Presented by:

Consulate-General of Japan in Houston
INTRODUCTION

The 2020 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held on March 28, 2020 at a location to be announced.

This handbook describes the format and content of the 2020 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest and also describes who is eligible to compete in each Regional Japanese Language Speech Contest. Please note, however, that eligibility requirements for the National Japanese Language Contest requirements may differ from the eligibility requirements established in this Handbook. Applicants who anticipate participating in the National Japanese Language Contest should review the eligibility requirements for that contest to insure they are eligible to compete. The eligibility requirements for the National Japanese Language Contest may be accessed via this link: [http://jlsf-aurora.org/eng/page/speechinfo].

The purpose of this handbook is to help students, their parents and teachers better understand and prepare for the contest. Please read it carefully and thoroughly. The Japanese Language Speech Contest Committee (JLSCC) reserves the right to make the final decision on all matters related to the 2020 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest.

Inquiries should be submitted to Lauren Hurley by email at lhurley@jas-hou.org.

Statement of Purpose

The goal of the Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest is to inspire Japanese language learners at all levels of study and of all ages to challenge themselves and improve their Japanese by providing an opportunity to demonstrate oral language communication skills. The contest also strives to bring together the Japanese and American communities to advocate for and to celebrate Japanese language learning, and to encourage students to further their understanding of Japan, its people, and its culture.

What’s New In 2020?

In an effort continuously to improve the Speech Contest and better to serve our students and teachers, the Speech Contest Committee has chosen to make the following changes:

As was noted in the 2019 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest Handbook the Speech with Text Division competition will not be held in 2020.
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EVENT INFORMATION

This information applies to the Texas State Contest.

**Please contact your local organizing body for information about the regional contests in Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas/Fort Worth.**

Students, their parents and teachers are responsible for ensuring their guests are aware of and comply with the conduct and dress requirements set forth in this Handbook.

**Attire**

We ask that all participants please dress appropriately and professionally and that their parents, teachers and guests dress appropriately.

**Food**

Participants will be provided light refreshments at the State competition. Parents, teachers and guests are welcome to bring their own refreshments but must consume them outside the competition venue.

**Audience Etiquette**

Students have worked very hard to prepare for both the Regional and State Contest. Please make sure you and those you may invite respect that effort by being courteous audience members. That means silencing cell phones, games, iPods and other electronics. Please, **TURN OFF ELECTRONICS** to ensure contestants and judges are not distracted.

Also, please limit the times you enter and exit the auditorium. Contestants may easily lose their concentration if you are frequently whispering, shuffling past others, or opening and closing doors. We ask that unless it is an emergency you and your guests only enter and exit during the pause between performances.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Eligible Contestants
Those who have placed first or second in their divisions of the Regional Contests are eligible to register for the State Contest. In the event that a first or second place contestant is not able to attend the State Contest in Houston, the third-place contestant will be notified and given the opportunity to compete. The Open Division is not offered at the regional level, so there are no additional criteria for eligibility in this category.

Registration Instructions
Applicable contestants will be contacted by a representative from their regional competition to advise them of the opening date of State registration. Registration information will be provided on the Japan-America Society of Houston (JASH) website, found at www.jas-hou.org. The registration form will require the notarized signatures of the student contestant, parent of the student contestant (in the event the student contestant is a minor), and teacher of the student contestant.
Completed registration forms must be submitted received by JASH no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2020. Forms bearing a raised notary stamp must be mailed in hard copy, as the raised seal is not visible in an electronic file.

Registration
Registration will open Monday, March 2, 2020, and close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020. Those who do not complete registration by the closing date will not be eligible to compete in a scored performance and third place contestants will be notified if first and second place finishers do not register timely. Due to limited time, all contestants, including those in third place, should be prepared to register on short notice.

Late Registration
LATE REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR A SCORED PERFORMANCE. Students who attend the State Competition and have not registered will be allowed to perform although they will not be scored and will not place in the competition.
TEACHER/ STUDENT/ PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers

Teachers must review this Handbook and encourage students to enroll in the category that best suits them and for which they are eligible to participate, taking into consideration years of formal and non-formal study, skill-level, and past participation. Teachers must notify the Speech Contest Committee if they become aware of a student registering inappropriately. Teachers must certify that their students are eligible to participate in the Contest.

Students

Students must review this Handbook and challenge themselves to enroll in the category that most suits them and for which they are eligible. Students must divulge all useful and truthful information to the Speech Contest Committee when registering for the State Contest. Students must certify that they are eligible to participate in the Contest.

