



**NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**  
**FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL**

Summer 2023  
Family Orientation Handbook

Located at Mountain View Buddhist Temple  
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## **WELCOME TO NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**

Welcome to the 24<sup>th</sup> year of Nakayoshi Gakko. As we are approaching the middle of our third decade, we thank the many people who helped make Nakayoshi Gakko an enormous success. We are grateful for the continued support of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and encouragement from our families and friends.

This year's superb staff of teachers, together with an energetic group of sempai volunteers, is looking forward to leading a variety of lessons and introducing your children to the many different aspects of Japanese and Japanese-American culture.

With your help, we know Nakayoshi Gakko will continue to be a wonderful experience for your children.

## **HISTORY OF NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**

The vision of starting a Japanese Cultural Summer School program at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple was initiated by parents who wanted to pass from generation to generation the elements of their own Japanese culture. Armed with their vision, Temple parent Kathy Fujii presented the concept to the Temple board. She received overwhelming support and great enthusiasm from the Temple board and from participating parents.

In September 1999, a small volunteer board was organized and composed of Phyllis Chan, Pat Tomosada, Charlene Temple, Debby Inenaga, Becky Hudson and Kathy Fujii. Staff recruitment began with the hiring of an experienced Curriculum Director: Kit Nishiura, a former teacher and director at Medaka no Gakko. By January 2000, teachers and coordinators were hired. Both board and staff had the objective of putting on an exceptional program in an effort to make the children, the parents and the community happy and proud. In June 2000, Nakayoshi Gakko opened its doors to 76 students.

# CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

Nakayoshi Gakko offers a full and rich curriculum. After considerable research, we adopted a three-point mission statement, provided below:

## **Mission Statement**

- To promote an awareness of Japanese culture in its historical and religious context.
- To gain an appreciation of Japanese-American heritage.
- To encourage friendship and cultivate those values that characterize the Japanese way of life.

The following objectives serve as guidelines to achieve the Mission Statement goals. With the help of experienced, credentialed classroom teachers, students will:

- Learn about different aspects of Japanese culture through various hands-on projects.
- Gain an understanding of Japanese-American heritage by participating in enrichment activities and field trips.
- Analyze and interpret Japanese and Japanese-American culture and history through literature and student-produced written and oral assignments.
- Demonstrate their appreciation of Japanese culture and values in school activities, such as Japanese language instruction, undokai (physical education), music, art, and cooking classes.
- Develop awareness that these values have importance in how we live and relate to others.
- Provide opportunities to develop a wider circle of friends from surrounding communities.

# CURRICULUM OUTLINE

<i>Class</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Values</i>	<i>Holidays/Events</i>	<i>Cultural Topics and Terms</i>
Panda	Family	“Me” in my family	(New Year’s Day)	Roles of family members ( <i>chichi, haha, watashi, boku</i> ), Family identity (family crest)
		Pride in tradition	Girls’ Day Boys’ Day	Kimono for boys and girls <i>Ayatori, menko</i> , and other traditional toys
		Respect to the elders	Respect for the Aged Day	Bowing and other forms of showing respect to the elders
Saru	Community (1): Awareness and Responsibility	Notion of <i>Mottainai</i> (appreciation of what we are given)	(Needle Festival)	Reusable items ( <i>furoshiki, kimono</i> ) Reuse of paper Japanese traditional paper ( <i>origami, chiyogami, washi</i> )
		Harmony: Awareness & responsibility as a group	Nikkei Matsuri	House ( <i>shoji, fusuma, tatami, noren</i> ) <i>Matsuri</i> ( <i>den den drums, hachimaki, ancestors</i> )
Kuma	Community (2): Connection to the Universe	Nature as gods	Star/Moon Festivals	Summer card & gift giving Calligraphy ( <i>fude, sumi</i> ) <i>Tanabata</i> ( <i>orihime, hikoboshi</i> ) Japanese mythology
		Mental/physical cleanliness	(New Year’s Eve)	Cleansing of house & self (water and salt), sumo, <i>Shinto</i>
Zou	Oceans & Nations	Ocean and Japanese Lifestyle	New Year’s Day	“ <i>Umi no Sachi</i> ” (food from the ocean, <i>gyotaku, sushi</i> ) New Year’s celebration
		Weather & Life	Obon Relocation War Memorial Day	Weather and kanji characters, <i>teruterubozu</i>
		China and Japan		Tradition from China ( <i>kanji, tango-no-sekku, tanabata</i> )
Kirin	Learn from our past	Perseverance	Relocation	Relocation ( <i>Issei, Nisei</i> )
		Respect to ancestors	Obon	Items from Buddhism (Buddha, <i>Daruma</i> )
		Peace of two countries	War Memorial Day	A-bomb and prayer for peace (paper cranes)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Values</i>	<i>Holidays/Events</i>	<i>Cultural Topics and Terms</i>
Tora	Nature and seasonal symbols	Appreciation of four seasons	Excursions to enjoy cherry blossoms, maple leaves, and snow	Natural beauty in the house (garden, <i>tokonoma</i> , table setting) <i>Haiku</i>
	Heritage of Japanese aesthetic value	<i>Ma</i> (balanced space) and <i>Sabi</i> (elegant simplicity)	(Hakone Matsuri)	Japanese visual art, <i>haiku</i> , tea ceremony
	Identity as "Nikkei-jin"	Pride of being a Japanese American	(Nikkei Matsuri)	How we enjoy our annual events and how people in Japan enjoy their annual events (review: months and seasons)
Ryu	Tokugawa			<i>Bunraku</i> <i>Kamishibai</i>
Tsuru	Migration Immigration			<i>Kabuki</i>

# SCHOOL POLICIES

## Enrollment Requirements

### Eligibility

Students entering first through eighth grade in September of the upcoming school year are eligible to participate in Nakayoshi Gakko.

