arigatou Gozaimasu!

August 2024

Co-Directors: Hltomi McKnight & Minami Espinosa

### FINANCE

	2023-24	2022-23	YtoY
<b>Revenue</b>			
Tuition	\$ 15,249	\$ 11,759	+\$ 3,490
Sponsorship	\$ 970	\$ 1,234	-\$ 264
Events, Fundraising, etc	\$ 648	\$ 488	+\$ 160
Total Revenue	\$ 16,867	\$ 13,481	+\$ 3,570
<b>Expenses</b>			
Wages	\$ 11,020	\$ 6,880	+\$ 4,140
Rent/Insurance/License	\$ 3,184	\$ 2,667	+\$ 517
Materials	\$ 732	\$ 994	-\$ 262
others	\$ 1,372	\$ 975	+\$ 397
Total Expenses	\$ 16,308	\$ 11,516	+\$ 4,976
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$ 559</b>	<b>\$ 1,965</b>	<b>-\$ 1,406</b>

### 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

#### Sports Day

Students, families, and the Pima Community College Japanese students were grouped into red and white teams and competed in a variety of fun events showcasing effort, athleticism, and teamwork. The hard-fought and popular event ended with the white team's 261 - 241 win over the red team, and many smiles and some tears among participants who worked together as a team and did their best. It was a fun and memorable day for us and the students.

#### Tucson Japanese Culture Festival

On a Sunday in November, about 700 people gathered at our school and immersed themselves in a variety of Japanese performances and cultural activities such as traditional Japanese music, dance, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, fashion, and more. Guests enjoyed locally-made Japanese bread, rice crackers, and origami crafts. We were so excited to bring the community together to celebrate these Japanese culture and traditions, and it was a tremendous success.

#### Noto Earthquake Fundraising



When we heard the news about the deadly earthquake that struck the Noto Peninsula in Japan on New Year's Day, Yukari, the owner of Restaurant Ikkyu, organized a fundraising event immediately. Our school stepped up to help with the effort to raise funds for victims and survivors of the tragic event. Between snack sales and a

portion of Ikkyu proceeds, a total of \$8,000 was donated to charities helping survivors in Japan. It was a day that reminded us of the unity and warmth of the Tucson community, and we humbly thank you for your kind support.

#### Kanji Kentei

Our school is one of the few venues where students can take the Kanji Aptitude Test in the U.S. This year, 17 people, including examinees from out of town or even out of Arizona State, challenged and evaluated their Kanji skills. Congrats to those who passed the exam this year!



#### Tucson Japanese Festival

The Tucson Japanese Festival is back! This event had been canceled for a while due to the pandemic, but finally resumed and our school participated as a performer and exhibitor this year. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to sing in front of a big audience. This year, students learned some Japanese sign language along with a song. It turned out to be the best turnout in the festival's history, and we were so happy to be involved and celebrate Japanese culture.

#### Summer Festival at the end of the school year

The theme of this year's last-day-of-school was the Summer Festival, and after a short closing ceremony, students enjoyed Japanese festival games. A portable shrine procession and an early Tanabata Star Festival display (seen throughout Japan during the early summer months) added a vibrant and energetic atmosphere to our festival. Students created games like shooting gallery, ball toss, paper goldfish scooping, and ring toss in the class. After



enjoying activities, we quenched our thirst with Ramune and enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch to wrap up our year. Thank you very much to Yume Japanese Garden for the bamboo branch and Restaurant Ikkyu for Ramune donation.



### NEWS

#### Future of Our School

We've been thinking of the future of our school in the hope that it will continue serving the community for years to come. As we are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year, we have decided to make some changes including the name of the school and structure. We are currently in the process of making these exciting changes and will keep you posted once everything becomes official and ready to start the new phase of Tucson Japanese Language School!

#### Partnering with JBAA

Japanese Business Association of Arizona (JBAA) is a group of Japanese companies based in Arizona and surrounding areas and has been supporting Arizona Gakuen since its day one. We were so excited to hear when they offered their support to our school becoming NPO. Not only do they will provide a great deal of financial support, but they also support us in sharing ideas on management and introducing us to resources in both tangible and intangible measures. JBAA is currently looking for people in the Tucson area who want to join in the association. If you are interested, please contact the representative, Mr. Suzuki, at [suzuki.kei.ix9@jx-nmm.com](mailto:suzuki.kei.ix9@jx-nmm.com).



### 2023 SPONSORS

#### Corporates/Organizations

Takoyaki Food Truck | Restaurant Ikkyu | Blossom Acupuncture

#### Individuals

Jose Martinez | Tina Werley | Miho Shuler | Miki Pimienta

**Special Thanks** to Noriko Hayashi of JOI

### STAFF

#### Volunteer

Hinako Uchida | Azumi Uchida | Manami Okoshi | Megu Nakamura  
Kimiho Nakamura | Lumi Hisataka | Yasir Nemat | Hana McKnight  
Tamari Noriko | Jennifer Shioya( Nihongo Cafe)

#### Instructors/Assistants

Michiyo Egami | Rie Butler | Lindsay Moore | Miharue Lee  
Tasha Waldorf

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