

2023

NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL REPORT



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC

31st National Japan Bowl At a Glance

Host

Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASWDC)

Dates

April 13-14, 2023

Venue

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Participants

155 students, 51 teams (from 13 states and territories)

Audience

299 guests in attendance, 980 views of the Japan Bowl Broadcast (JASWDC YouTube Channel, as of June 12, 2023).

Guest Appearances

Her Imperial Highness Hisako, Princess Takamado, Honorary Patron of the Japan Bowl

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel, United States Ambassador to Japan

His Excellency Koji Tomita, Japan Ambassador to the United State

Erika Moritsugu, White House Deputy Assistant to the President, and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Senior Liaison

Minister Koichi Ai, Minister of Chancery and Public Affairs at the Embassy of Japan

...and many others!

31st National Japan Bowl At a Glance

31st National Japan Bowl Winners

Cupertino High School, CA (Level IV)

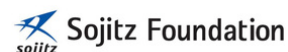
Cupertino High School, CA (Level III)

Stuyvesant High School, NY (Level II)

Grantors & Sponsors



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31st National Japan Bowl Report

On April 13–14, 2023, the Japan–America Society of Washington DC (JASWDC) held the 31st National Japan Bowl®, live and in-person again for the first time in three years, since 2019. Students participated in two days of intense competition that culminated in a championship round, where the top three teams from each level put their Japanese language and cultural knowledge skills to the test in front of a live audience to claim the title of 2023 National Japan Bowl Champions. Held at the University of Maryland, at the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, the event welcomed 299 in-person guests, featuring 51 student teams from 13 states and territories, including Mexico. 980 people tuned in to watch the Japan Bowl Broadcast of the Level 4 Championship Round, which was posted on JASWDC’s YouTube channel.

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This year’s participants were welcomed with messages of support from JASWDC friends such as Japan Bowl’s Honorary Patron Princess Takamado , US Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, Japan Ambassador to the US Koji Tomita, White House AAPI Advisor, Erika Moritsugu and Minister of Chancery and Public Affairs at the Embassy of Japan, Koichi Ai. We were also joined by five special guests judges, including Minister Ai, Executive Director of Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) USA Kazuyo Kato, Chief of NHK’s Washington Bureau, Masaru Takagi, Nishiura Style calligraphy instructor Yoshiko Tsuda, and Lecturer in the Japanese Department at the University of Maryland, Mari Hamada.

National Japan Bowl participants competed in three levels over two preliminary rounds, during which students were challenged by questions covering not only the Japanese language but also a wide range of questions on Japanese history, culture, daily life, and popular culture. The top three teams at each level advanced to the National Championship Round.

The National Championship Round crowned this year’s National Japan Bowl winners: Cupertino High School, CA (Level 4), Cupertino High School, CA (Level 3), and Stuyvesant High School, NY (Level 2). Prizes were also awarded to students who showed exceptional speaking skills during the conversation rounds, with each of the conversation round judges selecting a student from their conversation room. This year JASWDC is once again proud to partner with the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kakehashi Project to bring Level IV champions on a “Champions’ Trip” to Japan.

Complementing the student's in-person competition experience, the 31st National Japan Bowl also featured a range of cultural workshops and activities, including a Japanese translation workshop with Director of the University of Maryland College Park's Japanese Department, Michele Mason, a career panel with local US-Japan experts, sharing their experiences working in policy, cultural, and language-related careers, an info panel on Fukushima Prefecture with representatives from Fukushima Prefectural Office in Japan, a tea ceremony presentation and hands-on workshop with Study Japanese in Arlington (SJA), and #EdamameChamp, a fast-paced chopstick challenge and educational session on soy from Table for Two.

The National Japan Bowl benefitted from the support of 16 generous sponsors and grantors, in addition to a variety of program partners. Students had the unique opportunity to attend an "Opportunities in Japan" Information Fair, enabling Students and teachers to learn more about the Japan-focused education and career-related opportunities open to them, with representatives & info booths from Waseda University, Georgetown University, Temple University Japan Campus, Fukushima Prefecture, International Student Conferences, JPT America, The JET Program, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

On April 18-19, 2024, Japan-America Society of Washington DC plans to host the National Japan Bowl on the University of Maryland Campus, welcoming students from across the country back to the National Japan Bowl for the competition's 32nd year. We hope to see you there!

