

Monte Vista Christian School
MODL 4751, AP Japanese Language and Culture
Course Syllabus

Course Description

AP Japanese Language and Culture course is a yearlong elective course designed to be comparable to approximately 300 hours of college-level classroom and prepare students for the AP exam in May. The course is almost exclusively conducted in Japanese and students are expected to participate in class activities in Japanese. All activities are designed with the *National Standards for Foreign Language Learning* in mind so that the students may attain the ACTFL proficiency range of Intermediate Low-Mid.

http://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/public/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.pdf Students are expected to be able to recognize and write 100 new *kanji* in addition to approximately 300 *kanji* they have mastered prior to this AP course.

AP Japanese and Japanese 4 will be a combined course. While the topics and chapters covered will remain the same, assignments and assessments will be differentiated to compensate for the different levels of abilities and motivation. These assessments and assignments will be differentiated by the depth of the content, the level of difficulty in the source material, and the rubrics provided. AP students will practice sample exams while Japanese 4 will not.

Students will have regular opportunities to interact with a variety of authentic language materials including websites, newspaper/magazine articles, advertisements, and literature. Students will improve their Japanese through teacher-created web-based exercises such as *Quizlet* and *Edmodo* and will regularly use the iPad to conduct web searches, type essays, create *Keynote* presentations, and correspond using email. The integration of Japanese culture study throughout the course includes Japanese calligraphy, cooking, flower arrangement, origami, tea ceremony and field trips. They allow students to explore the relationship between Japanese cultural products, practices, and perspectives within the context of their language study.

Curricular Mapping

Classroom interaction are focused around **three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational** for meaningful purposes. The “5Cs” of the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages- **Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities**- are integrated through a thematic content-based unit approach while students build up language competence. Students will work from both a whole-to-part and a part-to-whole approach to develop mastery of given topics.

Course Objectives

Using the five C's as guiding principles, the following goals are identified to develop the AP Japanese curriculum from Japanese I through AP Japanese. **The ultimate objective of the AP class is to attain the ACTFL proficiency of Intermediate Low-Mid.**

- Goal 1: Students will effectively engage in interpersonal communication, exchange information and opinions, and express feelings.
- Goal 2: Students will be able to interpret authentic or semi-authentic written and spoken Japanese on a variety of topics that relate to everyday life and contemporary society of Japan.
- Goal 3: Students will be able to give an oral, multimedia, or written presentation to share research, ideas, and opinions on a variety of topics that relate to everyday life and contemporary society of Japan.
- Goal 4: Students will demonstrate an understanding of Japanese culture by studying the relationship of products and practices to their cultural perspectives in the life of Japanese people.
- Goal 5: Students will demonstrate an understanding of their own culture and values and the nature of language by comparing them with the Japanese language and culture.
- Goal 6: Students will expand their knowledge in other disciplines and recognize distinctive viewpoints that are unique in Japanese culture.
- Goal 7: Students will use Japanese outside the classroom and beyond the school setting to connect themselves with the real world.

Text

No required textbook. Free online resources will be provided.

However, you may purchase the following recommended Test prep materials:

- Further Adventures in Japanese –Field Test Edition by Peterson, Hirano-Omizo & Ady
- Strive For A 5 AP Japanese Practice Tests -- by Peterson, Hirano-Omizo & Ady

Summer Reading

You are required to learn AP Kanji listed on Further Adventures in Japanese book over the summer. Upon on your return to school, you will have 4 tests on Kanji.

Prerequisites

AP Japanese is open to juniors and seniors who have satisfied one of the following:

- 1) Japanese IV with a grade of C- or above
- 2) Japanese III with a grade of A- or above.
- 3) C- on a placement test for the AP Japanese class.

Course Outline

I. People, Daily Life & Hobbies

1. Personal information: age, birthdate, childhood, personal characteristics, hobbies, etc.
2. Family information: family members, relationships, their influence on them, things you appreciate about them.
3. Information about you best friend(s): how they became friends, things they appreciate about their friend(s).

