



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

Summer 2011  
Family Orientation Handbook

Located at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple  
575 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, CA 94043  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 390054-0054  
Mountain View, CA 94039

[www.nakayoshigakko.org](http://www.nakayoshigakko.org)

# 2011 HANDBOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>WELCOME TO NAKAYOSHI GAKKO.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>HISTORY OF NAKAYOSHI GAKKO .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
MISSION STATEMENT .....	2
<b>CURRICULUM OUTLINE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SCHOOL POLICIES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS .....	5
<i>Eligibility</i> .....	5
<i>Refunds</i> .....	5
<b>PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. <i>Maintenance I or II</i> .....	6
2. <i>Classroom Work Days</i> .....	6
3. <i>Committee Assignments</i> .....	6
4. <i>Obon Festival</i> .....	7
<b>PARENT/FAMILY EVENTS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>LUNCH AND SNACKS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>HEALTH .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Illnesses</i> .....	8
<i>Allergies</i> .....	8
<i>Medical Emergencies</i> .....	9
<b>EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>INSURANCE .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>NON-DISCRIMINATION &amp; ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>School Rules</i> .....	11
<b>STUDENT CONSEQUENCES .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>DISCLAIMER.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CLASSROOM TEACHERS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SEMPAI.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>JUNIOR SEMPAI.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>ASSISTANT SEMPAI.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....</b>	<b>23</b>

## **WELCOME TO NAKAYOSHI GAKKO**

Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> year of Nakayoshi Gakko. As we embark on our second 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 and junior sempai, 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 comprised 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 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, science 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>zabuton, shoji, fusuma, tatami, tokonoma</i> ) <i>Matsuri (yatai, omikoshi, matoi, happi)</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 (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 and Extended Care At the time of registration, tuition is paid in full (\$375 per child) with the application. If using extended care, full payment must be received prior to the start of the session (please see details in the registration materials).

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 last day of the session.**

### **Refunds**

Cancellations made and confirmed by the Registrar(s) before April 12<sup>th</sup> will receive a \$325 refund (\$375 - \$50 processing fee). Cancellations made after April 12<sup>th</sup> are not refundable. If your child's class is full, you will receive a tuition refund up to April 12, 2011.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS**

As a parent cooperative school, 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. Parents are required to assist in four main areas:

1. Maintenance
2. Classroom Work Days
3. Committee Support
4. MVBT Obon Bazaar Support

If a family fails to fulfill their commitments and does not have good cause as determined by the Registrars, then a fee of \$100 will be assessed AND the enrollment priority of the family's returning child(ren) will be lost. The registration of the child(ren) will be considered with the other general pool of first-time applicants.

## **1. Maintenance I or II**

On the Saturday prior to and following the session, parents help with general cleanup and setup of the classrooms, gym, kitchen, and other facilities used by Nakayoshi Gakko. Please arrive at the Mountain View Temple at 9 AM to work your shift.

## **2. Classroom Work Days**

- One parent IS required to assist in the classroom one day per family.
- On your workday, please sign-in by 8:15 AM in the Nakayoshi Gakko office and report to your assigned classroom. Please stay until 4:15 PM when all children have been picked up or escorted to childcare.
- Duties include assisting the classroom teacher as needed, supervising recess and lunchtime for your class and accompanying your class and supporting them during scheduled afternoon specialty classes.
- Please note siblings who are not enrolled in the program are not permitted to accompany the parent on their classroom workday.
- Should you need to change or switch a day, please find another Nakayoshi Gakko parent with whom to trade and let the office know of your day change.

Floater should also report at 8:15 AM to the Nakayoshi Gakko office for assignment to areas as needed.

## **3. Committee Assignments**

- Each family is assigned to help work on one of four committees. Committee meetings are held at the Parent Orientation meetings. If you have a question regarding your committee, please contact the committee chairperson. Brief descriptions of the committees are listed below:

### Arts and Crafts

- Prepare materials for classroom projects and special events. Duties may include cutting paper, gluing, woodworking, sewing, etc.