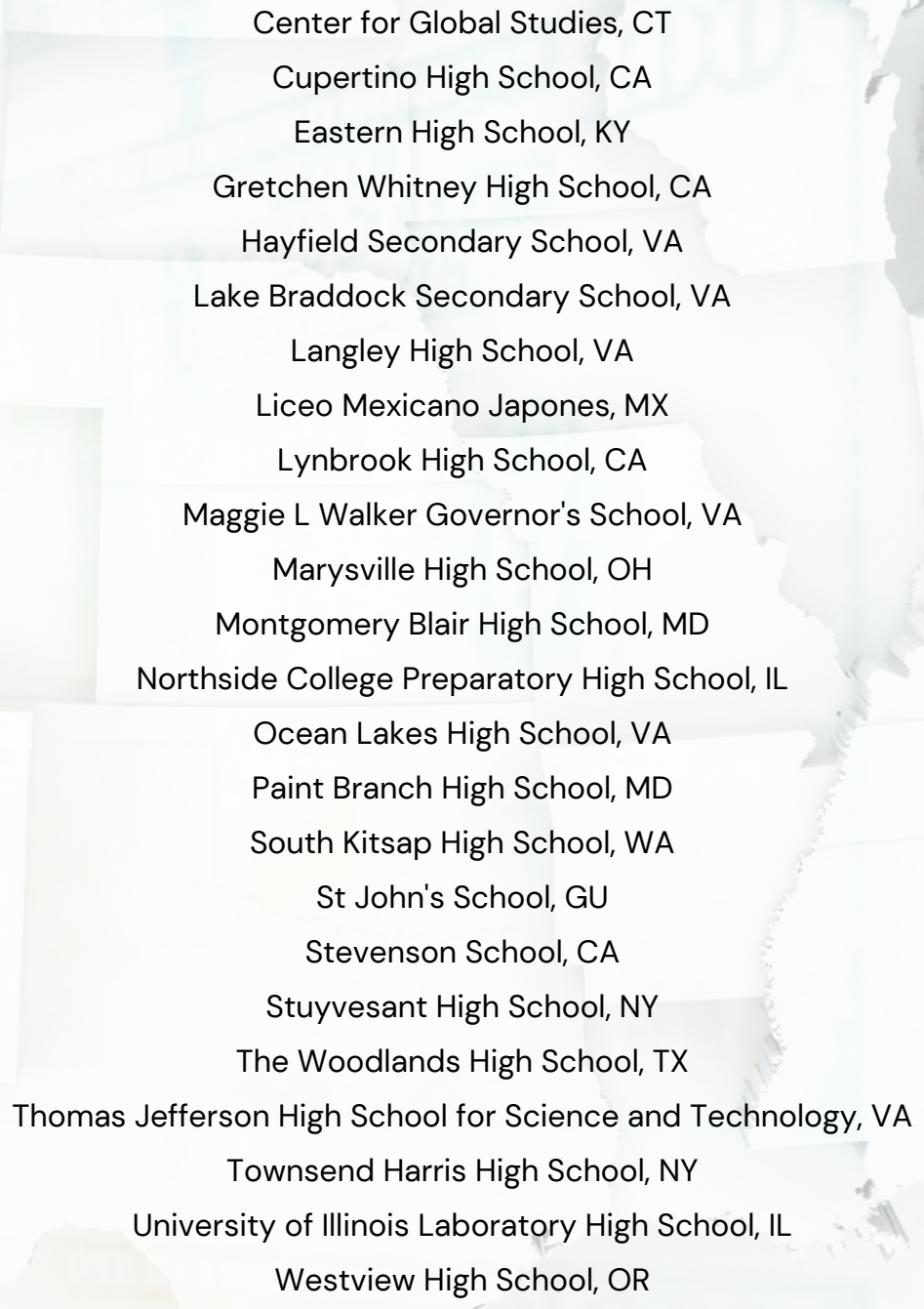


24 Schools, 51 Teams, 155 Students

学校

Participating

SCHOOLS

- 
- Center for Global Studies, CT
 - Cupertino High School, CA
 - Eastern High School, KY
 - Gretchen Whitney High School, CA
 - Hayfield Secondary School, VA
 - Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA
 - Langley High School, VA
 - Liceo Mexicano Japonese, MX
 - Lynbrook High School, CA
 - Maggie L Walker Governor's School, VA
 - Marysville High School, OH
 - Montgomery Blair High School, MD
 - Northside College Preparatory High School, IL
 - Ocean Lakes High School, VA
 - Paint Branch High School, MD
 - South Kitsap High School, WA
 - St John's School, GU
 - Stevenson School, CA
 - Stuyvesant High School, NY
 - The Woodlands High School, TX
 - Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, VA
 - Townsend Harris High School, NY
 - University of Illinois Laboratory High School, IL
 - Westview High School, OR

24 Schools, 51 teams, 155 students

全米ジャパン・ボウル優勝校

CHAMPIONS AT THE 2023 NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL

LEVEL 4

- 1st Place: Cupertino High School, CA
- 2nd Place: Lynbrook High School, CA
- 3rd Place: Gretchen Whitney High School, CA
- 4th Place: Stevenson School, CA
- 5th Place: Stuyvesant High School, NY

LEVEL 3

- 1st Place: Cupertino High School, CA
- 2nd Place: Lynbrook High School, CA
- 3rd Place: Townsend Harris High School, NY
- 4th Place: Stuyvesant High School, NY
- 5th Place: Stevenson School, CA

LEVEL 2

- 1st Place: Stuyvesant High School, NY
- 2nd Place: Lynbrook High School, CA
- 3rd Place: Cupertino High School, CA
- 4th Place: Gretchen Whitney High School, CA
- 5th Place: Stevenson School, CA



31st National Japan Bowl Winners and Finalists from California

24 Schools, 51 teams, 155 students

全米ジャパン・ボウル会話ラウンド優秀者

CONVERSATION ROUND WINNERS

LEVEL 4

Joanne Park, St. John's School
Maya Swaminathan, Lynbrook High School