### Tuition

At the time of registration, tuition is paid in full with the application. A 25% late fee is assessed on all late payments. Emergency or unplanned use of extended care is subject to availability and is billed at a higher rate. **All accounts must be settled by the first day of the session.**

### Refunds

Payment is fully refundable until April 15, 2023. No refunds will be given for cancellations made after that date. Unused extended care is not refundable.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

- Proof of COVID vaccination is not required
- Masks are optional however, please see below for health guidelines
- Classes will be conducted indoors with the exception of undokai

### Illness

- If your child is ill, please do not send him/her to school. We ask each family's support and cooperation in this matter.
- We will send your child home for the following reasons: fever, injury, nausea, or suspected contagious conditions.
  - If your child becomes sick and has a fever, please have them remain at home and follow isolation guidance until **fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducers.**
  - Take an at-home COVID test if symptoms for COVID are present.
    - Repeat testing every 1-2 days
- Make sure you have a negative COVID test before returning

### If a Student Tests Positive for COVID

- If your child tests positive for COVID, please let the office staff know immediately and remain at home until symptom-free and/or a negative test.
- Stay home at least 5 days
  - If Day 5 is fever-free for 24 hrs: end isolation
    - Continue wearing a mask until Day 10 or you take a total of 2 negative COVID tests at least 1 day between tests.
- For more information, refer to the Santa Clara County Public Health COVID guidelines
  - <https://covid19.sccgov.org/covid19-guidelines#>

## **If a Student is a Close Contact for COVID**

- Please monitor for symptoms
- Take a COVID test 3-5 days after exposure
- Wear a mask through 10 days

## **Allergies**

All allergies should be listed on the health form and must be brought to the attention of the classroom teacher and school personnel.

## **Emergency Medications**

If your child carries an Epi-Pen, Benadryl, or any other medications, please inform the Office Manager, Classroom Teacher, and Sempai. A box will be provided in the office for medications and emergency instructions (ex. if you want medication dispensed or 911 to be called). Please place these in a clearly labeled Ziploc bag. Medications will be returned at the end of session.

## **Medical Emergencies**

In the event your child has a medical emergency, the school makes every effort to contact the parents or guardians listed on the registration forms first. If parents or guardians cannot be reached, the school will contact the doctor listed on the medical release form.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

In the event of an emergency PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL. It is imperative we keep our telephone lines open for emergency purposes.

Nakayoshi Gakko is prepared for emergencies and we maintain supplies of food, water, and first aid equipment should students need to remain at school for a substantial period of time. Nakayoshi Gakko has established emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all our students. Fire and earthquake drills are held on the first day of the session.

1. In the event of an earthquake, all children will be kept at school until picked up by a family member or a designated person.
2. For any other reasons, you will be contacted via phone using the number that is listed on the Emergency Form.
3. No student will be dismissed from school unless a parent (or individual designated in writing by parent) comes for him/her. Please ensure that the proper contact information is listed on the emergency contact form.
4. All parents or designated persons who come for students must sign out at the temple gym or at the temporary student release station. Signs will be posted if this alternate location is required.



In the event of an earthquake, prolonged power outage, fire, etc., where it is necessary to close the school before regularly scheduled closing, we expect parents to pick up their children as soon as possible.

If you are not able to reach the school in an emergency, Nakayoshi Gakko will care for your children until you arrive or the person designated by you in writing arrives.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS**

As a parent cooperative, Nakayoshi Gakko relies heavily on parent volunteers to support various school programs and curriculum. Parent participation IS critical to the integrity of the program and well-being of the children.

### **1. Maintenance Day I, 2**

- All families are required to participate
- Sign-ups are sent out via email
- Volunteers will be assigned a duty.
- Focus on clean-up & set-up of the classrooms & grounds
- Maintenance Day 1: Sat, June 17 (9am - 11am)
- Maintenance Day 2: Sat, July 1 (9am - 11am)

### **2. Parent Work Day**

- Daily Classroom Support (12:00pm - 3:30pm)
  - Support Sempai and Specialty teachers
  - Be fully engaged!

