



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

2020-2021

Course Title: Japanese	Teacher: Mr. Joshua Bengtson Email: jbengtson@tisweb.net
Grade Level(s): Grades 7 - 8	Time Frame: 37 weeks
Brief Course Description: <p>This course is designed for students with diverse linguistic backgrounds, who have achieved a certain degree of independence in using Japanese to function in an environment where Japanese is spoken. The course is designed to foster the development of near grade level Japanese language skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The end goal is to help students successfully participate in Japanese society while understanding the culture of the community, city, and country in which they live. There will be field trips, projects, as well as opportunities to study with guest speakers on various pertinent Japan related topics.</p> <p>Classroom study, homework, as well as students' own effort in interacting with and using Japanese language through various means will contribute to the development of the student's Japanese language ability. Excerpts from junior high school textbooks Kokugo 1 and Kokugo 2, as well as newspaper articles, video clips and other material will be used for this class.</p> <p>For the purpose of assessing the students' comprehension of the material, students will frequently be asked to turn in their notes from class, and provided with feedback from the teacher. The teacher will also provide quizzes on kanji and vocabulary, and at the end of each unit there will be an end of unit assessment. End of unit assessments may include essays, speeches and presentations.</p> <p>Students' written works such as essays, reflections and research papers will be assessed while considering their language acquisition levels. Student's oral presentations, such as speeches or presentations, will also be assessed accordingly.</p>	
Note Taking <p>Taking well organized notes for each class will be a key component for students to accomplish the course objectives and prepare for the unit assessments.</p> <p>Note taking and organization should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes from the whiteboard, as well as ideas shared in conversations with classmates and teachers• Writing down and looking up new vocabulary and kanji words• Questions, thoughts, and reflections• Keeping worksheets organized and filed so they are easily accessible <p>Students will be expected to hand in their notes from the class each week. It is a great way for the teacher to see how students are progressing, but <u>it is also a great place for students to ask questions, ask for help, and gain feedback from the teachers. Notes are an important tool of communication.</u></p>	

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A community of learners preparing for life in an evolving global society*

Japanese Course Syllabus (cont'd)

Assessments

Students' understanding of the class content and progress of their Japanese language abilities will be assessed through the end of unit assessment, quizzes and assignments.

50% - End of unit assessments (Such as essays, speeches, presentations, posters, and projects)

35% - Class work (Class assignments, note taking, and class discussion will help students prepare for their end of unit assessments. Students will engage in both individual and group work.)

15% - Kanji and Vocabulary (New Kanji or vocabulary will be assigned from the textbook or a workbook. The content will also be posted on google classroom so students can review the content at any time, and prepare for quizzes.)

Main Units of Study:

Theme of Unit	What will be happening in class...	Unit Assessment
Introduction to learning skills	Students will be introduced to speaking, note taking, and researching skills to become proactive and successful communicators and participants in class.	Short Essay
Interviewing and Presenting	Students will partake in listening, note taking, and interviewing practices. Students will interview an adult about their job, and create a presentation to show what they found out to the class.	Slide Presentation
Researching and Organizing Information	Students will read a biology related essay called "Daikon ha Ookina ne" from the textbook. Students will work on reading comprehension questions and worksheets. Students will also do research on a plant of their own interest, and work on how to sort and structure the information they gather.	Poster and Unit Test
Story Writing	Students will read a story called "Hoshi no Hana ga Furu koroni" from the textbook. They will work on reading comprehension questions and then write their own endings to the story.	Short Story and Unit Test
Reading Circle	Students will choose a book to read in a group. They will write a log to summarize and reflect on what they have read. They will introduce and act out part of the story for the class.	Drama Reenactment
Poetry and Creative Writing	Students will be introduced to a variety of forms of poetry. They will read, reflect on, and create poetry in each form and record their studies in a journal.	Poetry Journal



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Make-up work:

If you miss class for any reason, it is YOUR responsibility to get and make up the assignments. Please make sure to contact Mr. Bengtson via email or Google classroom as soon as you can, before or after your absence.

Late work:

Late work is accepted, but you will lose 20% of your grade. After 7 calendar days, the assignment will not be accepted.

Academic Honesty is important.

Do your OWN work. Do not copy or plagiarize anyone else's assignment. If you are caught copying, plagiarizing, or turning in work that is not yours, you will receive a zero.

Teacher: Mr. Joshua Bengtson

Email: jbengtson@tisweb.net

Please send me an email if you (**student or parent!**) have any questions, comments, or concerns.