



# John F. Kennedy High School

Department of World Languages

Japanese Level 1 Course Syllabus ( にほんご いち )

2024-2025

## Instructor

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## General Information

Welcome to Japanese Level 1!! I am so glad you made the decision to journey with me on a discovery of the fascinating language and culture of Japan!! I am Mr. Suzuki your Japanese language instructor. (Please call me Sensei) I consider it a great honor and privilege to teach the wonderful students of John F. Kennedy High School. It is my goal that through this course you will not only gain confidence in speaking, reading and writing the Japanese language, but you will also become enchanted with the culture itself. I hope that you find this class to be a positive learning experience and I look forward to spending the year with you!!

## Course Description

Japanese 1 is an introductory course in which students master two sets of phonetically written symbols (*Hiragana* and *Katakana*) as well as gain an understanding of the Romanized pronunciations of Japanese words (*Romaji*). As students begin to increase their knowledge of basic Japanese vocabulary, they will also start to develop a sense of the correct usage of Japanese grammatical structures as they begin studying verb tenses in the polite form of speech.

## Instructional Strategies

Students will learn basic vocabulary and useful idiomatic expressions based on several different themes and perform a number of interactive and role-playing activities. Students acquire communicative skills to convey and comprehend information on a variety of topics. Students will also be familiarized with many elements of Japanese culture. They will study the Japanese lifestyle, annual holidays, food and traditional arts.

## Textbook for Japanese 1

Adventures in Japanese Volume 1: Cheng & Tsui Company

## Materials

Students will need: pencils, erasers, and a 1-subject spiral notebook

## Homework

Homework assignments must be completed on time. Homework will be collected at the end of the class. It is the student's responsibility to request any makeup assignments due to an excused absence.

## Participation

Class participation is critical to learning a second language. Throughout the year, students will be expected to participate in various projects, role-plays, dialogues, games, exercises and in-class activities. Students will find that engaging in these activities will help to build confidence in the practical use of the Japanese language and will also create a deepened understanding of the Japanese culture.

## **Quizzes/ Chapter Tests**

Quizzes and chapter tests will be given throughout the school year. Students will be advised ahead of time when a quiz or test will be given. Quizzes will usually take about 30 minutes or less and consist of new vocabulary, new sentence structures, and comprehension questions. Chapter tests will usually take a bit longer than the quizzes (around 40 minutes). Chapter tests will consist of an evaluation of writing skills or an assessment of listening skills.

## **Final Exam**

A final exam will be given at the end of each semester. This will be a comprehensive exam of all the chapters we studied in the textbook for that semester. Before the final exam takes place, we will have a rigorous review of all the materials that will be tested on, and a comprehensive study guide will also be given out.

## **Grading Policy**

The semester grade will be made up from the following categories:

Homework	20%
Participation	20%
Quizzes/ Chapter Tests	40%
Final Exam	20%

## **Grading Scale**

90 - 100	= A
80 - 89	= B
70 - 79	= C
60 - 69	= D
0 - 59	= F

## **Classroom Policy**

- It is the policy of this classroom that each student is to be an active participant in the learning process. Mutual respect is imperative to a cooperative learning atmosphere. Achieving excellence comes through self-preparedness, a willingness to take risks in learning and a positive, enthusiastic attitude.
- In order to have a successful learning experience, proper attention needs to be paid to classroom discussion and lecture.
- Excessive talking and inappropriate language will result in a loss of points.
- Academic success begins with punctuality. Tardiness will result in a loss of points.
- Please make sure to bring your homework assignments and textbooks to class every day.

## Final Word

Thank you so much for choosing to study Japanese and for taking the time to read this syllabus. I know this year is going to be an exciting and successful experience for us all!! Now let's get ready for some great *Adventures in Japanese!!*



Print Student's Name and Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Suzuki Sensei's Path of the Ninja....*

*In the Japanese culture, honor and integrity go hand in hand with a life that is filled with meaning and purpose. To walk in truth and respect others, to treat them with fairness and dignity, to learn to serve and be humble, to have respect for the elderly, to take responsibility for one's actions, to help the helpless, to do your best and finish well, these are the characteristics that make a community beautiful and help to make life truly worth living.*