### **3. Committee Assignments**

- Arts & Crafts
  - Prepare materials for classroom projects
- Publications
  - Print class workbooks
  - Make name tags and print certificates
  - Picture Day photos
  - Mid-session digital newsletter
- Open House Committee
  - Set up Open House (Friday, June 30th)
  - Pack down Open House (Friday, June 30th)

### **4. MVBT OBON (Bingo Booth)**

- July 15th & 16th, 2023
- Set up, Caller, Announcer, Table Runners, Prize Runners
- Sign-up sheet will go out during NG session

# PARENT/FAMILY EVENTS

## Dine with Nakayoshi Gakko

Dine at designated restaurants on specified days and Nakayoshi Gakko receives a percentage of sales from Nakayoshi Gakko customers. This year, it's dining out with Panda Express (1st Wednesday, June 21st, any location) and MOD Pizza (2nd Wednesday, June 28th). Kona Ice (1st Friday, June 23rd 3:30pm - 4:30pm, on-site).

## Open House

Open House will be on the last day of camp! It will showcase all the crafts and activities your student has participated in during the 2 weeks of camp. Friday, June 30th from 3:30pm-5pm

## Other Fundraisers

- We accept donations and corporate matching.
- Need name labels to label all our child's school, camp, sports stuff? Order through Label Daddy. [www.labeldaddy.com/nakayoshi](http://www.labeldaddy.com/nakayoshi)

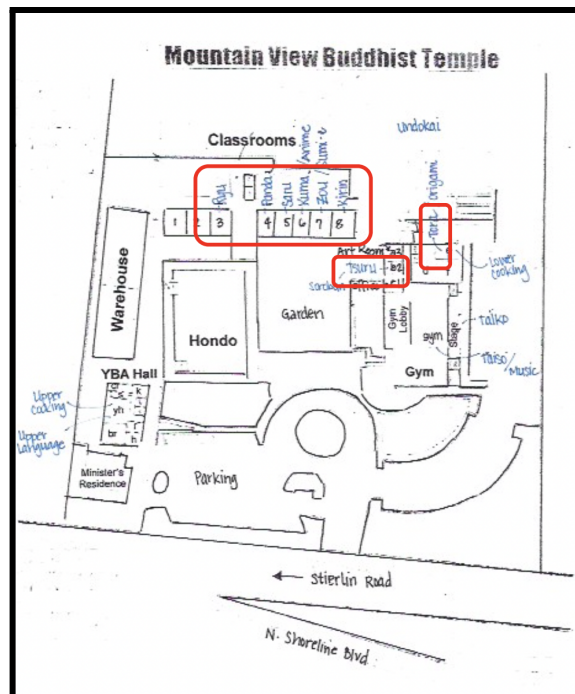
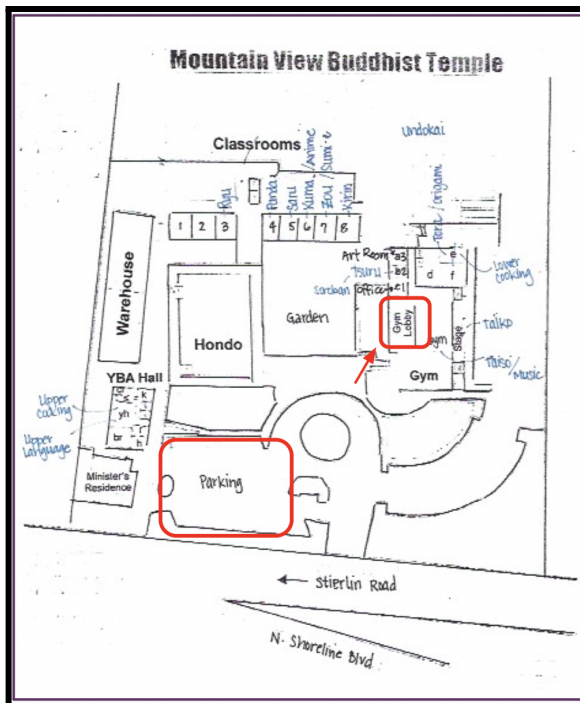
# ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Camp is from Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm, June 19 - 30, 2023

**Drop Off:** 8:15am - 8:30am **Pick Up:** 3:30pm - 3:45pm

## Arrival:

- Park in the parking lot and walk your student inside the gym lobby.
- Sign-in and have your student put on their name badge.
- Students need to place their lunch bag and snack bag in the appropriate box, labeled by class.
- Walk students to the classroom to put water bottles and bags away.
- Sempais will be waiting in the classrooms until it is time for Taisho. Parents are welcome to watch Taisho in the gym.



### **Pick-Up:**

- Line up outside of the classroom.
- Sign your student out and return name badge

## **LUNCH AND SNACK**

Each student should bring a snack and lunch **free of nuts**. Lunch bags will be kept in the walk-in refrigerator. No microwave is available to reheat food, so please plan accordingly. Please bring refillable water bottles. Water stations will be available to refill the bottles.

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

8:30am - 8:45am	Taiso
8:45am	Classes Begin
Snack Periods	Staggered (1st - 6th)
Lunch	Staggered (1st - 8th)
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Specialty Classes
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Clean Up
3:30pm - 3:45pm	Dismissal

## **LATE DROP-OFF AND EARLY PICK-UP**

### **LATE DROP OFF**

- Bring your student to the office

### **EARLY PICK-UP**

- Parent check-in at the office to sign student out
- One of the office staff will escort you to the classroom to pick up your student

## **INSURANCE**

Nakayoshi Gakko does not carry medical insurance.

