

# Tucson Japanese Language School ~ Midtown Tucson since 2015 ~

## Annual Report 2020-2021

### Greetings

In 2020, Tucson Japanese Language School began our sixth year since our founding in 2015. We started with online lessons due to the impact of COVID-19, and in the end, couldn't return to in-person class until the end of the school year. Although we all had to explore new ways of learning and teaching, it was an extraordinary year for our School. On the last day of classes in May, we were able to hold a small Sports Day on the grounds of the International School of Tucson. We were so glad to see our students in person, even if only for a short while. We missed them all year. We look back with unending gratitude for our teachers, assistants and volunteers who efforts made student learning possible this year online. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to parents and families who supported and cooperated with us during this difficult year. Above all, we were extremely impressed with our students who showed their engagement and love of learning, and we were very proud of their work and efficiency all year. We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall.

August 2021  
Hitomi McKnight & Minami Espinosa, Managers



### 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

	2020-21	2019-20
<b>Revenue</b>		
Tuition	\$ 7,608	\$16,740
Sponsorship	\$ 1,225	\$ 2,488
Fundraising and others.	\$ 182	\$ 1,065
Total Income	\$ 9,015	\$20,293
<b>Expenses</b>		
Wages	\$ 5,288	\$12,680
Rent/Insurance/License	\$ 1,394	\$ 2,162
Material / Events	\$ 197	\$ 3,311
Others	\$ 303	\$ 365
Total Expenses	\$ 7,182	\$18,518
<b>Balance forward</b>	<b>\$ 8,125</b>	<b>\$ 6,350</b>
<b>Net Balance as of June 2021</b>	<b>\$ 9,958</b>	<b>\$ 8,125</b>

### 2020 Highlights

#### Remote Learning

After schools nationwide suffered closures in March 2020, remote learning, or distance education, became our norm. It has been a challenge for all of us. At first, students seemed to feel insecure and uncomfortable and were reluctant to speak up. Some may have found that learning at home is fraught with distractions. It was probably difficult for younger students especially, who need more hand-holding than older students. What we all missed was the chance to engage with one another in person. So still, we needed to find new ways to interact and collaborate with others online. Going to school remotely required discipline and the teaching wasn't nearly the same as it is in a regular in-person setting. We had spent many hours in meetings to share ideas and information, and knowledge of technology and online teaching skills to find ways for remote learning to be exciting and fun. There's no question that this was an opportunity for your student to grow as a student and learner, as well as for us as teachers, and even if we go back to face-to-face, we remember this experience to improve our classes.

#### Mini Sports Day



As we approached the second half of the year without being able to have any school events, a staff member asked us if we could coordinate something fun for our students at the end of the school year. We knew students missed Sports Day so much, so we decided to bring it back. We had several

events with safety measures in place and focused on races with siblings and parents. We invited a Takoyaki Food Truck and enjoyed a picnic lunch after the event. Also Laura Carson, hip-hop dancer, came to teach Hip-Hop dance in Japanese. It was great to see big smiles on our students' faces. We thank Tomomi and Miharu for coming with the food truck. Huge thanks to Laura and her students who came to teach us cool hip-hop dance, and volunteers to support this event.



#### Online Nihongo Cafe

"Nihongo cafe", started in January 2020 for adults who want to learn Japanese, was a big success until Covid hit. We had to suspend the operation to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Then, we received an email from Japan, asking if they could help with Nihongo Cafe. In September 2020, we launched our new initiative "Nihongo Cafe x Anjo", an online language exchange program in Japanese / English with the help of volunteers from Anjo City, Aichi. Anjo is known to be actively engaged in international exchange programs. Nihongo cafe is run by 100% volunteers. They meet twice a month as a group, and individuals can sign up for 1 on 1 sessions. The program is free and open to anyone. You can practice your Japanese with native Japanese speakers from home, office, or anywhere if you have the internet. We are making efforts to create an environment for beginners of Japanese language learners to participate as well. If you are interested in, please feel free to contact at [tucson.nihongo.cafe@gmail.com](mailto:tucson.nihongo.cafe@gmail.com)

#### 2020 SPONSORS

##### Business/ Organization

Southern Arizona Japanese Culture Coalition

EMRO USA Effective Microorganisms

##### Individual

Mr & Ms Gross | Ms Naoko Kimura | Ms Miho Schuler | Ms. Kanako Fukui

#### OUR STAFF

##### Volunteer

Megumi Iida | Mayumi Ito | Iori Obukuro | Risa Peters | Lindsey Moore

##### Teacher / Assistant

Ethan Schwalbe | Mai Takahashi | Miki Nenn | Miharu Lee

Tucson Japanese Language School LLC | 1803 E Seneca St. Tucson AZ 85719

[tucson.nihongo.hosyuko@gmail.com](mailto:tucson.nihongo.hosyuko@gmail.com)

<http://tucsonnihongohosyu.wixsite.com/tucsonhosyuko>