

2019

National Japan Bowl® Report



National Japanese Language and Culture
Competition for High School Students

第27回全米ジャパン・ボウル大会

Presented by



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC

The 27th National Japan Bowl

On April 11 and 12, 2019, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC held the 27th National Japan Bowl® in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This year, 203 students from 64 teams came from all over the United States to compete: California, Connecticut, Guam, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The National Japan Bowl also welcomed back teams from Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C, in Mexico.

Students competed at three levels in a total of three rounds (two written Preliminary Rounds and one oral Conversation Round). In the Preliminary Rounds, the students were challenged by a total of 90 questions at each level, covering not just the Japanese language but also a wide range of questions on Japanese history, culture, daily life, and popular culture, to name only a few. After the results of the preliminary rounds and conversation round were tallied, the top three teams at each level advanced to the National Championship Round for a live, on-stage competition to decide the top teams in the nation.

On the first night, all participants were welcomed at the Opening Ceremony, which included a performance by Kiwi & the Papaya Mangoes, a traditional and experimental music group based in Tokyo, and performances by the Washington Toho Koto Society. Students participated in a variety of culture classes, which included an incense demonstration by Kihachiro Nishiura, hands-on calligraphy, yukata dressing, tea ceremony, and a karate demonstration by Katate Uechi Ryu at Fairfax County Parks. Selected students also participated in a wagashi workshop by Matsukawaya Sweets, where they experienced making traditional Japanese sweets. At the closing ceremony, All Japan Kimono Consultant Association gave a presentation on kimono dying and painting followed by a kimono dressing demonstration, and Okinawan Taiko of Wisconsin, Chin Daiko, and Rockville Ryukyu Taiko gave an exciting Okinawan taiko performance featuring a lion dance.

The Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, Kazutoshi Aikawa presented awards and medals to the national championship teams. Level 4 winners were awarded a trip to Japan by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. Several students in Level 4 were also awarded a trip to Japan thanks to the Kakehashi Project by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.



参加生徒・参加校

Participants

School Name

American Fork High School, UT
Center for Global Studies at
Brien McMahon High School, CT
Cupertino High School, CA
Eastern High School, KY
Eastview High School, MN
Ed W. Clark High School, NV
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, MD
Falls Church High School, VA
Gretchen Whitney High School, CA
Hayfield Secondary School, VA
International School of Beaverton, OR
Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA
Langley High School, VA
Liberal Arts and Science Academy High
School, TX
Liceo Mexicano Japonés, Mexico

Lone Peak High School, UT
Lynbrook High School, CA
Madison Country Day School, WI
Marysville Early College High School, OH
Montgomery Blair High School, MD
Northside College Preparatory School, IL
Shakopee High School, MN
South Lakes High School, VA
Southwest High School, MN
St. John's School, GU
Stuyvesant High School, NY
The Woodlands High School, TX
Thomas Jefferson High School for
Science and Technology, VA
Townsend Harris High School, NY
Woodlands College Park High
School, TX



30 Schools, 64 Teams, 203 Students

全米ジャパン・ボウル入賞校

Champions at the 2019 National Japan Bowl

Level 2

- 1st Place *Stuyvesant High School, NY*
- 2nd Place *Cupertino High School, CA*
- 3rd Place *Lynbrook High School, CA*
- 4th Place *Thomas Jefferson High School, VA*
- 5th Place *Shakopee High School, MN*

Level 3

- 1st Place *Cupertino High School, CA*
- 2nd Place *Stuyvesant High School, NY*
- 3rd Place *Townsend Harris High School, NY*
- 4th Place *Thomas Jefferson High School, VA*
- 5th Place *Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA*

Level 4

- 1st Place *Stuyvesant High School, NY*
- 2nd Place *Townsend Harris High School, NY*
- 3rd Place *Cupertino High School, CA*
- 4th Place *Lynbrook High School, CA*
- 5th Place *Gretchen Whitney High School, CA*



先生

Japanese language teachers

We would like to thank this year's teachers for their support of the Japan Bowl and their dedication to developing the "next generation" in the US-Japan relationship.

Marisa Bellini, American Fork HS
Keiko Sigmund, Brien McMahon HS
Stefanie Fan, Cupertino HS
Elena Kamenetzky, Eastern HS
Laura Moy, Eastview HS
Manami Mata, Ed W. Clark HS
Tetsuo Ogawa, Eleanor Roosevelt HS
Yumi Lawless, Falls Church HS
Eilene Oyama, Gretchen Whitney HS
Kyoko Vaughan, Hayfield Secondary School
Mikako West, International School of Beaverton
Yuki Melvin, Lake Braddock HS
Andrew Scronce, Langley HS
Hiroko Fukuhara-Karch, Liberal Arts and Science Academy
Alejandra Ramirez Bucio, Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C.
Matt Paskett, Lone Peak HS