### **Liability**

1. Children not officially enrolled in the program are not allowed on the school grounds.
2. No person shall be personally liable for debts of Nakayoshi Gakko solely because of association with the school.
3. All participating students are required to have a signed photography release and parental consent waiver on file.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION & ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY**

Nakayoshi Gakko is committed to providing learning and volunteering environments in which all students and volunteers, both adult and minor, involved in school programs and activities can participate in an atmosphere free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. All students and volunteers have the right to learn and teach in an environment free of unlawful discrimination and harassment. Harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, military and veteran status, religion, disability, medical condition, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, domestic partnership status, pregnancy, or sexual orientation is prohibited.

Prohibited harassment or discrimination includes, by way of example, slurs, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual, harassing or discriminatory nature: unwelcome sexual advances or reference to sexual themes which are deemed offensive, or other discriminatory or harassing verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct based on the recipient's race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran's status, religion, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation.

Any participant at Nakayoshi Gakko (students, volunteers, both adult and minor) who engages in the harassment or discrimination of anyone at school programs or activities shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program and possible police arrest if such action is criminal in nature.

Anyone affected by harassment or discrimination should immediately contact staff if they feel they are being harassed. Within 24 hours, staff shall report complaints to the Principal or Designee. Staff shall similarly report any such incidents they may observe, even if the affected person has not complained. The Principal and the President of the Nakayoshi Gakko Board of Directors will investigate reports of harassment. Upon verifying that harassment has occurred, they will ensure that appropriate action is promptly taken to end the harassment, address its effects on the affected person, and prevent any further instances of harassment.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Nakayoshi Gakko Code of Conduct supports our effort to maintain a safe and supportive school environment. Each student is expected to behave appropriately in all activities and accept responsibility for his/her actions. Parents and staff share responsibility for supporting the school's objectives and working together to correct problems when they arise.

### **School Rules**

At Nakayoshi Gakko, students are expected to:

1. Treat Sensei, Principal, parents/adults and each other with respect and courtesy.
2. Get Sensei, Principal or parent/adult permission before leaving the class or group.
3. Use appropriate language and gestures.
4. Refrain from physical and verbal aggression.
5. Refrain from using cell phones and other electronic devices during school hours.

**The behavior expectation code at camp is that students will:**

1. Follow the rules of camp.

2. Cooperate with other students and staff.
3. Listen and follow instructions.
4. Participate in all activities.

Nakayoshi Gakko senseis and sempais and staff will provide leadership, guidance and assistance to all students in meeting their behavior expectations. Students who choose to behave in a socially appropriate manner will maximize the benefits they receive from the camping experience.

### **Student Expectations**

Nakayoshi Gakko will take place from June 19 - 30 (M-F) 8:30am - 3:30pm. All camp activities will be in person.

### **Examples of Misbehavior**

The Nakayoshi Gakko Summer Camp sensei and sempai understand that students may misbehave and that the majority of those misbehaviors will be minor or inconsequential. Sometimes a student's misbehavior may be serious enough to warrant the sensei, sempai or principal intervention. The following are some examples of serious misbehavior at camp:

#### **1. Social misbehavior**

- a. Refusing to follow instructions, directions or safety rules.
- b. Bullying other students.
- c. Harassing other students by teasing or name-calling.

#### **2. Group misbehavior**

- a. Refusing to follow instructions, directions or safety rules.
- b. Disrupting the program process.
- c. Refusing to participate in program activities.
- d. Harassing other campers through misbehavior

### **Disciplinary Action**

- Students violating the student's code of conduct or the Sensei's classroom rules may result in being sent to the office to have a conversation with the Principal.
- Further disruptions from students may result in a CLASS SUSPENSION where the Student is removed from camp for the rest of the day.
- EXPULSION – This form of suspension is assigned only by an administrator and the President of the Nakayoshi Gakko Board of Directors. An expulsion is a complete exclusion and removal from Nakayoshi Gakko and all Nakayoshi programs from the remainder of the current session. Return of the student in future years will be reviewed on an individual basis. No fees will be refunded for expelled students.

## PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE

As parent/guardian of a child or children (hereinafter "Child"), parents acknowledge that audio/video recordings may be made and/or photographs may be taken of Child during participation in demonstrations, field trips, games, contests, and classes and other activities set forth in the Nakayoshi Gakko descriptive materials ("Activities") offered during the Nakayoshi Gakko Summer 2023 session ("Summer Session"). "Photographs" shall mean a picture or likeness obtained by photographic reproduction, still or moving, using either traditional film media or digital recording or storage media, and further including any video tape or live television transmission. Photographs may be taken of parents or Child either alone or with other persons in any setting.

Parents have given authorization and consent (signed during registration) to Nakayoshi Gakko, its Board, officers, agents, volunteers, employees, successors, and assignees (hereinafter "Recipient") to reproduce, perform, publish, create derivatives, and distribute (by whatever means including but not limited to, using newspapers or discrete media such as CDs and DVDs, through the internet, through any other electronic medium presently in existence or invented in the future), of parents and/or Child's voice, photograph or likeness (hereinafter collectively the "Property"), for any purposes, including but not limited to the public promoting of, the public advertising of, describing the mission, class offerings, demonstrations, or other programs and activities of Nakayoshi Gakko in a public forum only after providing written consent to the Recipient. **All public usage of the Property must be formally requested in writing prior to usage by the Recipient.**

Through the registration of Nakayoshi Gakko, parents release and forever discharge Recipient from any and all claims, demands, actions, causes of actions, suits, costs, expenses, liabilities, and damages arising from Recipient's reproduction, performance, publication, creation of derivatives, and distribution of the authorized use of the Property.