### Publications

- Assist with school newsletter, take digital photographs of classes and activities, produce classroom binders and nametags, photocopy language and music books and copy music CDs, compile and publish the slideshow for Open House, and post memory slideshow to Nakayoshi Gakko website.

#### Fundraising

- Support fundraising activities.

#### Open House

- Assist in the preparation and execution of Open House. Duties may include setup and takedown of tables, chairs, and art displays; supporting a variety of tasks necessary to put on the open house presentation.

### **4. Obon Festival**

Parents help with Obon in the following ways: prepare food the week before the festival or assist in an assigned booth on the Saturday or Sunday of Obon Festival. Signups are posted the first week of school.

## **PARENT/FAMILY EVENTS**

### **Cultural Demonstrations**

Parents and family members are welcome to attend our daily cultural demonstrations. Unless otherwise specified, these take place in the gym.

### **First Day Welcome Tea**

This occurs just after morning *taiso* (exercise) and is a casual social gathering of parents. Light refreshments are served in the gym lobby.

### **Dine with Nakayoshi Gakko**

Dine at designated restaurants on specified days and Nakayoshi Gakko receives a percentage of sales from Nakayoshi Gakko customers.

### **Book Fair**

This takes place the last two days of the session in the gym lobby. A variety of Japanese and Asian-themed books are available for purchase from Heritage Press. The program receives a percentage of total sales.

### **Open House**

Open House is the last day of the session and is a casual gathering of families and friends to celebrate the end of session and to view the activities completed by the children. We enjoy an *obento* (boxed) dinner and homemade desserts, watch a school-wide musical performance, and visit classrooms.

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

School hours are 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Classrooms open at 8:15 AM. For your child's safety and protection, please stay with your child until the classroom or gym lobby is open. Please sign your child in on the class-specific signup sheets located in the gym lobby. Please notify the school by 8:30 AM if your child will not be attending that day.

At the end of the school day, students will return to their classrooms to collect their belongings. A parent or authorized person (photo identification may be required) must pick up and sign out the child from their classroom by 4:00 PM or optional Extended Care by 5:30 PM in the Gym Lobby.

A grace period of 5 minutes will be allowed for the 4:00 PM pickup, at which time your student will be moved to extended care and charged automatically. Parents arriving late will be assessed the extended care daily fee of \$20. All late fees will be collected before the last day of session.

## **LUNCH AND SNACKS**

Each student should bring a separately packed morning snack and lunch **free of nuts**. At the start of the school day, lunches are refrigerated and brought out prior to lunch time. No microwave services are available to reheat food, so please plan accordingly. Nakayoshi Gakko provides an afternoon snack and an extended care snack. These snacks generally consist of crackers and fruit and occasionally cookies and frozen treats. If your child has a severe food allergy, please send him/her with a separate afternoon snack.

## **HEALTH**

### **Illnesses**

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. Please notify the school if your child had an infectious disease. We will notify other parents in the class so they can watch for symptoms in their children.

### **Allergies**

All allergies should be listed on the health form and must be brought to the attention of the classroom teacher and school personnel. As mentioned above, if your child has a severe food allergy we ask you to please provide a separate afternoon snack as we cannot guarantee the snacks will be allergy-free for all children.

## **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 fully 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.

## **INSURANCE**

Nakayoshi Gakko does not carry medical insurance.

### **Liability**

1. Students not officially enrolled in the program are not allowed on the school grounds unless accompanied by an adult.
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 prohibited 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, veteran's status, religion, disability, age, gender 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.

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, Sempai, and each other with respect and courtesy.
2. Get Sensei, Sempai or adult permission before leaving the class or group.
3. Use appropriate language and gestures.
4. Refrain from physical and verbal aggression.
5. Maintain a "hands-off" policy with respect to appropriate boy-girl relationships.
6. Remain on the Temple grounds during the school hours unless signed out by a parent or guardian.
7. Respect and take care of Temple property.
8. Refrain from using cell phones and electronic devices during school hours.