Parents

Parents must review this Handbook to verify and certify that their children seeking to participate in the Contest are eligible to do so.

NOTE:

Students who are found to have enrolled in an inappropriate division may be barred from competing at the State level or may be relocated to the Open division. The JLSCC reserves the right to make decisions on a case by case basis.
## ELIGIBILITY AND DIVISION GUIDELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Info . . .</th>
<th>Beginner</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target Participant</strong></td>
<td>1st Year H.S. Japanese Language Students / 1st &amp; 2nd Year J.H.S Japanese Language Students</td>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd Year H.S. Japanese Language Students / 2nd &amp; 3rd Year J.H.S. Japanese Language Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Times Participant Can Enter Category</strong></td>
<td>Once for H.S. Students / Twice for J.H.S. Students</td>
<td>Once for H.S. Students / Twice for J.H.S. Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Requirement</strong></td>
<td>1:00 – 2:00 min</td>
<td>0:30 – 2:00 min</td>
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<table>
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<th>Students must . . .</th>
<th>Beginner</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create original content</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorize content</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not be a native speaker</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not live in a household in which Japanese is spoken more than any other language</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not have lived in Japan more than six months after age six</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not be a past or present <em>Hoshuko</em> student</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be a Texas resident or enrolled in a Texas school.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
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</table>
# ELIGIBILITY AND DIVISION GUIDELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Info . . .</th>
<th>Intermed. – Adv.</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target Participant</strong></td>
<td>Adults, Grad Students, <em>Hoshuko</em> students, etc.</td>
<td>3rd &amp; 4th Year H.S. Japanese Language Students</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Times Participants Can Enter Category</strong></td>
<td>Unlimited *see pg. 9 for additional notes</td>
<td>Twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Requirement</strong></td>
<td>2:00 – 3:00 min</td>
<td>2:00 – 3:00 min</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students must . . .</th>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Aurora</th>
<th>College / University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create original content</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorize content</td>
<td>*see pg. 9 for additional notes</td>
<td>*see pg. 9 for additional notes</td>
<td>*see pg. 9 for additional notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not be a native speaker</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not live in a household in which Japanese is spoken more than any other language</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not have lived in Japan more than six months after age six</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not be a past or present <em>Hoshuko</em> student</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be a Texas resident or enrolled in a Texas school.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td><em>Be currently or previously enrolled in a Japanese class as an undergraduate student.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS

*Please do not identify your school when introducing yourself to judges.*

Beginner

Poetry: The poetry division is aimed at beginner students. Contestants must memorize the provided poem before the competition. During the competition, each contestant must state the title and author of the poem before reciting it from memory. **The use of notes is not allowed.**

Intermediate

Haiku: The Haiku division is aimed at beginner intermediate students. Contestants must choose one of the haikus provided by The Japanese Teachers Association of Texas and compose one original, complementary haiku. This haiku must be submitted during registration. During the competition, contestants must recite the provided haiku twice, present their English or Japanese explanation, and then recite their original haiku twice. **The use of notes is not allowed. *See the Haiku Appendix on pg. [13].***

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges have no prior knowledge of contestants, their schools, or their presentations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Poetry recitation will be judged on pronunciation, flow and clarity, accuracy of memorization, and overall delivery and presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiku</td>
<td>Haiku will be judged on structure (5-7-5 <em>mora</em>, and a <em>kigo</em>), understanding of original haiku, connection between original and new haiku, and expression of students’ personal feelings.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Advanced

Aurora: The Aurora division is open to strong intermediate or advanced students. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant and the student must state the speech title before reciting it during the competition. Judges will then ask several questions in Japanese about the speech which contestants must also answer in Japanese. **The use of notes is allowed, but those who do not rely on notes will be scored more favorably.**

College/Uni: The College/University division is open to undergraduate students. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant, and the student must state the speech title before reciting it during the competition. Judges will then ask several questions in Japanese about the speech which contestants must also answer in Japanese. **The use of notes is allowed, but those who do not rely on notes will be scored more favorably.**

Open: The Open division is open to graduate students, hoshuko students, or students who are otherwise disqualified from participating in lower divisions. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant, and the student must state the speech title before reciting it during the competition. Judges will then ask several questions in Japanese about the speech which contestants must also answer in Japanese. **The use of notes is allowed, but those who do not rely on notes will be scored more favorably. Grand prize winners are ineligible to participate for three years immediately following their winning year.**