Parents further hereby agree not to bring or consent to others bringing claim or action against Recipient on the grounds that anything contained in the authorized Property, or in the advertising and publicity used in connection herewith, is defamatory, reflects adversely on me, violates any other right whatsoever, including, without limitation, rights of privacy and publicity.

## DISCLAIMER

The policies listed in this handbook are by no means exhaustive. Not every situation is included or addressed. Nakayoshi Gakko reserves the right to update or vary the application of rules and policies as it sees fit. This handbook is intended as a guide to help students, parents and volunteers, both adults and minors, to work together to ensure a comfortable and safe space for learning. The parents must ensure that they share the rules and consequences with their students and make sure that such students understand the behavior expectations.

## **CLASSROOM TEACHERS**

### **Interim Principal - Julie Uyekubo (she/her)**

My name is Julie Uyekubo. I have been a preschool teacher for many years. I have two children, Kylie, who is a sempai this year and Tyler who is in Ryu. We're all excited to be at Nakayoshi Gakko this summer. I've been a part of Nakayoshi Gakko since Kylie was a 4-year-old. We love this program and all the friends we have made over the years.

### **Panda Sensei – Annette Lowe (she/her)**

My name is Annette Lowe. I am currently a Kindergarten teacher at Sedgwick Elementary School in Cupertino. I live in San Jose with my husband and our two wonderful children. I have been teaching the Panda class for over 20 years and love it!

### **Saru Sensei - Marilyn Higa-Armistead (she/her)**

My name is Marilyn Higa-Armistead. This will be my 9th year teaching the Saru class and I look forward to meeting the new incoming class. I was born and raised in Mountain View and our family has been active in the Mountain View Buddhist Temple since 1973! I graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and got my teaching credential and Masters degree from San Jose State University. I taught 1st grade at Laurelwood Elementary in San Jose before finally finding a 3rd grade position which I loved at Huff Elementary School (now Imai Elementary) in Mountain View. During my free time I enjoy watching and playing sports with my two children, crafts, gardening, fishing, camping and hanging out with family and friends.

### **Kuma Sensei – Joanne Endo (she/her)**

I have been a teacher at Baker Elementary School in San Jose for sixteen years. I especially enjoy science, writing, and art. During my free time, I like to do crafts, play the guitar, and visit Disneyland. This will also be my 15th year at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Zou Sensei – Hayley Arima (she/her)**

My name is Hayley Arima (she/her/hers). I am a 3rd grade teacher in the Franklin-McKinley School District. I completed my bachelor's degree and master's degree/teaching credential at Santa Clara University. I have been a Nakayoshi Gakko student, sempai, and Taiko Sensei in the past, and this will be my first year as the Zou Sensei.

### **Kirin Sensei – Satomi Fujikawa (she/her)**

Satomi Fujikawa grew up in Oakland and has been teaching in San Jose for over sixteen years. Currently, she is a third grade teacher at Country Lane Elementary in the Moreland School District. She loves teaching the Kirin class because she has always been interested in the Japanese American experience during World War II and wants to help pass on their stories to the next generation. When she's not teaching, she is always picking up new hobbies—her current favorites are birding, gardening, and ceramics. She also enjoys visiting

National Parks, and this July, she will be volunteering in Yosemite National Park for a whole month as an information assistant!

### **Tora Sensei – Ann Chavez (she/her)**

I am so excited to be a part of the Nakayoshi Gakko community. My daughter, Sara, completed Nakayoshi Gakko last year and my son, Logan, will be in Ryu. I have been teaching for 19 years in the field of Deaf Education for preschool through middle school aged students. I look forward to seeing everyone this June!

### **Ryu Sensei - Lauren Furukawa (she/her)**

Lauren Furukawa received her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies at Cal State Long Beach and is currently working as a substitute teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District. She grew up in the Nakayoshi Gakko program in which she went from Panda to Tsuru and was then a sempai in high school. Nakayoshi has always been a highlight of her summers and she is excited for this year's session.

### **Tsuru Sensei – Brian Tamekuni (he/him)**

After receiving his teaching credential from San Jose State, Brian has been a teacher for 16 years, where he taught the 4th and 5th grades in the Campbell Union School District. Coincidentally, his first year teaching also happened to be his first year at Nakayoshi Gakko. He taught the Tora class for several years, and then moved to the Tsuru class.

### **Language (Lower) Sensei – Miho Poelman (she/her)**

I graduated from Sozosha School of Graphic Design in Japan. I also graduated from San Jose State University with a BFA program and a minor in Psychology. I worked for NTK Technical Ceramic, American Airline in special service, AT&T as a customer service, Eastside Adult School as a cooking instructor, Evergreen Community Center as a preschool aide and art instructor, and Evergreen School District as a kindergarten aide. Currently, I am working for San Jose Betsuin as a Japanese language instructor. I have three grown children and live with my husband in San Jose. I love creating things like painting, cooking, crafts, or home improvement.

