How can my child attend?

• At Sand Lake Elementary, the program runs kindergarten through sixth grade. The entry level is from kindergarten through the first semester of first grade. When space is available, Japanese-speaking students may enter the program at any grade if they meet certain Japanese literacy criteria.

• Parent permission is required and enrollment is determined by the Anchorage School District lottery system. There are currently two lotteries a year held in March and August. For more information please visit: www.asdk12.org/choices/lottery.

• Once students are admitted in the program, there is no need to re-apply in the lottery each year. However, if a student exits the program, there is no guarantee that they will be re-admitted at a later date.

• Students tend to achieve the most when families make a minimum seven year commitment to the program. This duration ensures full development of both English and Japanese literacy skills.

For more information please contact:
Sand Lake Elementary School: (907) 243-2161
Mears Middle School: (907) 742-6400
Dimond High School: (907) 742-7000

Brandon Locke, Director of World Languages
Tel. (907) 742-4848 • Email: locke_brandon@asdk12.org
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99504
www.asdk12.org/worldlanguages

Tomo No Kai Parent Group
http://tomonokai.org

Revised March 2014
**Benefits of being bilingual**

- Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language
- Increases understanding and appreciation of other cultures
- Increases critical and creative thinking
- Increases job opportunities in many careers due to increasing demand for bilingual skills

**Questions frequently asked**

**Program History**
The Japanese partial immersion program began at Sand Lake Elementary in 1989 and is the oldest immersion program in the ASD, and one of the first Japanese immersion programs in the nation. The program continues through Mears Middle School and Dimond High School with a current K-12 enrollment of close to 600 students a year. The first class to complete this program graduated from Dimond in May of 2001.

**What is Immersion?**
Since the inception of French language immersion programs in Canada close to 50 years ago, countless research has been conducted showing the success and benefits of immersion education. Immersion differs from traditional instructional approaches in which second languages are taught as separate subjects, in isolation from core content. Immersion refers to learning core content through a second language. As a result, students not only master subject area content, but also become bilingual when doing so. The Japanese Immersion Program is a Partial Immersion program, where students are immersed in Japanese for half of the school day at the elementary level, and for one or two class periods at the secondary level.

**What are the goals of an Immersion Program?**
- Developing a high level of proficiency in the target language
- Developing positive attitudes toward those who speak the target language and their culture(s)
- Developing English language skills commensurate with expectations for students' ages and abilities
- Gaining skills and knowledge in the content areas of the curriculum in keeping with stated objectives in these areas

—Center for Applied Linguistics

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**Course descriptions**

**7th Grade Japanese Language**
Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Japanese through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Japanese literature.

**7th Grade World Geography**
Students will learn the same content as in the ASD seventh grade social studies program, however, instruction will take place in Japanese. Content includes Alaska and world, physical and political geography, and people and their relationship to their environment.

**8th Grade Japanese Language**
Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Japanese through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Japanese literature.

**8th Grade World Geography**
Students will learn the same content as in the ASD eighth grade social studies program, however, instruction will take place in Japanese. Content includes historiography and American history themes.

**9th Grade: Japanese for Fluent Speakers I**
Greek and Roman culture.

**9th Grade: Honors 10 (JFS II Honors)**
A content-based learning course focusing on topics such as the environment and health. This is a preparatory course for the AP Japanese Language and Culture test, including the 400+ kanji characters that are mandatory for the AP exam. Pre-requisite: written application and brief oral interview.

**10th Grade: Japanese for Fluent Speakers II**
A-Student Program,” in which students are paired with Japanese community members for a minimum of 3 hours per month to use Japanese in informal settings outside of class. Pre-requisite: written application and brief oral interview.

**10th Grade: Honors 10**
Students in this class participate in the "Adopt-A-Student Program,” in which students are paired with Japanese community members for a minimum of 3 hours per month to use Japanese in informal settings outside of class. Pre-requisite: written application and brief oral interview.

**11th Grade: Japanese for Fluent Speakers III**
Students will complete an individual reading program monthly, in addition to a fast-paced curriculum. Co-seated with Honors 11 and Honors 12. Pre-requisite: written application, and successful placement test

**11th Grade: Honors 11 (JFS III Honors) or AP Japanese**
Honors Japanese 10
Students in this class complete an individual reading program monthly, in addition to a fast-paced curriculum. Co-seated with Honors 11 and Honors 12. Pre-requisite: written application, and successful placement test

**12th Grade: Japanese for Fluent Speakers IV**
Honors Japanese 11 & 12
Students in this class participate in the “Adopt-A-Student Program,” in which students are paired with Japanese community members for a minimum of 3 hours per month to use Japanese in informal settings outside of class. Pre-requisite: written application and brief oral interview.

**AP Japanese:**
A content-based learning course focusing on topics such as the environment and health. This is a preparatory course for the AP Japanese Language and Culture test, including the 400+ kanji characters that are mandatory for the AP exam. Pre-requisite: completion of Japanese For Fluent Speaker II, III, Honors 10 or Honors 11.

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**Dimond High School Japanese Immersion course offerings**

- **9th Grade:** Japanese for Fluent Speakers I
- **10th Grade:** Japanese for Fluent Speakers II
- **11th Grade:** Japanese for Fluent Speakers III
- **12th Grade:** Japanese for Fluent Speakers IV

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**Grades 9-12:**
Japanese for Fluent Speakers I-IV
Literacy-based courses focusing on fluency.

**Honors Japanese 10**
Students in this class complete an individual reading program monthly, in addition to a fast-paced curriculum. Co-seated with Honors 11 and Honors 12. Pre-requisite: written application, and successful placement test

**Honors Japanese 11 & 12**
Students in this class participate in the “Adopt-A-Student Program,” in which students are paired with Japanese community members for a minimum of 3 hours per month to use Japanese in informal settings outside of class. Pre-requisite: written application and brief oral interview.

**AP Japanese:**
A content-based learning course focusing on topics such as the environment and health. This is a preparatory course for the AP Japanese Language and Culture test, including the 400+ kanji characters that are mandatory for the AP exam. Pre-requisite: completion of Japanese For Fluent Speaker II, III, Honors 10 or Honors 11.