

# Tucson Japanese Language School ~ Midtown Tucson since 2015 ~

## Annual Report 2019-2020

### Greetings

Thank you for all of your support for the 2019-2020 school year. We faced some challenging times in the middle of the second semester with the COVID-19 outbreak. To prioritize the safety of our students, families, and staff, we shifted the school to online classes. It was a big learning curve for all of us, but with the support of our parents and hard working teachers and staff, we were able to end our semester without much interruption. It was 5 years ago that we started the Japanese school with only 25 students, and this year, we had 40 students enroll and complete their school year. We couldn't imagine we would grow so much by this, our 5th year anniversary. We are honored and blessed to have amazing teachers and staff to help us operate the school, and also parents who support our unique mission. We embrace our students, parents, staff, volunteers, and friends, who continue to make Tucson Japanese Language School a truly wonderful organization. We would like to present this report to tell you the story of our school and help track how well we are living up to our mission as a learning organization.

June 2020

Hitomi McKnight & Minami Espinosa, Managers



picture:  
at Halloween 2019

### Our Mission

We are dedicated to helping children and families in our community maintain and expand their Japanese language skills in a school environment with standards close to that of schools in their home country of Japan. We will provide opportunities and develop programs for the community to learn Japanese language and culture.

### Our Goal

#### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

To develop and nurture students' self-confidence and creativity, deepen their multicultural understanding through language learning, and inspire them to be effective communicators, progressive thinkers, and attentive listeners who offer ideas openly using their language abilities.

#### FINANCIAL STABILITY

To ensure effective and transparent financial stewardship resulting in optimal class sizes that create a more personalized learning environment.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

To cultivate a culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains the best staff members

### Finance

	2019-20	2018-19
<b>Income</b>		
Tuition	\$ 15,910	\$ 11,185
Sponsorship	\$ 2,565	\$ 1,350
Fundraising/Event	\$ 1,288	\$ 4,376
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 19,463</b>	<b>\$ 16,912</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Wages	\$ 11,976	\$ 9,674
Rent/Insurance/License	\$ 2,162	\$ 2,125
Material / Event	\$ 3,811	\$ 1,821
Others	\$ 304	\$ 545
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 18,253</b>	<b>\$ 14,165</b>
<b>Balance forward</b>	<b>\$ 6,617</b>	<b>\$ 3,870</b>
<b>Net Balance as of June 2020</b>	<b>\$ 9,092</b>	<b>\$ 6,617</b>

### 2019 Highlights

#### NIHONGO CAFE

We are pleased to announce that this year we launched the Tucson Nihongo Café, where people can practice their conversational Japanese. It is designed for adults to develop speaking ability and have fun speaking in Japanese with others who share a love for Japanese culture and language. Topics can be anything from food, travel, social issues, and more. We make this program affordable and accessible for all. You can walk-in, and the fee is only \$5 per session including tea. The program is on a first come first serve basis. No reservation is required, however you must register in advance for the first time to participate. We hope that many members of the Tucson community can benefit from this program. Visit our homepage for more details.

#### TUCSON JAPANESE FESTIVAL

We have been participating in the Tucson Japanese Festival for several years as a food vendor. This year, partnering with Southern Arizona Japanese Cultural Coalition, we hosted a game room to introduce some of Japan's traditional games, and a calligraphy experience booth. Children and adults enjoyed trying out different games in order to collect Japanese style stamps to complete a stamp rally. We were truly excited to share this experience with and enhance the festival with authentic Japanese New Year traditions. With the help of our volunteers, we were able to raise nearly \$1,000 to support our students.



### The Future of TJLS

#### For Sustainable

We believe that our school has a unique mission that serves and benefits various people in our community and we are hoping to proceed to obtain 503(c)(1) status now that we are confident that we will be a long lasting organization here in Tucson. This process will take time and commitment. Tucson is an attractive destination for the Japanese population gathered due to the University of Arizona and the Davis Monthan Airforce base, but at the same time the migration rate is high. Our growing International division and new Nihongo Cafe initiative means we must secure qualified and skilled staff to respond to the needs of our community. After 5 years of operation, we will continue to develop sustainable business strategies, expand new curriculums, and acquire needed funds while we ensure the qualities of education and learning environment for existing students.

#### 2019 SPONSORS

##### Business/ Organization

Southern Arizona Japanese Culture Coalition  
EMRO USA Effective Microorganisms  
Tucson Japanese Christian church  
Valencia Uchida Geo Service

##### Individual

Mr & Mrs Gross  
Anonymus

#### OUR STAFF

##### Volunteer

Megumi Iida Mayumi Ito Tadaomi Enami Shioho Enami  
Iori Obukuro Masaki Hachiguchi Justin Rauman Rie Butler  
Akiko Victorson Kiyoko Matsuyama Mary Saxson

##### Teacher / Assistant

Ethan Schwalbe Miki Nenn Keiko Hashiguchi Risa Peters  
Mayumi Pouchet Mihar Lee

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