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

Judges have no prior knowledge of contestants, their schools, or their presentations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>Free speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, understanding and answers to judges’ questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College / University</td>
<td>Free speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, understanding and answers to judges’ questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Free speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, and understanding and answers to judges’ questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Note on AURORA and College/University Divisions:** Students should not significantly change the content, topic, or meaning of their speech from the Regional Contest to the State Contest. Updates to grammar, style, speech organization, or other fundamental aspects of their speech are acceptable. Audio from the Regional Contest will be submitted ahead of the State Contest in order to ensure continuity.
「祝福」
谷郁雄

しゅくふく

百年前
あなたはいなかった
ひくねんまえ

百 年 後
あなたはもういない
ひくねんご

木が葉っぱを
きは

茂らせたり
しぬ

散らせたり
ち

するのと同じように
おな

あなたは
うそ

嘘をついたり
tai

恋をしたり
こい

いろいろと忙しい
いそが

しあわ

幸せとは
幸福とは

ただそこにいること

よろこびで

かな

顔をしわくちゃにして
CONDUCT ON STAGE AND MICROPHONES

Introduce Yourself

No matter your division, you should introduce yourself to the judges on stage respectfully and in Japanese. Give them your name; for example ローレン・ハーリーです. Do not mention the region from which you are competing or your school. If you know a more formal or advanced way to introduce yourself, you are free to do so. End your introduction with the typical よろしくお願いします and a small bow. Then begin your presentation.

Make Sure Judges Can Hear You and Speak Clearly

Only stand microphones will be provided this year, no lapel / pin microphones or hand-held microphones will be provided. Prepare any gestures and control any desire to walk around the stage with this restriction in mind. Practice speaking at a comfortable pace and in front of many different people - not too slow and not too fast. Although you are speaking in Japanese and most judges are native Japanese speakers, they want to hear clearly your thoughts and your pronunciation. Try to stand about 1-2 inches from the microphone and pay attention to the judges’ faces. If they are sitting forward or look confused, speak up or move closer to the microphone.
HOW TO ANSWER Q&A

The Aurora, College/University, and Open Divisions require you to answer questions in Japanese after your speech. For these categories, after your speech judges will engage you a short conversation about your speech. This is the style of Q&A used at the national level for which some participants wish to prepare. Following this short conversation, the judges may ask additional direct questions.

In order to prepare for the Q&A, we suggest you become familiar with the following types of responses so that you can employ them when necessary:

1) すみません。もういちどゆっくりおねがいします。
   *Excuse me. Can you say that one more time, slowly?*

   This is a simple and polite way to ask the judge to repeat the question slowly and clearly. Do not be afraid to use this phrase liberally.

2) すみません。「ことば」のいみは何ですか。
   *Excuse me. What does (this word) mean?*

   Use this phrase with a specific word. Do not simply say you don’t understand the question because that will end your interview prematurely. If judges know which word if difficult for you, they may change their phrasing and vocabulary choice to better match your speaking ability.

Prepare to answer questions based on your speech by becoming familiar with vocabulary based on your speech topic or that you use in your speech.

You may also be asked some of these more familiar sample questions:

1) 日本語が好きですか。どうしてですか。
2) 日本語のクラスはいつありますか。
3) 日本の食べ物が好きですか。何が一番おいしいと思いますか。
4) どうして日本語を勉強していますか。
5) 日本で一番したいことは何ですか。
6) 日本にどんなおみやげを持って行きますか。
7) アメリカについて日本人に何を知ってほしいですか。
WHAT IS HAIKU?

A haiku is a traditional, three-line Japanese poem. Each line has a set number of *mora* that follows the pattern 5-7-5.

“What is a *mora*,” you ask? A *mora* is the Japanese version of a syllable, but it is counted differently than in English. Each hiragana or katakana character is counted as one *mora*.

For example: はいく has three *mora*. する has two *mora*. まって can have either two or three *mora*. Small つ are sometimes counted and sometimes not. This decision is up to the poet/participant.

Even though when you say these words out loud you may be tempted to count according to English syllables, *mora* must be based upon the correct spelling of the word in Japanese.

Also, haiku traditionally include a seasonal word called a *kigo*. A *kigo* indicates the season that the haiku takes place in and helps to evoke an emotion in the audience. *Kigo* are traditionally nouns, but we will accept any part of speech such as cold, sweaty, rafting which all indicate a specific season. *Kigo* can also be more subtle like football, green, hot chocolate, watermelon which also indicate specific seasons. Select a single *kigo* and try to write your haiku around it. You will be asked to identify your *kigo* on your application. *Kigo* do not have to be too obvious. Feel free to use *kigo* that has significance in your life or culture.

WHAT ARE THE HAIKU CRITERIA?

