

2018

National Japan Bowl® Report



**National Japanese Language and Culture
Competition for High School Students**

第26 回全米ジャパン・ボウル大会

Presented by



**THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC**

The 26th National Japan Bowl

On April 12 and 13, 2018, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC held the 26th National Japan Bowl® in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This year, 206 students from 67 teams came from all over the United States to compete: California, Connecticut, Florida, Guam, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The National Japan Bowl also welcomed back teams from Japanese Plus in Washington, DC and Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C, in Mexico.

Students competed at three levels in a total of three rounds (two written Preliminary Rounds and one oral Conversation Round). In the Preliminary Rounds, the students were challenged by a total of 90 questions at each level, covering not just the Japanese language but also a wide range of questions on Japanese history, culture, daily life, and popular culture, to name only a few. After the results of the preliminary rounds and conversation round were tallied, the top three teams at each level advanced to the National Championship Round for a live, on-stage competition to decide the top teams in the nation.

On the first night, all participants were welcomed at the Opening Ceremony, which included a performance by world-renowned shamisen player, Keisho Ohno, and performances by the Washington Toho Koto Society. Students participated in a variety of culture classes, which included a calligraphy demonstration by Kihachiro Nishiura, hands-on calligraphy, yukata dressing, tea ceremony, and a university workshop. Selected students also participated in a wagashi workshop by Matsukawaya Sweets, where they experienced making traditional Japanese sweets. At the closing ceremony, they enjoyed a dance performance by the Tamagawa University Taiko and Dance group, and several students joined them onstage to perform “Sakura Saku Ondo,” a traditional obon dance.

The Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, Atsuyuki Oike, as well as other distinguished guests presented awards and medals to the national championship teams. Level 4 winners were awarded a trip to Japan by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. Several students in Level 4 were also awarded a trip to Japan thanks to the Kakehashi Project by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

参加生徒・参加校

School Name

American Fork High School, UT
Boonsboro High School, MD
Center for Global Studies at
Brien McMahon High School, CT
Cupertino High School, CA
Deerfield Beach High School, FL
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, MD
Falls Church High School, VA
George Washington High School, VA
Globalize DC (Japanese Plus), DC
Harding High School, MN
Hayfield Secondary School, VA
Lake Braddock Secondary School, VA
Lake Oswego High School, OR
Langley High School, VA
Liberal Arts and Science Academy High
School, TX

Liceo Mexicano Japonés, Mexico
Lynbrook High School, CA
Madison Country Day School, WI
Montgomery Blair High School, MD
New Trier High School, IL
Phillips Academy Andover, MA
Shakopee High School, MN
South Lakes High School, VA
St. John's School, GU
Stuyvesant High School, NY
The Woodlands High School, TX
Thomas Jefferson High School for
Science and Technology, VA
Townsend Harris High School, NY
Walt Whitman High School, MD
Woodlands College Park High
School, TX



30 Schools, 67 Teams, 206 Students

全米ジャパン・ボウル入賞校

Champions at the 2018 National Japan Bowl

Level 2

- 1st Place* *Cupertino High School, CA*
- 2nd Place* *Stuyvesant High School, NY*
- 3rd Place* *Townsend Harris High School, NY*
- 4th Place* *Lynbrook High School, CA*
- 5th Place* *Thomas Jefferson High School, VA*

Level 3

- 1st Place* *Langley High School, VA*
- 2nd Place* *Stuyvesant High School, NY*
- 3rd Place* *Cupertino High School, CA*
- 4th Place* *Thomas Jefferson High School, VA*
- 5th Place* *Lynbrook High School, CA*

Level 4

- 1st Place* *Cupertino High School, CA*
- 2nd Place* *Lynbrook High School, CA*
- 3rd Place* *Stuyvesant High School, NY*
- 4th Place* *Thomas Jefferson High School, VA*
- 5th Place* *Townsend Harris High School, NY*



先生

Japanese language teachers

We would like to thank this year's teachers for their support of the Japan Bowl and their dedication to developing the "next generation" in the US-Japan relationship.