## **STUDENT CONSEQUENCES**

When a student fails to act responsibly and school rules are violated, consequences will occur. Consequences will be assigned based on the severity of the offense and/or the frequency with which a student breaks school rules. The following is a list of potential consequences:

1. **CLASS SUSPENSION** – Teachers reserve the right to send any disruptive student from a class to the office. This kind of suspension requires a phone call or conference between the suspending teacher and parents.
2. **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION** – This form of suspension is assigned only by an administrator. The student is allowed to remain in the class provided his or her legal guardian is present to directly supervise the student throughout the entire day for every day the student is under in-school suspension. The length of in-school suspension will be assigned based on the severity and/or frequency of the offense. This kind of suspension requires a conference between the administrator and parents.
3. **OFF-CAMPUS SUSPENSION** – This form of suspension is assigned only by an administrator. The student is temporarily removed or excluded from school and school programs. The length of off-campus suspension will be

assigned based upon the severity and/or frequency of the offense. This kind of suspension requires a conference between the administrator and parents.

4. **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.

## **DISCLAIMER**

**The policies listed in this handbook are by no means all inclusive. Not every situation is included or addressed. Nakayoshi Gakko retains the right to alter or vary the application of rules and policies. This handbook is intended as a guide to help students, parents and volunteers, both adult and minor to work together. Every effort will be made to help students and volunteers, both adult and minor, understand what is expected of them.**

## **CLASSROOM TEACHERS**

### **Principal – Marian Endo**

Marian Endo is currently a teacher in the Moreland School District in San Jose. Born and raised in Oakland, she attended UC Berkeley, and later obtained her teaching credential from National University. Marian has just been awarded Master's degree in Educational Leadership from San Jose State University. She is married, with three children, and enjoys jelly-making, baking, reading, and raising assistance puppies for the disabled.

### **Panda Sensei – Annette Lowe**

Annette was born and raised in Del Rey, California (which is located in the Central Valley). She received her B.S. in Communicative Disorders at California State University of Fresno. She also received her Multiple Subject Credential and Special Education Credential, while attending Fresno State. Annette currently teaches Special Education at Lincoln Elementary School in Cupertino. This is her 11<sup>th</sup> year teaching the Panda class at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Saru Sensei – Doris Lau**

Doris Lau was born and raised in the Bay Area. She is a first grade teacher in the Cupertino Union School District. Doris attended UC San Diego and later on completed her Masters Degree at Notre Dame de Namur University. This will be her fourth year teaching the Saru class.

### **Kuma Sensei – Joanne Endo**

Joanne grew up in Santa Clara and Cupertino, and she attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she received a B.S. in Liberal Studies and a teaching credential. She is a second grade teacher at Baker Elementary School in San Jose. Her favorite subjects to teach are science and art. In her free time, she enjoys reading, paper crafts, guitar playing, and singing Disney songs.

### **Zou Sensei – Grace Ikenaga-Clymer**

Grace was born in Hawaii and educated at the University of Arizona where she received her BA in Elementary Education. She received her Early Childhood Certificate at Louisiana State University and her School Librarian Certificate from Northwestern State University. She has taught fourth grade in Arizona, New Hampshire, and Louisiana. She is currently certified to teach in the State of Washington. This will be her 11<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Kirin Sensei – Satomi Fujikawa**

Satomi is an elementary school teacher at Vinci Park School in the Berryessa District in San Jose. After growing up in Oakland, attending college at UC Davis, then moving to the South Bay to get her teaching credential and masters at San Jose State, she now considers Campbell her home. Being a teacher brings together many of her favorite things--science, history, arts and crafts, reading, and writing. She has always been fascinated by the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II. As a Kirin teacher, she can share her knowledge about their struggles and amazing perseverance with the class.

### **Tora Sensei – Brian Tamekuni**

This year will be Brian Tamekuni's fifth at Nakayoshi Gakko. He is also finishing his fifth year as a teacher in Campbell Union School District. Prior to teaching, he spent two years in Japan on the JET Program. He is a Bay Area native, and enjoys the outdoors, traveling and movies. He is looking forward to another fun-filled summer at Nakayoshi helping students discover and explore Japanese and Japanese-American culture.