Making a haiku sounds difficult because it is a high form of art in Japanese society.

*Do not worry!* We do not expect you to be Matsuo Basho.

Each haiku must adhere to the 5-7-5 standard and include *kigo*, a season word. Beyond this, use your creativity! We look forward to seeing serious haiku, thoughtful haiku, silly, funny and clever haiku. Show us your personality.

HOW WILL HAIKU BE JUDGED?

Haiku will be judged on the following criteria:

- Structure (5-7-5 *mora* and a *kigo*)
- Understanding of the provided haiku
- Connection between provided haiku and new haiku (which can be expressed, in part, by your English or Japanese explanation)
- Expression of students' personal feelings
WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE HAIKU DIVISION?

First, select one of the provided haiku prompts to be your inspiration. These haiku are written by the masters! Pick one that you really enjoy. Then, write one original haiku that is inspired by the provided haiku you selected. Your finalized haiku must be submitted during registration and cannot be changed after this point. At this point you will also be asked to identify your *kigo*. It is possible that there may be multiple *kigo*, or seasonal words, in your haiku, but only one should be the focus of your poem. Be careful to craft your haiku around the *kigo* that you identify for us during registration.

*Your haiku are meant to be derivative works. They do not have to match the style or level of grammar present in the provided haiku.*

To make the connection between your haiku and the provided haiku clear, you will be asked to give a three to four sentence explanation, in English or Japanese, of your inspiration and feelings on these haiku before you begin the recitation of your original poem.

This short explanation helps to give the audience and judges context and insight into the meaning of your poem. Because haiku are short and are often abstract, please take this opportunity to give a clear subject to your recitation.

HELPFUL HAIKU HINTS

Many haiku use the short form of verbs instead of the long form because it uses fewer *mora*. For instance, します uses three *mora*, but する only uses two. This can free up space for a particle or possibly even another word. Conversely, if you are a few *mora* short, consider using the long form.

Embrace the use of short phrases. Sometimes writing full sentences will work well, but many haiku, as you will see in the examples, use short phrases or individual words to express greater emotions.

Katakana is appropriate to use when natural or when it serves the purpose of the haiku. Names, places, holidays and the odd word or phrase that you are used to seeing in katakana can be used without penalty in your haiku. However, we caution you against being too liberal with katakana. If a word or phrase is more generally seen in Japanese, it is best to use Japanese.

Write your haiku without using kanji and ensure that your spelling is correct. This will help you create a haiku with the right number of *mora*. Kanji should be added later when submitting the final haiku during registration.
STUDENT HAIKU EXAMPLES

あさぎり  まつ  き  なつ  やま
朝霧は  松の木にある  夏の山  - セイディ・ワード

The morning fog / on the mountain trees / summer mountains  – Sadie Ward

You can see the performance of Ms. Sadie Ward of McCullen High School in Austin as an additional example. Ms. Ward won 2nd Prize in the 2016 State Speech Contest Haiku Division.

PROVIDED HAIKU

Select one poem to serve as the inspiration for your original haiku.

春  はっとり  らんせつ  夏  小林  一茶

うめいちりん  梅一輪  一輪ほどの
いちりん  一輪ほどの
あたたかさ  あたたかさ

秋  こばやし  いっさ  冬  小林  一茶

めいげつ  名月を
とってくれると
泣く子かな

冬  まさおか  しき

秋  こばやし  いっさ

秋  小林  一茶

秋  小林  一茶

秋  小林  一茶

秋  小林  一茶

秋  小林  一茶

秋  小林  一茶
The recitation format involves introducing yourself in Japanese, reciting the provided haiku twice with the poet’s name, a short pause, and then explaining your haiku in English. Following this, your original haiku is recited twice with pauses. Taking your time is encouraged as it benefits both your presentation and the judges. Judges may ask questions in English about your haiku after your recitation. The entire recitation must be done from memory.

For example:

"エミリー ガービスです。よろしくおねがいします。
てんち
天も地も
ゆき
(2)
なしただ雪の
ふ
降りしきる
— かじわら はしん
(slight pause before reading again)"

I'm originally from Indiana, which is very far north. The first haiku reminds me of how winter can seem unending in Indiana and in the colder months people almost forget the happy feeling of spring. I decided to write my haiku about that feeling of sadness and anticipation I get in the middle of winter.

"さび
寂しすぎ
Too lonely
ひさびさ はる
久々の春
A spring from long ago
はやき
早く来て
Come quickly
(slight pause before reading again)"

ありがとうございます。

Good luck writing your own haiku! Remember, whether it be serious or funny, we are looking for your personality to shine through.