2016 National Japan Bowl ®
Report
National Japanese Language and Culture Competition for High School Students
第24回全米ジャパン・ボウル大会

Presented by
THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC
The 24th National Japan Bowl

On April 14 and 15, 2016, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC held the 24th National Japan Bowl® in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This year, 221 students from 76 teams came from all over the United States to compete: California, Connecticut, Florida, Guam, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

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 100 questions at each level, covering not just the Japanese language but also modern history, the literary arts, Japan’s political and economic systems, Japanese etiquette, gestures, body language, and Japanese food, clothing, and housing. 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 taiko performance by Tamagawa University’s Dance and Taiko Group. On the second day, they had the chance to meet shogi master Madoka Kitao, the head of “Nishiura Style,” Kihachiro Nishiura, and Sebastian Masuda, an artist who contextualizes Harajuku and kawaii culture into his work. At the closing ceremony, they enjoyed a Japanese rock performance by “Kanadete sourou” from Kyoto, Japan.

Deputy Chief of Mission, Atsuyuki Oike came to the Championship Rounds, spoke to the students, and presented prizes during the awards ceremony. Winners were awarded a trip to Japan, thanks to the generous support of the Mazda Foundation.

「ジャパン・ボウル」とは、全米各地で日本語を学んでいる高校生が日本語能力のみならず、日本の文化・習慣・歴史・地理・時事・日米関係など、幅広い分野について競い合う全米大会です。アメリカで日本語を学ぶ高校生を支援する教育活動の一環として毎年春に開催され、日本語学習を楽しみ、日本への関心を更に高め、大学においても日本語学習を継続してもらうことが目的です。

第24回全米ジャパン・ボウル大会は4月14・15日の2日間にわたって開催され、グアムからニューヨークまで76チーム・計221名の生徒が参加しました。今年は玉川大学太鼓グループ、和ロックバンド「奏手候」によるパフォーマンス、北尾まどか氏の将棋、「西浦流」の代表である西浦喜八郎氏の香道、きゃりーぱみゅぱみゅのPVも手掛けた増田セバスチャン氏のアートプロジェクト「TIME AFTER TIME CAPSULE」のワークショップなども行われました。また在米日本大使館より尾池厚之特命全権公使も訪れ、表彰式にてメダルの授与を行いました。

レベル4優勝チームには、Mazda Foundationの支援で、日本研修旅行が授与されます。
School Name

Cupertino High School, CA
Lynbrook High School, CA
Monta Vista High School, CA
Silver Creek High School, CA
Stevenson School, CA
Center for Global Studies at Brien McMahon High School, CT
Deerfield Beach High School, FL
St. John’s School, GU
New Trier High School, IL
Olathe North High School, KS
Olathe Northwest High School, KS
Eastern High School, KY
Lafayette High School, KY
Catonsville High School MD
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, MD
High Point High School, MD
Montgomery Blair High School, MD
Walt Whitman High School, MD
Eastview High School, MN
Edina High School, MN
Southwest High School, MN
Wayzata High School, MN
Townsend Harris High School, NY
Liberal Arts and Science Academy, TX
The Woodlands College Park High School, TX
The Woodlands High School, TX
American Fork High School, UT
Murray High School, UT
Pleasant Grove High School, UT
Falls Church High School, VA
Hayfield Secondary School, VA
Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA
Langley High School, VA
South Lakes High School, VA
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, VA
Westfield High School, VA
East Junior High School, WI
Madison Country Day School, WI

38 Schools, 76 Teams, 221 Students
全米ジャパン・ボウル入賞校
Champions at the 2016 National Japan Bowl

Level 2
1st Place  Cupertino High School, CA
2nd Place  Stevenson School, CA
3rd Place  Thomas Jefferson High School, VA
4th Place  Lynbrook High School, CA
5th Place  Townsend Harris High School, NY

Level 3
1st Place  Cupertino High School, CA
2nd Place  Lynbrook High School, CA
3rd Place  Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA
4th Place  Stevenson School, CA
5th Place  Silver Creek High School, CA

Level 4
1st Place  Monta Vista High School, CA
2nd Place  Cupertino High School, CA
3rd Place  Wayzata High School, MN
4th Place  Lynbrook High School, CA
5th Place  New Trier High School, IL
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.