### **Ryu Sensei – Yukiko Hara**

Yukiko Hara was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She graduated from International Christian University in Tokyo with BA in Linguistics. After working for All Nippon Airways, she married a Japanese American and resides now in Santa Clara. She is currently working as an aide for Cupertino Union School District, art aide at St. Joseph of Cupertino and tutors Japanese language at home. Her hobbies include drawing anime, ikebana and web surfing. This is her fifth year with Nakayoshi Gakko and she is looking forward to working with the Ryu class.

### **Tsuru Sensei – Diane Sasaki**

Diane returns to Nakayoshi Gakko after a few years break. She has spent six years with Nakayoshi Gakko as either a teacher or principal. She has a BA in Social Ecology and a Master's degree in Special Education. Diane obtained her teaching credential from SCU Long Beach. Currently, she is a special education teacher with the Los Altos School District.

### **Origami Sensei – Fukiko Rindner**

Fukiko Rindner was born and raised in Japan, and moved to the U.S. in 1991. Since then she has earned an A.A. Degree in Speech Communication from Foothill College, worked at Kumon, and taught as a private Japanese tutor. She is currently taking Early Childhood Education classes at West Valley College. Fukiko teaches an elective subject (crafts) at Tachibana School, where her two children attend. In her spare time she enjoys doing Ikebana flower arrangement and bike riding.

### **Cooking Sensei (Ryu and Tsuru) – Irene Nishimoto**

Irene Nishimoto is a former registered dietitian who decided to change careers and become an elementary school teacher. Irene received her Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics with a dietetics emphasis from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After working as a registered dietitian managing the food service for senior centers and Meals on Wheels for San Mateo County, she consulted for the Senior Adult Day Care in Palo Alto and Casa MACSA in San Jose. During this time, she decided to pursue her dream of working with children by earning her teaching credentials through San Jose State. She has taught second and mostly third grade for the past sixteen years at Country Lane Elementary School in San Jose. 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 third year teaching cooking for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Odori Sensei – Reiko Iwanaga**

Reiko Iwanaga started her classical Japanese dance training at the age of 4. She received her natori certificate and name of Hanayagi Reimichi in Japan in 1968 and assisted teaching in a Hanayagi studio in San Jose for a number of years. She has been the head teacher of the San Jose Betsuin Obon Odori where attendance has increased annually, reaching a peak of 1,200 on Saturday and 700 on Sunday. She is the co-owner of At Your Request, a wedding and events planning business, and is the Managing Director of CATS (Contemporary Asian Theater Scene). Other associations include past president and art show chair of the Saratoga Rotary, Japantown Community Congress of San Jose, Susan G. Komen, Saratoga Foothill Club, Spirit of Japantown Festival, Padma teacher for S.J. Betsuin Brownies. She has a B.S. from the University of California, San Francisco and a M.S. from Columbia University and has done postgraduate work in English as A Second Language and other disciplines. She was selected for the 2009 class of 1<sup>st</sup> Act's Multicultural Arts Leadership Initiative. She was chosen as the 1991 Citizen of the Year in Saratoga.

### **Language and Taiso Sensei – Yasuko Tahara**

Yasuko Tahara was born in Kanagawa and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She received her BA in English literature and teaching credential from Jissen Women's college. She started her career in teaching Japanese, English, and Math. After 7 years experience, she moved to the Bay Area in 2000. Since then she is teaching children at several locations including Kumon Center and Tachibana Language School as well as tutoring. In addition, she volunteers for craft class at Yu-Ai-Kai, a senior center in San Jose Japan Town.