Samantha Xie, Stevenson School

LEVEL 3

Noemi Ricotti, Montgomery Blair High School
Leo Tian Xie, Stevenson School
Chloe Samuel Szeto, Townsend Harris High School

LEVEL 2

Langley High School
Cupertino High School
St. John's School



先生

The Japan-America Society of Washington DC extends its appreciation to these teachers for their dedication to developing the next generation of leaders in our relationship with Japan.

Adrian McIntosh, The Woodlands High School (TX)

Andrew Scronce, Langley High School (VA)

Brian Bangerter, Westview High School (OR)

Chie Helinski, Stuyvesant High School (NY)

Elena Kamenetzky, Eastern High School (KY)

Fumiko Kuriki, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (VA)

Jeremy Kitchen, Lynbrook High School (CA)

Jeunghee Park, Northside College Preparatory High School (IL)

Keiko Sigmund, Center for Global Studies (CT)

Kimberly Suzuki, Gretchen Whitney High School (CA)

Kyoko Vaughan, Hayfield Secondary School (VA)

Manami Gudmunsen, St John's School (GUAM)

Mari Innami Porter, University of Illinois Laboratory High School (IL)

Mariko Sato Berger, Townsend Harris High School (NY)

Melissa Urushidani, South Kitsap High School (WA)

Mikiko Korn, Paint Branch High School (MD)

Shigemi Oikawa, Ocean Lakes High School (VA)

Shinobu Nagashima, Stevenson School (CA)

Stefanie Fan, Cupertino High School (CA)

Tanya Pachter, Marysville High School (OH)

Yoko Zoll, Montgomery Blair High School (MD)

Yoko Eshita, Maggie L Walker Governor's School (VA)

Yuki Melvin, Lake Braddock Secondary School (VA)

Yukino Goto, Liceo Mexicano Japonés (MEXICO)

Japan Bowl COUNCIL

The Japan Bowl Council works throughout the year to create questions – over 350 – which are challenging, informative, and entertaining. The questions are the lifeblood of the Japan Bowl. Half the questions are focused on the Japanese language, and the other half relates to Japanese history, culture, society, daily life, and more.