### **Language (Upper) Sensei – Lisa Nakamatsu (she/her)**

Although Lisa Nakamatsu was born and raised in the South Bay, she lived in Japan for ten years. Her husband is from Okinawa and both of her daughters were born in Japan. After returning to the States, she earned a degree in Japanese from SFSU followed by her teaching credential. She has taught Japanese at Homestead High since 2004. Lisa loves to travel and has been to 18 different countries (including Cuba).

### **Origami Sensei - Cheryl Uyehara Shay (she/her)**

My name is Cheryl Shay. I grew up in Sunnyvale and have attended the Mountain View Buddhist Temple since childhood. In addition to origami, I enjoy playing the piano and gardening. I live in San Jose with my husband and 4-year-old son.



### **Origami Sensei - Jeanifer Tsukamoto (she/her)**

My name is Jeanifer Tsukamoto. I have been teaching in the Cupertino Union School District for 23 years. Fun fact, I was one of the first teachers that taught at Nakayoshi Gakko. Also, I grew up going to Japanese school in the same classrooms that Nakayoshi Gakko uses today. Most of my spare moments are spent with my husband and daughter going to her extracurricular activities. However, when I do have some time, I enjoy reading, traveling, and doing yoga. I look forward to teaching origami this summer.

### **Music Sensei – Brigitte Doss-Johnson (she/her)**

Brigitte Doss-Johnson has a M.M. in Choral Conducting from SJSU and a Suzuki Piano Pedagogy Certificate from Holy Names University. She has an active private studio for piano and voice. She enjoys teaching the students at Nakayoshi Gakko the traditional songs of Japan as well as recent popular songs. Brigitte has three grown children and a neko.

### **Soroban and Taiko Sensei - Joy Tanaka (she/her)**

Joy Tanaka began studying *soroban* (Japanese abacus) at age 10 at the Araki Hiroya Soroban School in Honolulu, Hawaii. After taking top honors in state competitions, she became an assistant instructor while continuing to pursue advanced soroban levels through high school and college. Joy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She was a chief instructor at Araki Hiroya Soroban School as well as an elementary teacher in Honolulu.

### **Sumi-e Sensei - Tami Vazquez (she/her)**

I'm Tami Vazquez. I teach all kinds of art and DIY from painting on canvas, furniture, signs and more. I teach kids and adults locally at Wine & Design and have even taught at a camp in Northern Italy.

### **Lower Cooking Sensei (Panda through Tora) - Cathy Nakamura (she/her)**

I worked as a nutritionist and registered dietitian for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service in San Francisco for 11 years, I also worked at Sun Pac Foods catering and have taken many cooking classes. Currently, I help special ed. students at Monta Vista High School as the department secretary and paraeducator. This is my 19th year at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Upper Cooking Sensei - Irene Nishimoto (she/her)**

Irene has been a former registered dietitian and is now a retired elementary school teacher. Irene received her Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics with a dietetics emphasis from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and later her teaching credentials at San Jose State. After working as a registered dietitian for 17 years, she taught at Country Lane Elementary School for 22 years. When her children were younger, she was a board member of Medaka no Gakko in Palo Alto and taught a combo 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class for one year. This is her 11<sup>th</sup> year teaching cooking for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Nakayoshi Gakko. She is looking forward to joining the staff again.

## **Undokai Sensei - Caitlyn Higa (she/her)**

My name is Caitlyn Higa. I just graduated with my bachelor's degree from Cal State Fullerton and will continue there in the fall to receive my Master's in Social Work. I went through Nakayoshi Gakko as a student, sempai, and now as a sensei. Nakayoshi has always been a great experience and I am excited to continue being part of this program!

## **SEMPAI (In their own words...)**

### **Emi Kosakura (she/her), Head Sempai**

Hello! I am Emi Kosakura and I just graduated from Monta Vista High School. In my free time, I love going on boba runs and hanging out with my family and friends. I've attended Nakayoshi Gakko since I was in the Panda class, and it was something I always looked forward to during the summer. As I enter my final summer of being a sempai, it is very bittersweet as I know I'm going to miss being around all the amazing people at NG. I hope the kids at Nakayoshi Gakko get to experience the same fun that I did when I went to Nakayoshi :).

### **Connor Sato (he/him), Assistant Head Sempai**

Hello, my name is Connor. I am going into my senior year at Homestead High School. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda to Tsuru. One thing I'm excited about being a sempai is helping kids and hanging out with friends.

### **Tennessee Tang (he/him) Panda (1<sup>st</sup> grade) Sempai**

My name is Tennessee Tang and I am Senior at Branham High School, but I attend West Valley College full time. I have been a participant in Nakayoshi Gakko for seven years and am excited to return as a sempai again. I can't wait to meet the new kids and see familiar faces from past years of Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Erin Mizota (she/her), Saru (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Sempai**

Hi Everyone! My name is Erin Mizota and I graduated from Santa Clara High School this year. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Kuma through Tsuru and this is my third year being a sempai. Nakayoshi has made such a positive impact on my life and I hope to make tons of great memories with you all this year! :)

### **Bria Shimada (she/her), Saru (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) Sempai**

I attend Los Gatos High School and will be a Junior. I enjoy playing basketball for my school and having a good time with my friends. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko for four years, and the summer of 2021-2022 was my first time being a sempai! As a sempai, I look forward to building on and creating new, unique relationships with each of the students. I also can't wait to help them learn and grow while having fun!