Keiko Abrams, Lake Braddock HS
Charlotte Benedict, Lake Oswego HS
Hanna Brandt, Harding HS
Marisa Bellini, American Fork HS
William Collazo, Deerfield Beach HS
Stefanie Fan, Cupertino HS
Hiroko Fukuhara-Karch, Liberal Arts and Science Academy
Fumiko Harada, St. John's School
Karen Hendrickson, Madison Country Day School
Elizabeth Hojo, The Woodlands College Park HS
Chie Helinski, Stuyvesant HS
Hector San Juan Juanchi, Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C.
Kumi Kobayashi, Lynbrook HS
Yumi Lawless, Falls Church HS
Sharon Leigg, George Washington HS

Adrian McIntosh, The Woodlands HS
Yukiyo Moorman, Walt Whitman HS
Tetsuo Ogawa, Eleanor Roosevelt HS
Koji Otani, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Adam Podell, South Lakes HS
Mariko Sato Berger, Townsend Harris HS
Naomi Satoh, Shakopee HS
Sally Schwartz, Globalize DC
Andrew Scronce, Langley HS
Ayako Shiga, Boonsboro HS
Teruyo Shimasu, Phillips Academy Andover
Keiko Sigmund, Brien McMahon HS
Naomi Suzuki, New Trier HS
Kyoko Vaughan, Hayfield Secondary School
Yoko Zoll, Montgomery Blair HS



Japan Bowl Sponsors and Supporters

The Japan Bowl is supported each year by many sources of funding. The major resources have been grants. The United States-Japan Foundation started its funding in 1996 and has played a major role in helping the Japan Bowl grow to become America's premiere competition for high school learners of Japanese. The Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation has helped expand the Japan Bowl to many new locations across the nation. The Embassy of Japan also has been a great supporter over the years. The Hiroko Iwami Malott Memorial Fund also has supported the development of the Japan Bowl in recent years. JASWDC is grateful to the following sponsors and supporters who made this year's competition possible:

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Waseda University

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Special Thanks

IACE Travel
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We would also like to thank all the wonderful guests at the 2018 National Japan Bowl, who came to share their knowledge of Japan with all of this year's participants.

This year's special guests included:



Keisho Ohno

Keisho Ohno is a Tsugaru Shamisen player who mixes traditional Shamisen music with modern and rock music. Born in Niigata, Japan, Keisho started playing Tsugaru-shamisen at the age of eight. In 2006, he performed at SXSW (South By South West) and toured cities in the United States including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Austin. In 2007, he major debuted with his album, "Shamisen-damashii-Shami Spirits."

Washington Toho Koto Society

The Washington Toho Koto Society is a nonprofit group founded in 1971 by Kyoko Okamoto to promote the understanding and appreciation of Japanese koto music. Since 1973 the Society has presented an annual spring koto recital under the sponsorship of the University of Maryland's Department of Music.



Kihachiro Nishiura

Kihachiro Nishiura is a descendant of Nishiura Enji, the founder of the Nishiura-yaki school of ceramics, which was highly acclaimed in the Meiji Era. His "Nishiura Style" exhibitions of incense, floral arrangements, calligraphy, and other art forms have been enthusiastically received in Japan and around the world.

Sakura Saku Ondo

“Sakura Saku Ondo” is a Japanese traditional *odori* that was created in 2018 by a group of Japanese and American fans of the Japan Bowl. It aims to connect people who love Japan and Japanese culture all over the world. The song has a special message: “Your dreams will come true.” When people gather to celebrate Japanese culture at schools, community events, festivals, and other gatherings, please dance “Sakura Saku Ondo” and share with others by posting pictures or videos with the hashtag #sakurasakuondo.



Matsukawaya

Matsukawaya was founded in Nagoya in 1862. Their mission is to pass down and convey the important traditional Japanese culture of Wagashi, and to enrich the lives of all people by creating the enjoyment and deliciousness. The wagashi are made based on the beauty of nature and the four seasons of Japan.

