

Japanese I (Fall 2019)

Welcome to Japanese I!

Instructor: Noriko Jackson

Subjects: Japanese I, Japanese II, Pre-AP Japanese II, Pre-AP Japanese III, & AP Japanese IV

Conference Period: 10:00-10:30; 2:30-3:00 (with appointment)

Tutoring: 2:30-3:30 Tuesdays (with appointment)

Room: A109

Phone: 682-314-1600 (main office)

E-mail: norikojackson@misdmail.org

Credit: ONE credit for Foreign Language

Certification: NO certification, but AP Japanese Language and Culture Exam is available

Japanese Courses: Japanese I, Japanese II, PAP Japanese II, PAP Japanese III, & AP Japanese IV

*Students need to have **two** foreign language credits from **the same language** according to the graduation requirements by the Texas Education Agency. ** There are a few exceptions for this policy. If you have any questions about this, please contact your counselor.

Textbook: Adventures in Japanese I

Course Description: Japanese I introduces basic communication skills in Japanese, focusing on fluency (listening and speaking) as well as Hiragana letters, which are fundamental to comprehend Japanese. The class also practices writing sentences and reading. In addition, 36 Kanji letters, or Chinese characters, are expected to learn. During the course of the lesson, various aspects of the culture, heritage, and people of Japan will be also discussed.

Course Objectives

Students are expected to be able to:

1. Verbally communicate in Japanese to convey their messages;
2. Write about familiar subjects to communicate with readers;
3. Understand the main idea and some details of reading and listening materials;
4. Gain a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and people.

Supply List

- ✓ Pencils or mechanical pencils with an eraser.
- ✓ One binder or folder (recommended)
- ✓ iPad (if you choose to receive one from the ISD). Your iPad must be fully charged each day.

Grades:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	Below 70

Grading Practices:

Daily Work	25%
Speaking/Listening/Writing	35%
Assessments	40%

*Semester exams will be counted 20% of the grade.

Retaking Tests

If you wish to retake any tests except for the final exams, you will be given **ONE** opportunity to retake a test that you didn't perform well. You will receive your grade with the highest grade being a 70. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to notify the teacher your intention to retake a test. You must retake the test before the six-week grading period. If you encounter the situation where you need to retake a test, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** you participate in tutoring.

Make-Up Tests/Assignments

If you are absent for the testing day for any reasons, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to remind the teacher that you need to retake the test. You must take a test within TWO days from your last absence day.

*If you are in UIL, please see UIL Eligibility guidelines for additional information. The bottom line of the policy is "No Pass/No Play."

Late Work

Students will lose 30 points or 30% when you turn in the assignment one A or B day for a late, meaning they will receive a zero for work turned in after one day late. Be on time!

Course Calendar/Schedule

The course calendar will be on Canvas. Please create your Canvas account. You will automatically have an access to the calendar.

Homework

There won't be many homework assignments. You are expected to review for the day's lesson for 10 to 30 minutes and study for quizzes and tests. Especially, for those who plan to go up to AP Japanese 4, I strongly recommend that they be exposed to Japanese, including songs, movies, anime, etc. at least 30 minutes a day. If you are interested in anime, use SUB, instead of DUB to watch shows.

Posting Student Work

Students grades will be posted in Skyward parent portal within five business days for daily grades and major grades.

Class Participation

Active participation is critical to master Japanese and expected from all students. You will have a lot of opportunities to practice to speak through pair and group activities as well as the whole class practice and acting out. Take advantage of the class time to learn and improve your Japanese language skills. This class is a stress free classroom: don't be afraid of making mistakes.

During some activities, you are required **to speak ONLY in Japanese**. In addition to it, Teacher will speak ONLY in Japanese during the class time, meaning you MUST be paying attention or you will NOT understand at all.

Extra Credits

You may earn extra credits by voluntarily participating in the class and creating materials for the class (Please see the teacher for details).