**Bradley Aquino (he/him), Kuma (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) Sempai**

I attend Mountain View High School, I am going into 11th grade next year, I enjoy playing video games with friends, as well as lacrosse. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko every year except during COVID, and I was previously a sempai for the Saru class which I thoroughly enjoyed. I am most looking forward to seeing all the kids and fellow sempais this year!

**Miya Kosakura (she/her), Kuma (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) Sempai**

Hi, I'm Miya Kosakura, and I am entering 11th grade at Monta Vista High School. In my free time, I play basketball and taiko, and enjoy bullet journaling and making stickers! Nakayoshi Gakko has always been a fun and memorable experience that I've always enjoyed since being a Panda, so I'm so excited to be able to be back as a sempai! I'm looking forward to being able to work with kids that are going through this same program, and I can't wait for these two weeks!

**Kendall Alicaya (she/her), Zou (4<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

Hi, my name is Kendall Alicaya and I graduated from Homestead High School in the Spring and am planning to attend a four-year university in the Fall. I enjoy playing basketball, hanging out with my friends, and spending time with my family. I went to Nakayoshi Gakko for all eight years of the program and was a sempai for the last two years as well. I am looking forward to continuing the tradition of Nakayoshi and giving back in any way possible.

**Jillian Higa (she/her), Zou (4<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

Hi my name is Jillian Higa. I currently attend Mountain View High School and I will be an incoming junior. I played on the Varsity basketball team for school and a basketball club team for three years. I also have been doing taiko at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple for seven years. I went to Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda to Ryu. Because of my taiko experience, I was also included in the Nakayoshi Gakko demos. I'm grateful for this opportunity of becoming a sempai.

**Lacy Armistead (she/her), Kirin (5<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

This upcoming school year, I will be a junior at Pinewood School. I love to play any sport but especially volleyball and soccer. When I am not in school or playing sports, I am usually watching Netflix or hanging out with my friends. Previously, I was a student at Nakayoshi Gakko for 7 years and then a sempai for one year. This year, I look forward to learning more about all the students and other sempai.

**Sienna Rembulat (she/her), Kirin (5<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

My name is Sienna Rembulat, and I am going to be a senior at Branham High School. I am on my school's track team, and I am in Girl Scouts and YBA. I have been attending Nakayoshi Gakko since I have been in Panda class and have been a sempai for two prior

years. As a sempai, I am excited to help the kids form connections and create a memorable experience for this summer.

**Allyson Itow (she/her), Tora (6<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

I am Allyson Itow. I go to Willow Glen High School and will be an upcoming senior. Additionally, I have attended Nakayoshi Gakko all eight years and have been a sempai for two years. I run cross-country, I like reading, and I enjoy walking my dog, Zoey. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone and having fun during Nakayoshi Gakko.

**Ryan Mukoyama (he/him), Tora (6<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

This summer, I will hopefully have graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory and be off to college! I enjoy playing basketball and getting boba. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko throughout my childhood as a student and now as a sempai. I look forward to growing from this experience and making lasting connections with everyone here!

**Jake Aquino (he/him), Ryu (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

I am Jake Aquino. I am going to be a freshman in college after this summer. I enjoy watching basketball, football, and baseball, and I played basketball for Tri-City. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko for all eight years. As a sempai, I hope to give the students the same experience I had while attending camp.

**Devin Yee (he/him), Ryu (7<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

Hi I'm Devin Yee and I'm in my senior year at Leigh High School. I've loved being a part of Nakayoshi Gakko ever since I was in Panda class and I'm excited to start my final year as a sempai. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with the community and helping contribute to a fun experience for the campers.

**Bree Widmeyer (she/her), Tsuru (8<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

Hello, my name is Bree Widmeyer and I am entering my senior year at Homestead High School. A few of my interests are volleyball, traveling, and reading. I was a prior student at Nakayoshi Gakko for all 8 years. I look forward to making more fun memories as a sempai at Nakayoshi Gakko.

**Jarrett Wong (he/him), Tsuru (8<sup>th</sup> grade) Sempai**

My name is Jarrett Wong, I will be a freshman at . . . University. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda-Tsuru and am looking forward to my final opportunity to be a part of this great program . . . unless I come back as a sensei one day : )

**Rebecca Kunze (she/her), Lower Cooking Sempai**

Hello! I'm Rebecca Kunze, a rising sophomore at Notre Dame San Jose. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda through Tsuru, and had a lot of fun learning about language, food, and traditions. In my free time, I do track and field as well as speech and debate, and

enjoy reading, writing, and drawing. I'm looking forward to helping others and developing new leadership skills through this experience!

