

Reasons to take にほんご (Japanese) at LGHS

Here's what LGHS students say about their Japanese classes:



- It's one of the most fun and rewarding classes I have ever taken.
- It makes me think in another way, completely different from English.
- It's fun to speak and write, and I feel accomplished when I make new breakthroughs.
- It's challenging!
- It's easy!
- It's so different, it places you apart from the crowd.
- The classes and activities are fun and keep my attention.
- The class is a community.
- I like my classmates and the things that happen in class.
- There's so much variety!
- It's super fun and I love it.
- The class feels like such a tight community.
- Going to Japan was awesome.
- I love meeting all the students who visit from Japan.
- "Family"-being together with friends you know.
- I continued to AP to get one more year in for college, but I honestly like everyone in my class.
We're family
- Everyday I exit laughing.
- Knowing everyone really well helps me learn.
- It's challenging, without being stressful.
- We all get along and have a lot of fun together while also immersing ourselves in a unique language and culture.
- Ok, seriously. Japanese is the best. You make great bonds with people you usually don't hang out with, and you have fun doing it. Plus, the teachers are awesome. Not only do we learn about Japanese language and culture, we learn social skills. Overall, it's a great four years with a family you can count on.

JAPANESE Program at LGHS

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to have prior experience in an Asian language to be successful?

Most of the students who start Japanese at LGHS have no prior experience, and a majority of them continue for four years. Factors include: high motivation and interest, social cohesion of the classes, and overall learning environment. Many continue their studies in college and integrate it into their careers.

If I begin Japanese language study as a freshman, will I be able to take AP Japanese as a senior?

Yes! The course sequence is Japanese 1, 2, 3 Honors, and Japanese 4/AP. An option to take a level 5 course exists for students who begin at level 2 or higher (heritage speakers, lived in Japan, etc.)

What cultural exchange opportunities are there?

Yes! LGHS has a partner school in Japan, and at the beginning of the school year, students from that school visit us, and we visit them for a summer homestay/study trip. Also, we have many smaller groups who visit throughout the year, as well as plenty of cultural activities taking place inside and outside the classroom.

I have prior experience with Japanese. What level should I sign up for?

Appropriate placement is very important. Contact Kobayashi sensei to schedule a placement test (see contact info below).

I have been taking another language in middle school, but I want to add Japanese. Can I do that?

It really depends on individual motivation, effort, and study habits, but many students do take more than one language at a time with great success.

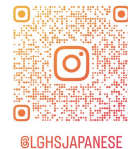
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For more information, contact Kobayashi Sensei at kkobayashi@lgsuhsd.org