Jeremy Kitchen, Lynbrook HS
Karen Hendrickson, Madison Country Day School
Danielle Krug, Marysville Early College HS
Yoko Zoll, Montgomery Blair HS
Jeung Hee Park, Northside College Preparatory School
Naomi Satoh, Shakopee HS
Adam Podell, South Lakes HS
Kyoko French, Southwest HS
Fumiko Harada, St. John's School
Chie Helinski, Stuyvesant HS
Koji Otani, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Mariko Sato Berger, Townsend Harris HS
Elizabeth Hojo, the Woodlands College Park HS
Adrian Macintosh, The Woodlands HS



Japan Bowl Sponsors and Supporters

The Japan Bowl is supported each year by many sources of funding. The major resources have been grants. The United States-Japan Foundation started its funding in 1996 and has played a major role in helping the Japan Bowl grow to become America's premiere competition for high school learners of Japanese. The Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation has helped expand the Japan Bowl to many new locations across the nation. The Embassy of Japan also has been a great supporter over the years. The Hiroko Iwami Malott Memorial Fund also has supported the development of the Japan Bowl in recent years. JASWDC is grateful to the following sponsors and supporters who made this year's competition possible:

Platinum Supporter



United States-Japan Foundation

Gold Sponsors



MITSUI & CO.



Silver Sponsors



TOYOTA

Bronze Sponsors

Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association
Marubeni America Corporation
Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)
MUFG Bank, Ltd.
Toshiba America, Inc.

Sakura Sponsors

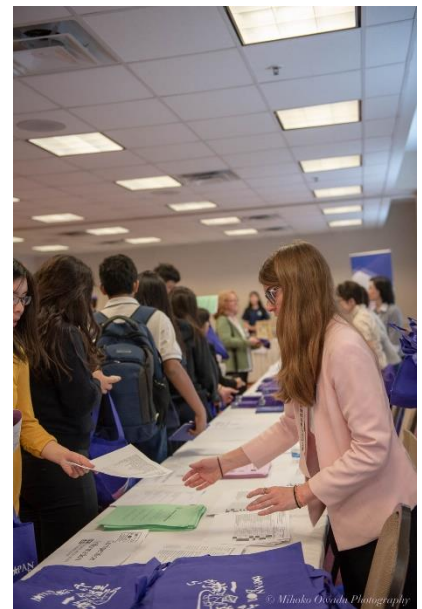
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)
Sophia University
Temple University, Japan Campus

Sponsors

Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc.
ITOCHU International Inc.
Japan Electric Power Information Center
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America Inc.
NTT Corporation
Sumitomo Corporation of America
Washington CORE

Special Thanks

IACE Travel
Kamada America
Kodansha USA
Matsukawaya
The Pokémon Company



We would also like to thank all the wonderful guests at the 2019 National Japan Bowl, who came to share their knowledge of Japan with all of this year's participants.

This year's special guests included:



Kiwi & the Papaya Mangoes

Kiwi & the Papaya Mangoes a.k.a “KPM” is a Tokyo-based collective of traditional and experimental musicians that formed in 2009. The group combines the musical styles of Japanese traditional/modern dance-pop music with musical styles from around the world (Brazilian forro, Indian traditional, African, etc.) and elements of reggae & dub, folk, funk, and rock.

Washington Toho Koto Society

The Washington Toho Koto Society is a nonprofit group founded in 1971 by Kyoko Okamoto to promote the understanding and appreciation of Japanese koto music. Since 1973 the Society has presented an annual spring koto recital under the sponsorship of the University of Maryland's Department of Music.



Kihachiro Nishiura

Kihachiro Nishiura is a descendant of Nishiura Enji, the founder of the Nishiura-yaki school of ceramics, which was highly acclaimed in the Meiji Era. His “Nishiura Style” exhibitions of incense, floral arrangements, calligraphy, and other art forms have been enthusiastically received in Japan and around the world.

Okinawan Taiko of Wisconsin, Chin Daiko, and Rockville Ryukyu Taiko

The Okinawan Taiko Drummers of Wisconsin, along with Chin Daiko of Maryland practice and perform Eisa, a traditional Okinawan folk dance from the Ryukyu Islands in southern Japan. They have performed together in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, on the Tidal Basin stage, and in the Sakura Matsuri Festival for many years. By sharing our love for Okinawan Eisa we hope that everyone will be encouraged to learn peace through understanding each other's cultures, so join our family and dance along with us!



Matsukawaya

Matsukawaya was founded in Nagoya in 1862. Their mission is to pass down and convey the important traditional Japanese culture of Wagashi, and to enrich the lives of all people by creating the enjoyment and deliciousness. The wagashi are made based on the beauty of nature and the four seasons of Japan.