Robin Berrington

Peggy Breer

Bill Brooks

Juliane Doscher

Tomoko Hoogenboom

Kirsten Jensen

Yoko Lawless

Sang-Mi McHale

Yoshiko Mori

Louisa Rubinfien

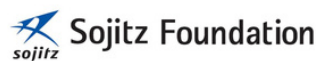
Akane Shirata

Sufumi So

Takae Tsujioka

Japan Bowl 2023

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Special Guest **JUDGES**

Koichi Ai

Minister of Chancery and Public Affairs at
the Embassy of Japan

Mari Hamada

Lecturer, University of Maryland College
Park Japanese Program

Kazuyo Kato

Executive Director, JCIE USA

Masaru Takagi

Washington Bureau Chief, NHK

Yoshiko Tsuda

Instructor, Nishiura Style Calligraphy
School

Special Guest **WORKSHOPS & PANELISTS**



Jennifer Swanson
Tea Ceremony Instructor



Table for Two
#EdamameChamp Workshop

Visit Fukushima Prefecture
Info session & Q&A

Career & College Panel
Advice from Japan-field professionals

Translation Workshop
with Dr. Michele Mason

Opportunities in Japan Information Fair

Fukushima Prefecture
Georgetown University
International Student Conferences
JET
JPT America
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
Temple University Japan
Waseda University

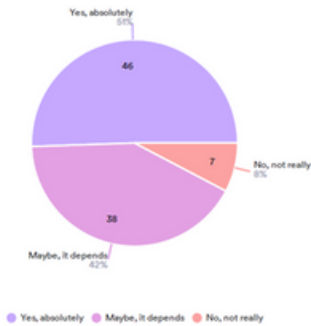


全米ジャパン・ボウル調査

2023 NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL SURVEY RESULTS

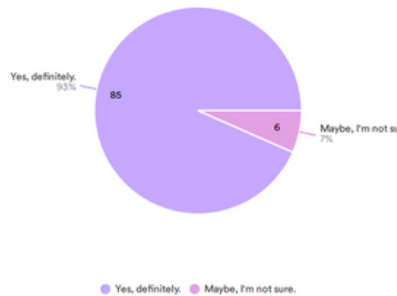
Would you like to come back to the National Japan Bowl next year?

91 Responses



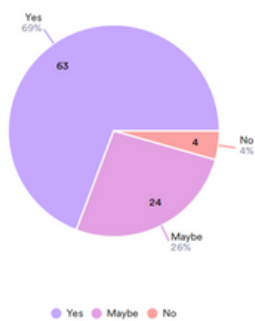
If you had to "do it all over again," would you still choose Japanese as your foreign language?

91 Responses



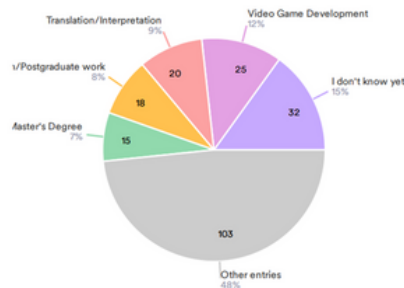
Do you plan to continue to study Japanese language after high school?

91 Responses



Regardless of whether you want to work in Japan, what career would you like to pursue?

213 Responses



Rate your overall Japan Bowl experience out of 5 stars

91 Responses



4.09
Avg. Response

91
Responses

Did the event leave a memorable impression on you?

91 Responses

Best Response

5

54%
Percentage

91
Responses

Did the event deepen your understanding of Japan and Japanese culture?

91 Responses

Best Response

4

44%
Percentage

91
Responses

Data	Response	%
5	49	54%
4	34	37%
3	8	9%
1	0	0%
2	0	0%

Data	Response	%
4	40	44%
5	40	44%
3	8	9%
2	3	3%
1	0	0%

WHY JAPAN BOWL?

"Having students participate in the Japan Bowl helps promote the Japanese program on campus. It helps recruit students into the language program and it also makes the Japanese program active on campus for other teachers and administrators to see."

"Doing well in Japan Bowl has led to publicity (newspapers, etc.) about my Japanese program at my school which in turn I feel is helping increase the number of students interested in taking Japanese."

"It's a great experience to socialize with other teams and learn more about Japan's culture through the competition."

"While I embrace ALL of my students, the top students with a passion for Japanese need to work towards a higher goal. This is why I encourage them to take NJE, JLPT, SAT, AP, etc. But Japan Bowl is the most popular activity among them because it tests not only their language skills but their cultural literacy."

