

Tucson Japanese Language School 2024–2025 Annual Report

Greetings

The past 10 years have been a learning and challenging endeavor. Since our opening in 2015, the school has been full of fun and new initiatives. Now, we are ready to move into a new chapter as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to carry out our mission and become more sustainable as an organization. The kindergartners who attended the school when we first opened are now high school students, and some of them help us as volunteer staff. It has been our great joy and pride watching the children grow up so closely and being alongside them. Our school has built on a warm and supportive community, and we work together collectively with parents and the local community in school operations. We truly hope to continue to be a school that is rooted and serves as a hub for learning and a resource for families and community members.

June 2025

Hitomi McKnight & Minami Espinosa

Finance

	2024-25	2023-24	YtoY
Revenue			
Tuition	\$ 13,951	\$ 15,249	-\$ 1,298
Sponsorship	\$ 1,355	\$ 970	+\$ 385
Fundraising and others	\$ 467	\$ 648	-\$ 601
Total Income	\$ 15,773	\$ 16,867	-\$ 1,094
Expenses			
Wages	\$ 11,740	\$ 11,020	+\$ 720
Rent/Insurance/License	\$ 3,456	\$ 3,184	+\$ 272
Material / Events	\$ 964	\$ 732	+\$ 232
Others	\$ 909	\$ 1,372	-\$ 463
Total Expenses	\$ 17,069	\$ 16,308	+\$ 761
Net profit as end of year	-\$ 1,296	\$ 559	-\$ 1,855

2024-2025 Highlights



Tucson Undokai Matsuri

Marking the 10th year, the Annual Sports Day was held on Sunday, October 27th, bringing the local community together. The organizing committee was formed several months in advance to prepare. The event featured a children's division in the morning, music and performances by local artists, delicious Japanese food for sale, and cotton candy and games. The adults from UofA, PCC, restaurant staff,



and others were divided into four teams and competed in the afternoon. Even under the warm weather, participants gave their all. It was a wonderful event filled with smiles and cheers.

Parent-Child Class

We started a trial class in September where preschoolers can participate in classes with their parents. Activity includes nursery rhymes, picture books, crafts, dance, and more. It was well-received, and enrollment kept growing. The class will be an official class starting next school year!



Japanese Kanji Aptitude Test

Every year in January, we host the exam at our school. This year, five students from our school passed the test, including Japanese Department teacher Mr. Nemat, who passed the Level 2. There are only a few test locations in the United States, and this year, there were examinees from out-of-state, such as Texas and Washington.

Matsuda Koki Basketball Workshop

Mr. Matsuda, one of the four Japanese professional basketball players currently playing in the U.S., visited our school and gave a lecture and workshop. This well-attended event was a good example of collaborative work. We would like to foster strong partnerships with local organizations and residents even more in the future.



End of Year Fun Day

On the last day of school, after a short closing ceremony, we had a Fun Day event where students and families played various Japanese games and tried on kimonos. We concluded the end-of-year celebration with a potluck and enjoyed the delicious food.

Bilingual Story Time

In September, our school staff started volunteering at the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, holding a bilingual Japanese/English story time. It's been fun and a great opportunity to introduce Japanese language and culture to young audiences. Story time is normally the third Thursday of the month.



NEWS

On April 20, 2024, we incorporated the NPO, Manabi of Tucson. We will officially launch our operation as a new organization, "Tucson Japanese School," in August 2025. We hope you continue to support our school and take advantage of tax-deductible donations!

2025 Sponsors

Business & Organizations

Restaurant Ikkyu | Blossom Acupuncture

OUR STAFF

Volunteer - Emi McKnight | Hana McKnight | Lumi Hisataka | | Manami Okoshi | Kokori Shurilla | Hinako Uchida | Azumi Uchida | Tasha Waldolf | Kayo Orosco | Yukari Kameya | Ai Kameya | Chizu Aoshima
Teacher / Assistant - Rie Butler | Katsuya Sato | Yasir Nemat | Megu Nakamura | Mihar Lee | Bella Hennessy | Abigail Hennessy