Tamagawa University Taiko and Dance Group

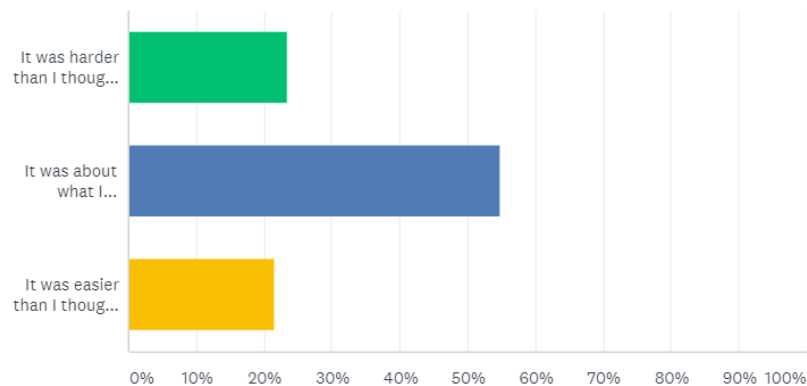
Tamagawa University, located just outside of Tokyo, has been taking its taiko drumming and dance troupe on the road since 1961. One of the top taiko groups in Japan, they won third place in competition against 450 other groups at the Tokyo International Taiko Contest in 2006. The group is led by a great Kabuki-dance master, Isaburo Hanayagi, who is the choreographer and director of the group, and also a Professor of Performing arts at the university.



2018 National Japan Bowl Student Survey

If this is the first time you came to the NJB, how did the actual academic competition (the preliminary rounds and the conversation round) compare to your expectations?

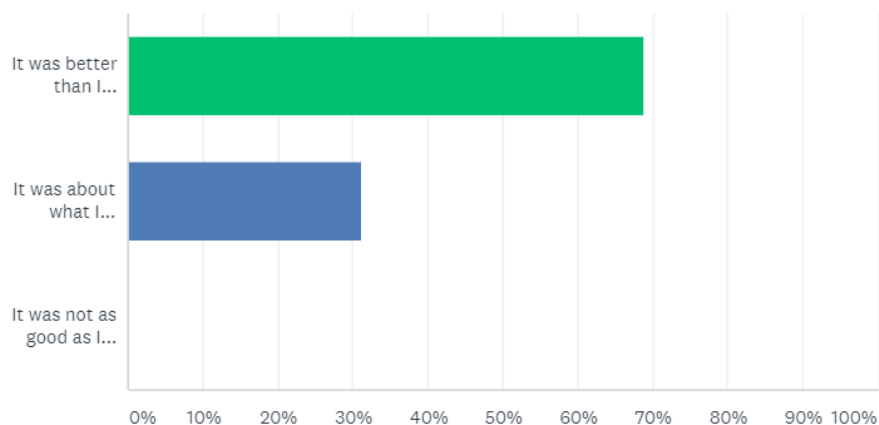
Answered: 51 Skipped: 13



It was harder than I thought it would be	23.53%
It was about what I expected	54.90%
It was easier than I thought it would be	21.57%

If this is the first time you have come to the NJB, how did the overall experience of the two days compare to your expectations?