### **Taiko Sensei – Curtis Koyama**

Curtis Koyama is currently an Anthropology student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. He played Taiko for 6 years through the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. He is a former Sempai of the Panda Class and is delighted to return to Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Cooking Sensei, Panda through Tora – Cathy Nakamura**

Cathy Nakamura is a registered dietitian who brings her cooking expertise and love of cooking to our afternoon specialty class. She was a co-leader of the Mountain View Temple Fuji Club for 12 years. Cathy has her B.A. in Home Economics with a concentration in Dietetics from San Jose State University. Cathy currently works with special education students at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino. This is her 12th year with Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Music Sensei- Rika Williams**

Rika Williams is very excited to share her music enthusiasm. She was born and raised in Fukuoka, Japan. When she was young, she studied Minyo Songs for 6 years. After she graduated from Kyushu-Zokei-Art College with a teaching license, she worked at a middle school and special education school. She studied Japanese Language Teaching Methods and began teaching Japanese to children after she came to the US. She has been teaching at Tachibana Japanese Language School for 8 years. She also volunteers to teach Japanese style circle time at various places. Last year, she started to teach her own Japanese class for toddlers at the Japanese Art and Cultural Center in San Jose. She enjoys Kendo, Zumba, and Karaoke.

### **Undokai Sensei – Kelsey Sawamura**

Kelsey Sawamura is graduating from Mountain View High School this year. She attended Nakayoshi Gakko when she was younger and volunteered as a junior sempai for a few years. Kelsey loves kids and that's why she loves NG. She also babysits for her neighbors and cousins from time to time. Kelsey played basketball in high school and enjoys sports of all kinds, such as hockey, tennis, and basketball. But her favorite sport is definitely basketball. Whether she's playing or just a spectator, everything about it is exciting. The Golden State Warriors is Kelsey's favorite team and she goes to watch them play at Oracle Arena with her dad. Aside from sports, Kelsey's passion is music; whether it is singing or writing songs, she loves it all. Her dream is to be a successful singer someday and to also hear her music on the radio. Her other dream is to adopt children from all different parts of the world.

### **Anime and Manga Drawing Sensei – Michiyo Suzuki**

Michiyo Suzuki was born and raised in Toyota, Japan. She graduated with a B.A. in Fine Arts from Nagoya University of Arts in Nagoya. She moved to the US in 2008. She currently teaches Anime, Manga, and Painting at Japanese Art & Cultural Center in San Jose. She enjoys many arts and craft activities and looks forward to teaching Summer Classes at Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Sumie Sensei – Ami Wada**

Born in Yokohama, Japan, Ami Wada attended Yamate Gakuen in Yokohama and the Azuma Art School in Kyoto. She studied privately under artists Shoso Azuma and Shutei Ota. Ami exhibited her work through Japan and in numerous Bay Area galleries and prestigious department stores. She taught sumie at Foothill College for over 20 years and currently teaches privately in the Bay Area.

### **Language Sensei for Ryu and Tsuru – Akiko Hubbard**

Akiko Hubbard graduated from the Women's College of Art in Tokyo, Japan, where she studied fine art. She has taught Japanese language for the Palo Alto School District After School Program for several years, and is currently teaching Japanese language at Tachibana Japanese Language School in San Jose. Akiko is very excited to be joining Nakayoshi Gakko.

## **SEMPAI**

### **Head Sempai – Adam Oshiro**

Adam will be a freshman in college. He has been a sempai for three years. He played Tri-City basketball from instructional to Senior year. He enjoys basketball and hanging out with friends.

### **Panda Sempai – Emiko Vasquez**

Emiko is going to be a senior this fall at Mission San Jose High School. She attended Nakkayoshi Gakko for 8 years and has been a junior sempai/sempai for 3 years. She enjoys playing volleyball, going out with friends, and baking in her free time.

### **Saru Sempai – Samantha Howard**

Samantha will be a senior next year at Monta Vista High School. She takes part in varsity and club volleyball, competitive hula, yearbook photography, National Honor Society officer team, and LINK. After attending Nakayoshi Gakko as a student, Samantha has been a junior sempai for one year and Panda class sempai for two. She cannot wait for another fun year of Nakayoshi.

### **Kuma Sempai – Katie Kobashigawa**

This is Katie's fourth year as a sempai for Nakayoshi Gakko. She graduated from Mountain View High School in June and will be attending a four-year university in the fall, majoring in Speech and Hearing Sciences. She played on the Mountain View High School Varsity basketball team and a competitive traveling basketball team called the Ninjas. Katie has enjoyed leadership classes in high school and hopes to continue developing her leadership skills next year in college. In her free time, she loves to shop and eat frozen yogurt.