All Japan Kimono Consultant Association

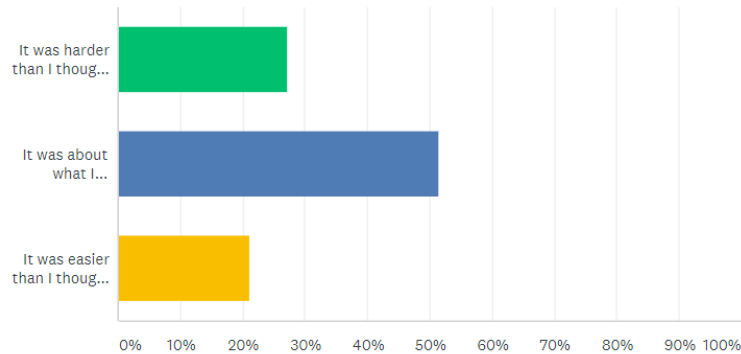
The All Japan Kimono Consultant Association (AJKCA) is a non-profit organization of about 10,800 members located all around Japan who teach everything related to the kimono, including how to wear a kimono, how to make kimono, and how to move in a kimono. Most of the members are either teachers in kimono schools or have their own businesses.



2019 National Japan Bowl Student Survey

If this is the first time you came to the NJB, how did the actual academic competition (the preliminary rounds and the conversation round) compare to your expectations?

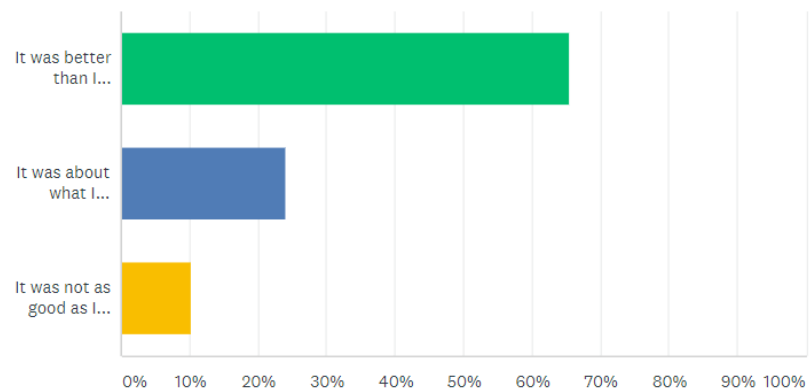
Answered: 33 Skipped: 12



It was harder than I thought it would be	27.27%
It was about what I expected	51.52%
It was easier than I thought it would be	21.21%

If this is the first time you have come to the NJB, how did the overall experience of the two days compare to your expectations?

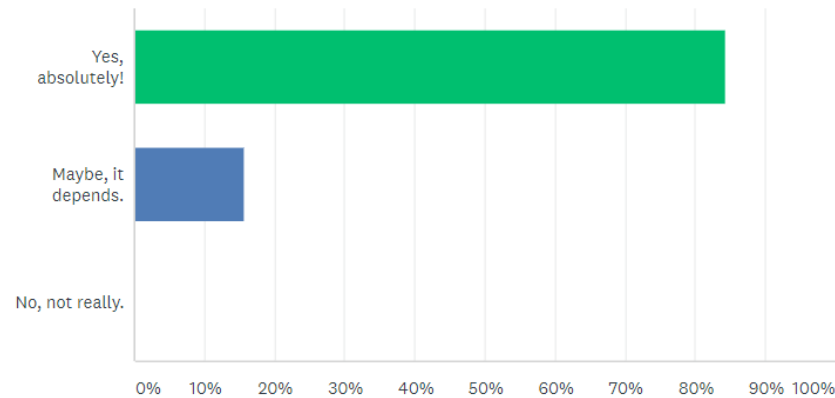
Answered: 29 Skipped: 16



It was better than I expected	65.52%
It was about what I expected	24.14%
It was not as good as I expected	10.34%

For everyone who competed at Level 2 or Level 3 -- Would you like to come back to the National Japan Bowl next year?

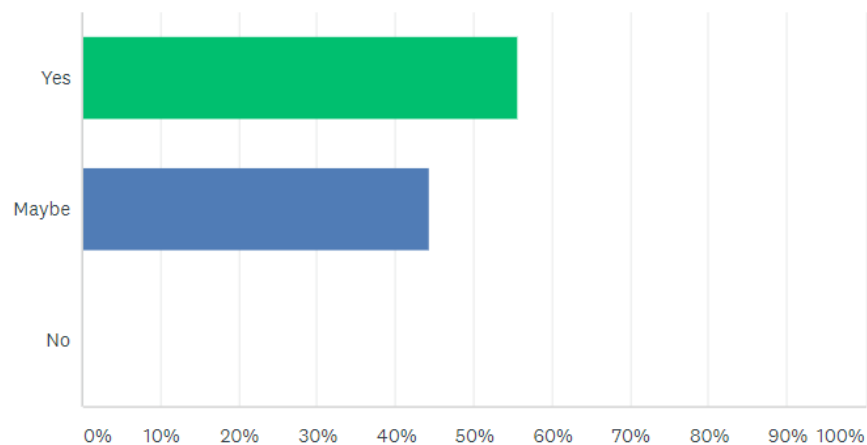
Answered: 32 Skipped: 13



Yes, absolutely!	84.38%
Maybe, it depends	15.63%
No, not really	0%

Do you plan to continue to study Japanese when you go to college?