II. Homes, Cities and Environment

1. Japanese custom around home.
2. Renting an apartment in Japan in order to understand deposit and gift money.
3. Community service
4. Hometown
5. Environmental problems

III. Education, Clothes & Technology

1. College application process
2. School uniforms and dress code
3. Fashion trends
4. Cell phone

IV. Work, Rites of Life & Annual Events

1. Work and Career
2. Rites of Life
3. Festivals and Annual Events

V. Transportation and Weather

1. Dangerous driving
2. Sustainability
3. Pros and Cons of mass transit systems
4. Weather Forecast

VI. Food, Shopping & Health

1. Japanese cooking vs. American cooking
2. Characteristics of Japanese table manners
3. Japanese department stores vs. American department stores
4. Healthy practice & Health Problems

VII. World & Travel

1. Japan in the World
2. Environmental issues

Grading

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
In Class Assignments	20%	Quarter	40%
Homework	20%	Quarter	40%
Tests and Quizzes	30%	Final Exam	20%
Projects/Essays/Oral Reports	30%		

The semester grade calculation for AP Japanese is 40% for the first quarter, 40% for the second quarter and 20% for the final exam.

Explanation of Gradebook Categories

1. Class Work – 20%
 - Most work for this course will be done in class. In class work can include worksheet pages, quizlet Q&A, Edmodo Text Chats. Please note that all work will be checked for completion. Late work will receive a 10% deduction everyday.
2. Homework – 20%
 - Late homework will receive a 10% deduction everyday.
 - Homework expectations per night is less than 20 minutes.** Expect to spend at least an hour a week outside of class to complete compare and contrast essays. Homework will be also graded based on completion.
3. Tests and Quizzes – 30%
 - Quizzes will be given every Tuesday.
 - Tests will be cumulative and given after each unit. Tests will come in multiple choice, True or False, Matching, and short answers. During a test, you may use your notebook and the handouts given in class. You may not use printed textbook or workbook pages. Please note—if you know about a test before an absence you will be required to take the test directly upon returning to school.
4. Projects/Essays/Oral Reports – 30%
 - Projects will provide opportunities for you to go in depth with a particular topic, person or event that we are studying. You will be able to express yourself creatively and artistically. Many projects will provide the opportunity to work cooperatively in groups with your classmates. However, each group project rubric provides categories for individual grading. Projects and papers will be deducted 10% each day beyond their due date.

5. Participation – 0% (100% engagement is what we all should strive for.)

Please check out MVCS Japanese Circles: Japanese classes, Japanese Club, Japanese National Honor Society. We strive to participate in many activities to serve others on campus and off- campus. We're your supportive community at MVCS.

<<https://www.facebook.com/pages/MVCS-Japanese-Circles/231197547032231>>

❑ Students are expected to participate in the following:

Fall--- Cooking, San Francisco field trip, Ikebana, Origami cards for a cause
Spring --- Calligraphy, Cooking, Tea Ceremony field trip to 17-Miles, Speech Contest in Salinas

❑ Other ways to participate:

Japanese Club- Anyone can sign up.

Japanese National Honor Society- Student has received an B (3.5) for the first semester of Japanese II and has an overall 3.0 GPA will be inducted to JNHS in January. If you are interested in becoming officers, be an active club member.

High School Standard Grading Policy:

Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Parent-Student Handbook.

Class Policies

The following policies are non-negotiable. Please see the teacher if you have any concerns with your ability to follow these policies:

1. Respect others in order to foster a safe learning community.
2. Wait your turn to talk.
3. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class daily. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to make up the classwork and homework missed.
4. Communicate with the teacher.
5. Be on Time: When the bell rings, be in your seat and ready for work.
6. Enjoy water (in a bottle) in class but not food or other drinks.

School Policies and Expected Student Learning Results (ESLRs):

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as found in the Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of Monte Vista Christian School. In addition to addressing each ESLR every year, we target a specific ESLR each academic year for particular focus.

Tips for the Students

1. Take notes.
2. Use Japanese

3. Use iPad for academic purpose only.

Miscellaneous

Materials needed:

1. iPad Apps (Most of them are free):
Edmodo, Keynote, and Notability
2. Suggested Productivity Apps (Most of them are free)
Pages, Notability, Keynote, Quizlet (Qcards), Edmodo, iMovie,
Japanese English Dictionary Free
3. Pencils, Binder Paper and Composition Notebook

Costs:

There are also fees required for this course. While JNHS fundraise for Japanese classes, some fees will be collected for cooking demonstrations, field trips, tea ceremony, origami and calligraphy supplies. In general, a cooking day provides a lunch for \$5. All field trip information and fees (about \$35) will be posted.