What teachers said about the 31st National Japan Bowl

- It encourages students to work harder and to encourage younger students to work hard, etc.
- It is a great opportunity for them to expand their knowledge and bond with one another beyond their own level and also bond with the students from other schools.
- It is a good opportunity for the students to meet other students from all over the US and Mexico and deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Japanese language and culture.
- It is nice to see students who have the same interests from different regions of the country together.
- It forces me out of my comfort zone as a teacher. It's a great opportunity to network. The Japan Bowl curriculum adds to the standards that I have to cover in class.
- [The Japan Bowl] motivates students to learn more beyond the textbook.
- It's great to see students prepare for it. Since the pandemic, few students have been motivated to do anything more than classwork. They may not be able to develop their mental strength and social skills without social activities like Japan Bowl.
- Japan Bowl deepens students' understanding of Japanese language and culture and not only cultivates teamwork but also pushes students to pursue their interests outside of the classroom.

“

It is one of the best competitions/events to raise the honor and pride of studying Japanese language and culture.

”

What students said about the 31st National Japan Bowl

- Japan Bowl was the gateway to learning Japanese culture for me, a reason to study the funniest/niche things about Japanese culture.
- Japan Bowl is a great experience for observers and participants alike, strengthening everyone's Japanese language skills.
- This was an amazing experience! I learned a lot in preparation, and the day of the competition was fun and rewarding.
- Honestly, the most fun high school experience I've had. Helped me gain more confidence in my speaking, my knowledge of culture, and Japan overall.
- I thought the staff and volunteers were incredible, and everyone was very caring. It has also been nice meeting students from all over the country (and the world). It was fun being around various students and adults who fluently spoke Japanese because it created a great learning environment.



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Andrew M. Saidel, Dynamic Strategies Asia LLC
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Shinsuke Takahashi

Japan Bowl **TEAM**

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Elece Smith, Japan Bowl Director
Emily Johnson, Japan Bowl Assistant
Indy Dorman, Japan Bowl Intern
Adam Gruner, Japan Bowl Intern
Irene Nyarko, Japan Bowl Intern

Special Guest Judges

Koichi Ai
Mari Hamada
Kazuyo Kato
Masaru Takagi
Yoshiko Tsuda

Conversation Round Judges

Tomoko Hoogenboom
Yoshiko Mori
Noriko Otsuka
Louisa Rubinfien
Akane Shirata
Sufumi So
Jennifer Swanson

Championship Round Judges

Kirsten Jensen
Michele Mason
Louisa Rubinfien
Akane Shirata
Sufumi So

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Tomoko Hoogenboom
Jessica Kling
Tracy Mahoney
Michele Mason
Momoka Uno

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Brian Walters

AV and Broadcast Support

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全米ジャパン・ボウル® 大会について

現在米国では、中高生レベルの日本語学習者が最も多く、7万人を越えるという統計が出ています（国際交流基金2016年）。

本大会は、全米各地で日本語を学んでいる高校生が、日本語能力のみならず日本の文化・習慣・歴史・地理・時事・日米関係など、幅広い分野について競い合うクイズボウル形式の全米大会です。

参加者は日本語学習年数によって3つのレベルに分かれ、3人1組で大会に臨みます。予選では90問が出題され、合計点で各レベルの上位3チームが全米優勝決定戦に進みます。予選から優勝決定戦まで、知識のみならず、応用能力、スピード、チームの団結力等が要求されます。また言語と文化を結び付け、さまざまな角度から「日本」について学習できる機会としても特徴的です。

アメリカで、日本語を外国語として学ぶ高校生を支援する教育活動の一環として毎年開催しており、日本語学習を楽しみ、日本への関心を更に高め、大学においても日本語学習を継続してもらうことが目的とされています。日米間の草の根親善促進、未来の架け橋となる人材育成につながることも期待されています。

毎年大会参加者の95%以上が、大学でも日本語や日本文化を勉強したいと答えています。また半数以上が日本の企業や機関で働きたい、80%が日本とビジネスする米国企業で働きたいと答えています。



J★PAN BOWL

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Elece Smith, Japan Bowl & Educational Programs Director

Emily Johnson, Japan Bowl & Program Assistant

Mari Fromel, Administrative & Program Manager

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