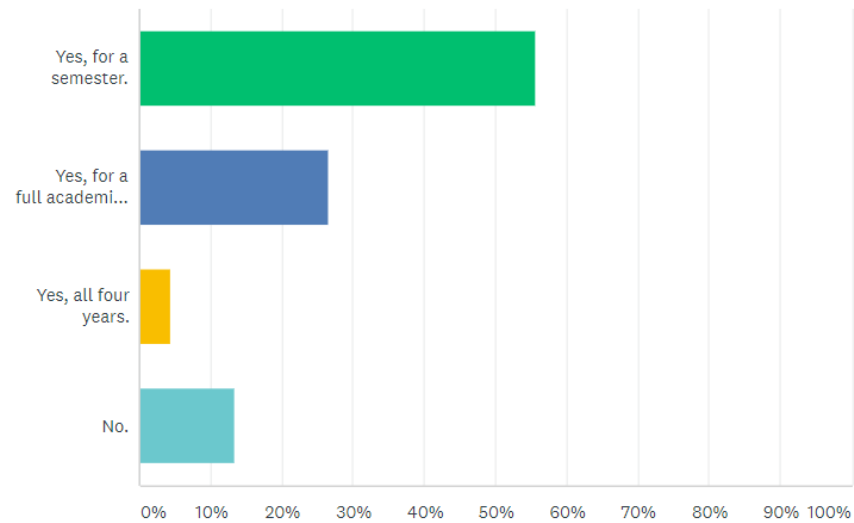
Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



Yes	55.56%
Maybe	44.44%
No	0%

Do you think you might want to study abroad in Japan during your college years?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



Yes, for a semester	55.56%
Yes, for a full academic year	26.67%
Yes, for all four years	4.44%
No	13.33%



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

Honorary Patron of the National Japan Bowl

Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado

Honorary Patron of the Japan-America Society

His Excellency Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan to the United States of America

Honorary Chairman

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Ambassador John Roos

Chairmen Emeritus

William T. Breer
Ambassador Rust M. Deming
Matthew P. Goodman

Officers

Go Eguchi, Interim Chairman
Shinsuke Takahashi, Secretary

Advisors

Minister Takehiro Shimada, Embassy of Japan

Trustees

June Aketa, Mitsui & Co (U.S.A.), Inc.
Emma Chanlett-Avery, Congressional
Research Service
Wendy Cutler, Asia Society
Abigail Friedman, The Wisteria Group
Lt. Gen. Wallace Gregson, Avascent Global
Advisors
Maki Hishikawa, Aflac International
Tetsuo Iguchi, Toshiba America, Inc.
Ambassador John R. Malott
Yoichi Mineo, Marubeni America Corporation
Kenichiro Mizoguchi, Hitachi, Ltd.
Pamela Passman, CREATE.org
Eileen Pennington, The Asia Foundation
Louisa Rubenfien, University of Maryland
Andrew Saidel, Dynamic Strategies Asia
James L. Schoff, Carnegie Endowment for
International Peace
Hiroyuki Takai, Sumitomo Corporation of
Americas
Yuki Tatsumi, The Stimson Center

Counselors

Lyle M. Blanchard, Esq, Greenstein Delorme
& Luchs, P.C.
Dr. Ken Calder, Johns Hopkins University
Ambassador Thomas Hubbard, McLarty
Associates
Katsuhiko Ichikawa, Central Japan Railway
Company
Chiyo Kobayashi, Washington CORE
Yoshie Ogawa
Dr. Sheila Smith, Council on Foreign
Relations
Glen Fukushima, Center for American
Progress

Legal Advisor

David Levine, Groom Law Group

Japan Bowl Committee

Robin Berrington
Margaret Breer
Jessica Kling
Yoko Lawless
Sang-mi Mchale
Yoshiko Mori
Noriko Otsuka
Louisa Rubinfiem
Sufumi So
Takae Tsujioka

Japan Bowl Staff

Ryan Shaffer, President
Marc Hitzig, Executive Director
Nancy Marsden, Director of Japan Bowl &
Japanese Public Relations
David Cobb, Coordinator of Community
Outreach & Strategic Communications
Tyler Burton, Intern
Michael Wang, Intern