**Ryan Mizota (he/him), Lower Cooking Sempai**

Both my brother and I were in Nakayoshi Gakko and went all the way through the program. I really enjoyed learning about Japanese culture and participating in fun activities with my friends. This year, I would like to be a sempai since it will allow me to help out in the community as well as hang out with some of my friends who I haven't seen in a while.

**Zoe Tang (she/her), Upper Cooking Sempai**

My name is Zoe Tang, and I'm currently in 9th grade attending Braham High School. I have a special interest in baking using difficult recipes and using my skills developed while working independently to improve quality and presentation. It is also easy for me to work with younger children and teach them what I know. I also enjoy taking a leadership role in anything I do, but also know how important it is to be flexible and work well with my peer group and adult advisors. I'm excited for meeting all the kids, and hopefully create a growing connection as I get to know them.

**Ryan Tsunoda (he/him), Upper Cooking Sempai**

This year I will be graduating high school from Willow Glen High. I have done Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda to Tsuru and was a sempai last year. I'm excited to meet new faces and hopefully be a good mentor/role model to them whilst sharing the same enjoyment I got from it in the past.

**Kyra Fradenburg (she/her), Anime & Program Sempai**

I am a student at Westmont High. I like drawing, playing flute, singing, theater, and playing video games like Mario and Pokemon. I started Nakayoshi Gakko since Zou and was both the Anime Sensei for the past two years and part-time classroom sempai for Zou and Tsuru. I can't wait to see what the summer has in store for us.

**Emi Hirabayashi (she/her), Program Sempai**

Hi, my name is Emi Hirabayashi and I am an incoming sophomore at Homestead High School. After attending Nakayoshi Gakko for 8 years, I'm looking forward to interacting with students while creating both happy and meaningful memories together. Being a part of the Nakayoshi Gakko community has greatly impacted my life, and I hope to help create a welcoming environment for new students. Nakayoshi Gakko has been a great way for me to connect with my culture while making lifelong friendships, and I'm excited to become a sempai this year!

**Kaya Hirano (she/her), Program Sempai**

I currently go to Fremont High School and am going into 10th grade. I have been in Nakayoshi Gakko since 2015 and have gone through Panda to Tsuru, excluding Tora because of the pandemic. I am excited about helping out at camp.

**Kendall Inouye (she/they), Program Sempai**

Hi, my name is Kendall Inouye and I am going to be a sophomore at Mountain View High School. I am a 5th generation Japanese American and grew up in the Mountain View Buddhist Temple community. I have attended all 8 years of this camp and I'm excited for the opportunity of working with the younger kids. I'm an avid baker and I enjoy crafting and sewing.

**Mari Mizota (she/her), Program Sempai**

Hi! My name is Mari and this is my first year as a sempai. I have attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda all the way to Tsuru and will be entering 10th Grade this Fall. In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with friends, playing soccer, reading, crafting, and doing puzzles. I am looking forward to meeting new people, making new memories and being part of the community.

**Kylie Uyekubo (she/her), Program Sempai**

My name is Kylie Uyekubo and in the fall, I will be a sophomore at Aragon High School. I enjoy playing basketball, reading, baking, and hanging out with friends. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko all eight years and am excited to continue Nakayoshi as a sempai. I am looking forward to helping out in any way I can to make it as enjoyable as it was for me.

## 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD INFORMATION

An organizational chart along with job descriptions of the Executive Board, Working Board, and Committees are available at: <http://www.nakayoshigakko.org/contact.html>

### Executive Board

Co-Presidents	Christine Fradenburg Julie Uyekubo	<a href="mailto:president@nakayoshigakko.org">president@nakayoshigakko.org</a>
Ex-Officio	Christine Fradenburg	
Interim Principal	Julie Uyekubo	<a href="mailto:principal@nakayoshigakko.org">principal@nakayoshigakko.org</a>
Registrars	Alisa Nishimoto Cindy Nakasuji	<a href="mailto:registrar@nakayoshigakko.org">registrar@nakayoshigakko.org</a>
Treasurer	Cindy Hiroshige	<a href="mailto:treasurernakayoshigakko@gmail.com">treasurernakayoshigakko@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Annie Hsu (Kondo) Kayo Wood	<a href="mailto:secretary@nakayoshigakko.org">secretary@nakayoshigakko.org</a>
Facility Coordinators	Kim Tsuchida Angela Kao	<a href="mailto:facilities@nakayoshigakko.org">facilities@nakayoshigakko.org</a>
Special Events	Doug Doi Julie Doi Michelle Lim	<a href="mailto:events@nakayoshigakko.org">events@nakayoshigakko.org</a>
Purchasing	Marilyn Armistead Annette Lowe Courtney Makishima-Nguyen	<a href="mailto:purchasing@nakayoshigakko.org">purchasing@nakayoshigakko.org</a>
Webmaster	Barry Tao	<a href="mailto:webmaster@nakayoshigakko.org">webmaster@nakayoshigakko.org</a>

### HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Honorable Margaret Abe-Koga  
City of Mountain View Council Member

The Honorable Michael M. Honda  
Former U.S. Congressman, 17<sup>th</sup> District of California

The Honorable Tom Kinoshita  
Former Trustee, Morgan Hill Unified School District

The Honorable Jeremy Nishihara  
Trustee, Oak Grove School District