Mariko Barnes, Lafayette HS
Marisa Bellini, American Fork HS & Pleasant Grove HS
William Collazo, Deerfield Beach HS
Dianne Daugherty, Olathe North HS
Kyoko French, Southwest HS
Carolyn Goodrick, Olathe Northwest HS
Adam Hammick, Liberal Arts and Science Academy

Fumiko Harada, St. John’s School
Karen Hendrickson, Madison Country Day School
Elizabeth Hojo, The Woodlands College Park HS
Keiko Howard, Monta Vista HS
Elena Kamenetzky, Eastern HS
Yu Kitamura, East Junior HS
Jeremy Kitchen, Lynbrook HS
Kumi Kobayashi, Lynbrook HS
Yumi Lawless, Langley HS
Yuki Melvin, Lake Braddock Secondary School
Yukiyo Moorman, Walt Whitman HS
Tomoko Moses, Murray HS

Shannon Mullaney, Catonsville HS
Shinobu Nagashima, Stevenson School
Tetsuo Ogawa, Eleanor Roosevelt HS
Koji Otani, Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology
Adam Podell, South Lakes HS
Masumi Reade, The Woodlands HS
Yukari Salazar, Cupertino HS
Mariko Sato–Berger, Townsend Harris HS
Andrew Scronce, Langley HS
Keiko Sigmund, Brien McMahon HS
Yuko Stenson, St. John’s School
Nicholas Sturtevant, Silver Creek HS
Naomi Suzuki, New Trier HS
Kasumi Tago, Southwest HS
Yoko Thakur, Falls Church HS
Sanae Tomita, Wayzata HS
Kyoko Vaughan, Hayfield Secondary School

Fumiko Wakabayashi, High Point HS
Kyoko Yada-Horner, Westfield HS
Yoshitome, Eastview HS
Yoko Zoll, Montgomery Blair 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. JASW is grateful to the following sponsors and supporters who made this year’s competition possible.

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We would also like to thank all the wonderful guests at the 2016 National Japan Bowl, who came to share their knowledge of Japan with all of this year's participants.

This year's special guests included:

**Madoka Kitao**
Madoka Kitao is a female professional shogi player who has 2-dan in shogi ranking. She is the CEO of Nekomado Co. Ltd, which promotes shogi as an enjoyable and player-friendly game. She invented Dobutsu shogi, which is a small shogi variant for children to learn shogi. She travels around the world to help people learn shogi.

**Sebastian Masuda**
Sebastian Masuda is an artist and art director, contextualizing Harajuku and kawaii culture into his work. He opened “6% DOKIDOKI” store in Harajuku to be the forerunner of the “Sensational Kawaii” movement. In 2011, Masuda made his debut as an art director for Japanese pop icon Kyary Pamyu Pamyu’s debut single.

**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.
**Kanadete sourou**

Kanadete sourou is a rockband founded by the leader, Koni. Later he was joined by vocalist Oyumi, guitarist Chiaki, and drummer Kentarou, appearing as a group of four. They perform live with the historical background of the Meiji and Taisho Eras, dressed in traditional Japanese clothing-kimono and hakama. They are a unique band mixing tradition with modernity. They write their own lyrics and music which are inspired by Japanese folklore and traditional tales and novels, with a wonderful modern rock sound.

**Tamagawa University Dance and Taiko Group**

Tamagawa University, located just outside of Tokyo, has been taking its taiko drumming and dance troupe on the road since 1961. One of the top taiko groups in Japan, they won third place in competition against 450 other groups at the Tokyo International Taiko Contest in 2006. The group is led by a great Kabuki-dance master, Isaburo Hanayagi, who is the choreographer and director of the group and also a Professor of Performing Arts at the university.

(Photo credit: Paul Kopicki)
**2016 National Japan Bowl Student Survey**

**Q13 Why did you decide to study Japanese? Please choose your #1 reason.**

- Answered: 68  Skipped: 0

- My interest in Japanese culture, more broadly.
- My friends or siblings/parents recommended it to me.
- Because it is a unique or challenging language.
- I have Japanese friends or relatives.
- Because it will help me "stand out" on my college applications.
- My interest in anime or manga.

**Q16 Do you plan to continue to study Japanese when you go to college?**

- Answered: 68  Skipped: 0

- Yes: 60%
- Maybe: 20%
- No: 20%
Q10. If you were to describe your experience at the National Japan Bowl – in a sentence or two – to your friends and to other Japanese language students at your school, what would you say?

- It's definitely a great experience where you should make the most out of the few days you're there.
- It was a great competition that really tested your knowledge of the culture, and lots of other things about Japan as well as your skill in the language.
- Overall it was so stressful but so worth it.
- The Japan Bowl requires an extensive amount of knowledge, but if you put in enough work then the result is very satisfying. But the most important part is to enjoy Japan Bowl itself.
- It really inspired me to learn more about Japan.
- Japan Bowl is an outstanding experience to learn not only the language, but its culture. It feels like you are actually in Japan, and not in Washington D.C.
- It was a good experience to gauge my Japanese knowledge and has helped me make a decision about what level Japanese I should take in the future.
- WE GET TO GO TO JAPAN!!!!!
Q6 Did you listen to/meet with any of the representatives who came from the Japanese universities?

Answered: 68  Skipped: 0

Q18 Do you think you might want to study abroad in Japan during your college years?

Answered: 68  Skipped: 0
THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

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