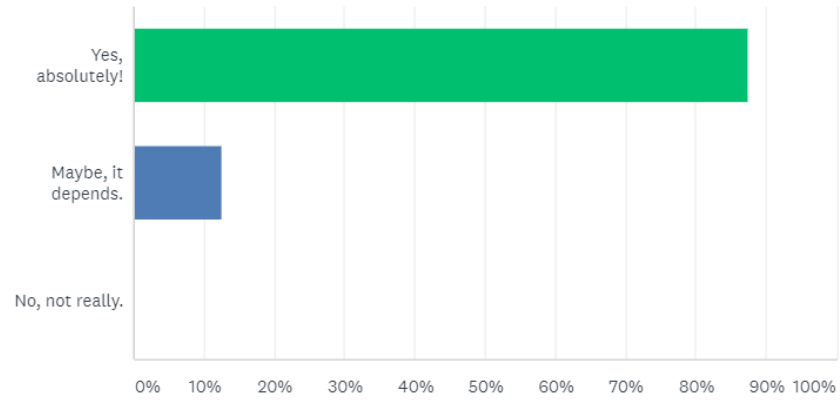
Answered: 48 Skipped: 16



It was better than I expected	68.75%
It was about what I expected	31.25%
It was not as good as I expected	0

For everyone who competed at Level 2 or Level 3 -- Would you like to come back to the National Japan Bowl next year?

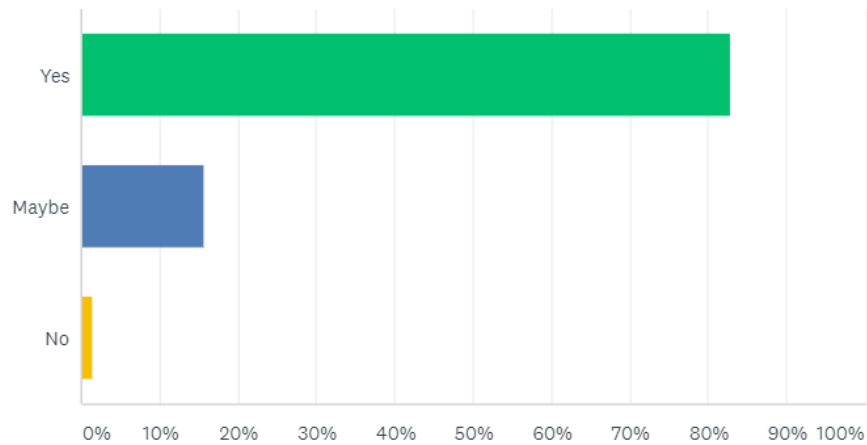
Answered: 48 Skipped: 16



Yes, absolutely!	87.50%
Maybe, it depends	12.50%
No, not really	0%

Do you plan to continue to study Japanese when you go to college?

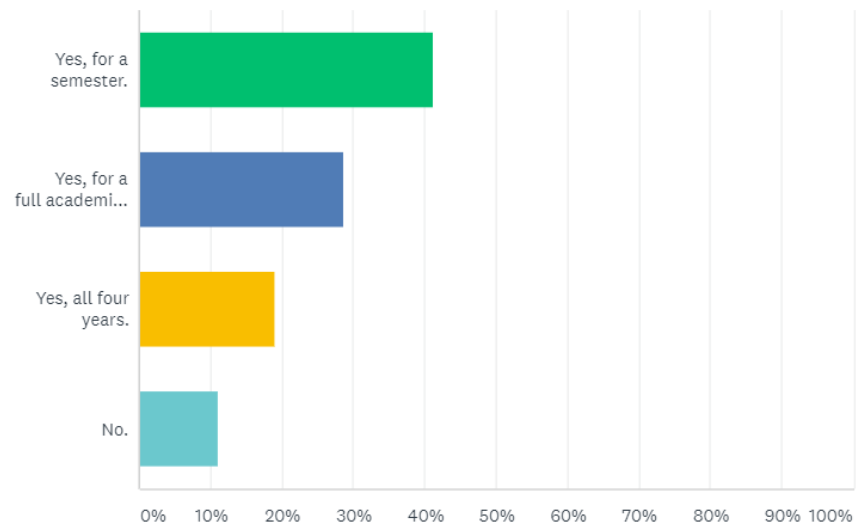
Answered: 64 Skipped: 0



Yes	82.81%
Maybe	15.63%
No	1.56%

Do you think you might want to study abroad in Japan during your college years?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 1



Yes, for a semester	41.27%
Yes, for a full academic year	28.57%
Yes, for all four years	19.05%
No	11.11%



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

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