

Japanese I 2020 -2021

We are thrilled you are interested in taking Japanese, both the culture and the language are amazing.

The written language of Japanese has two alphabets as well as pictographs called Kanji. You will learn all about them in the course, but first you will need to learn to read the two alphabets. The alphabets are called Hiragana and Katakana and each contain symbols (letters) for the sounds, similar to the English alphabet (a is pronounced “ahh”, etc)

We are requiring that in order to take the Japanese course in the fall that you become familiar with both the Hiragana and Katakana alphabets.

You will need to be able to write the symbols for the letters and have an understanding of each sound. There are 48 letters in each, so you will need to memorize 96 in total. You will need to have this done prior to the start of school. If you cannot do basic reading of words, it will make learning Japanese impossible. Also, we don't want to spend the first few weeks doing nothing other than memorizing the alphabet. Most people can have a solid mastery 8-12 hours of practice.

In order to prepare for your adventures in the Japanese language, you first need to work on the kana, or alphabet. Throughout your summer break, please set some time aside to practice and memorize the Japanese kana characters, both Hiragana (ひらがな) and (カタカナ). You will find both in **Section 1 (pages 13-62) and Section 4(100-149)** in the PDF booklet [Japanese Hiragana and Katakana for beginners.](#) (Included with this letter)

- I encourage you to look over the booklet and familiarize yourself with the basic rules of the language. Most importantly, focus on learning on how to read and write the Hiragana and Katakana.
- *You will be tested prior to starting the course in the fall. You must pass the test in order to be enrolled in the course.*
- Please do not set this assignment aside until the final week of your holiday. It will be very difficult for you to cram all this study in a couple of days. I do not want you to feel stressed or overwhelmed. This should be a fun and enjoyable experience.

At this point, you are now faced with the decision: “Do I want to learn Japanese?” or not? If you do want to learn Japanese, you will not regret it. Please sign, and have your parents sign on the back side of this paper.

I/we understand that in order to enroll in Japanese 1, I must work over the summer and be competent in writing and identifying the sounds from the Hiragana and Katakana alphabets. Enrollment in the fall will depend on me showing adequate mastery of this.

Student Name _____ Signature _____
Parent Signature _____ Date _____