Attendance and Tardy Policy

Please remember one class period at Ben Barber is equivalent to three class periods class at your home campus. If you miss one day, you miss three days! You cannot afford this. All tardies and absences will be recorded and reported in accordance with MISD policy set forth in the Student Handbook (p. 60). **An absence is defined as missing 20 minutes or more of any class.**

Academic Dishonesty

Please refer your student handbook. The student handbook explains it in detail. In my classroom, academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with policies outlined in the Student Handbook; academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, submitting the work of another person, allowing another person to substitute for oneself in completing course work or taking a course test, submitting work previously used without informing the instructor and securing written approval, or tampering with computer files and/or academic work of other students.

Consequences for Academic Dishonesty (NO negotiable. Teacher decides if a student cheated or not, not the student!)

1. Daily Work for every offense

- You will receive a zero for the assignment
- Referral to AP
- Contacting parents
- Consequence from administrator would be a MINIMUM of AC placement

2. Exams or Other Major Assessments

- You will receive a zero for the assignment
- Referral to AP
- Contacting parents
- Consequence from administrator would be a MINIMUM of AC placement
- As alternative exam or assignment can be completed for maximum grade of 70%

CELLPHONES, IPADS, ETC.

No iPads, cellphones, and any music devices are visible unless instructed.

No earphones or headphones are worn unless instructed.

1st Warning

2nd Conference with Teacher

3rd Notifying Parent

4th Referral

PLEASE READ (IMPORTANT!)

Dear Parent(s),

I am excited to have your child in my Japanese class. Learning Japanese can be fun; however, please let me share with you information regarding the Japanese class.

First, the Japanese language is categorized as one of the most challenging languages for English native speakers to learn according to the Foreign Service Institute of the United States Department of State. The reasons are because English and Japanese are very different languages in their words, grammar, and writing forms.

Second, learning the Japanese writing forms can be especially challenging for some students because of the nature of this course. Japanese classes at Ben Barber are semester courses instead of year-long courses so the classes are taught at an accelerated pace. Therefore, students are expected to learn reading one of Japanese writing forms called Hiragana, which has 46 letters, in the first three weeks of the class, and writing Hiragana in the first six weeks of the class.

All students have a great potential to master reading and writing Hiragana letters although they have to learn in a short amount of time. Some students may have to spend more time to memorize the letters. As you know, if you do not read English, you will not survive in your English class. It is the same in the Japanese class. It is very critical that each student reads and writes in Japanese.

This message does NOT intend to discourage any students from taking the Japanese class. I would like all of my students to be successful in the class and enjoy learning the language. The purpose of this letter is for the student and parent to understand the nature of the Japanese language, the setting of the course, and the challenges this course might bring if time is not spent learning the letters and writing in the first six weeks of the course. If your student needs additional help, please encourage him/her to attend tutoring on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:30.

Summary:

- ✓ Everyone has a potential to learn Japanese.
- ✓ The Japanese language is one of most challenging languages to master.
- ✓ Japanese has different writing forms (3 forms), grammar, words, etc. from English.
- ✓ The course is a semester course, meaning the class goes very fast.
- ✓ Students are expected to master to read Hiragana in 3 weeks & write Hiragana in 6 weeks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Noriko Jackson

Japanese Instructor

Ben Barber Innovation Academy

Return this section by _____.

Student Name (print): _____

I personally prefer to contact you via e-mails; however, I would be happy to contact you via either e-mail or phone. Please specify your preferred method that the teacher contacts you. If you choose to receive contacts via phone, please provide the number that you use between 10:00 and 3:00.

I prefer via e-mail: e-mail address (parent e-mail address)

I prefer via phone: phone number (parent phone number)

We have read the Syllabus (Fall 2019) for the Japanese I and discussed its contents. The student will follow all the rules and norms.

We understand that it is critical to be actively engaged in the class to master the Japanese language. My child will actively participate in the class and enjoy learning!

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

If you have anything you would like the teacher to know, please use the space below.