



Involvement & Advocacy

A Parents' Guide to Helping Their Children Succeed



Why Japanese?

Learning Japanese can have both short and long term benefits through the introduction and acquisition of a new culture. In the short term, your children can look forward to unique activities relating to a new culture such as Japanese, which may be very different from their own. Fun and exciting classroom activities will motivate children to learn and embrace new ideas and concepts. In addition, children will develop improved learning skills in the areas of concentration, memorization and comprehension. The end result of a successful Japanese language education is a sense of self-confidence and pride, acquired by the learner, which they may not have had before.

Longer term, children will acquire important values through the study of Japanese. These can include persistence and respect for other cultures, important values in Japanese culture. Acquiring fluency in foreign languages, especially ones that are very different from English, allows children to understand their first language on a deeper level because they are better able to analyze it more critically. Learning one foreign language often has the unintended benefit of snowballing into the acquisition of a third or fourth language within a child's lifetime.

Potential lifelong opportunities are the most important long term benefits of learning Japanese. Children who learn to speak Japanese will have the advantage, when visiting Japan, of being able to interact with local cultures in ways that the typical tourist cannot. Japanese language facility will also enhance their ability to engage in multicultural friendships and exchanges. In the global community we now live in, having the ability to speak a second language such as Japanese can open many doors to educational and employment opportunities. More importantly, it shows potential employers that your child is an intelligent, respectful and globally-conscious individual.

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What You Can Do to Help Your Child Succeed

As a parent, you have the greatest influence on your child's life. Your attitude and approach towards your child's education can have a great impact on their success. Below are ways you can positively impact your child's performance in Japanese.

1. Show interest in their schoolwork
2. Provide moral support
3. Be Involved in extracurricular activities
4. Attend cultural events
5. Think of Japanese as an asset for your child
6. Encourage them to speak
7. Make sure they study regularly
8. Check up on their progress with the teacher
9. Think "Japanese is not difficult"
10. Visit Japan
11. Host a Japanese student

What You Can Do to Help Your Child's Japanese Language Program Succeed

Great Japanese language programs do not stand on their own—they are supported by a community of advocates who want to see their school succeed and the students prosper. Parent involvement is a key ingredient to the success of a program. Below are ways you can get involved and contribute to the success of the program, and ultimately your child.

1. Be vocal
2. Be involved
3. Give the teacher feedback
4. Donate to the school
5. Help with fundraising efforts