### **Zou Sempai – Allison Tani**

Allison will be a senior at Lynbrook High School this fall. She enjoys running in track & field, skiing, fishing, and traveling with her family. Marching band was one of the biggest highlights of her high school years. This will be her fourth summer volunteering for Nakayoshi Gakko.

### **Kirin Sempai – Kiana Ariyama**

Kiana is entering her Sophomore year at Mountain View High School. She enjoys taking care of her dog, hanging out with friends, cooking, dancing, and getting A's on tests to feel accomplished. She has been in Nakayoshi Gakko since Panda, and it is a huge part of her life that she will never forget.

### **Tora Sempai – Bobby Woo**

Bobby will be a freshman in college next year and will be majoring in computer science and business. He was part of his high school varsity basketball team for two years and is a member of his high school's Key Club, Red Cross Club, and National Honor Society.

**Ryu Sempai – Brendan Boon**

Brendan will be a senior at Cupertino High School next year. He has been both a student and a junior sempai at Nakayoshi Gakko, and loves everything about it. He is on the Silicon Valley JACL Board of Directors, and the Cupertino High 2012 student council. He likes to dance and to “chill” with his “homies.” He is happy to be back at Nakayoshi again this year.

**Tsuru Sempai – Ashley Andrews**

Ashley graduated from Homestead High School this June. She plans to major in graphic design in college. She has participated in Nakayoshi Gakko for the past four years, as a volunteer and as a sempai. Ashley enjoys hanging out with her family and friends and listening to music. Her favorite sport is basketball and her favorite team is the Golden State Warriors. She am teaching myself to play the ukulele and hopes master it by the end of the summer.

**Cooking/Tsuru Sempai – Kameko Oshiro**

Kameko will be a sophomore at Homestead High School next year. She played jv volleyball and varsity basketball this past year. She also played Tri-City and is currently on the Zebraette basketball team. She likes to play basketball, read, and shop. Kameko was a student at Nakayoshi Gakko every year except Tora. Last year she was a Jr. Sempai for the Saru class.

**Cooking/Tsuru Sempai – Nick Kikuchi**

Nicholas will be attending Prospect High School as a Sophomore in the fall of 2011. He was a student throughout the entire Nakayoshi Gakko program and was a cooking sempai during the summer of 2010. He loves to read, play basketball and volleyball, and hang out with friends.

**Cooking/Panda Sempai – Jaimie Nishimoto**

Jaimie will be a junior at Homestead High School next year. She is a dharma school student at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, plays basketball for Homestead, and is a participant in YBA. She attended Nakayoshi Gakko since the Panda class and has been a Jr. sempai for one year and a cooking sempai for one year.

**Cooking/Panda Sempai – Miyako Vasquez**

Miyako will be a Sophomore at Mission San Jose High in Fremont next year. She enjoys sports, cooking, singing, talking, working hard, trying her best at everything, and making sure everybody is happy. Being a former student and assistant sempai at Nakayoshi Gakko, Miyako wants to help make the program as fun and easy to execute as possible. She hopes this year will be happy and influential for everybody!

## **JUNIOR SEMPai**

### **Heather Fong**

Heather will be a Sophomore at Cupertino High this fall. She enjoys playing softball and basketball, hanging out with her friends, and baking in her spare time. She was a junior sempai last year and is a former Nakayoshi Gakko student.

### **Emily Liu**

Emily will be a Sophomore at Cupertino High School this fall. She likes all types of music, art, and sports. Last year was her first year of being a junior sempai.

### **Alec Matsumoto**

Alec will be attending Homestead High school as a Sophomore next fall. He attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda to Tsuru and was a Jr. sempai last year. Most of his summer activities involve sports and volunteering at West Valley Community Services. His interests are mainly sports and anything ascertaining history.

### **Alex Minagawa**

Alex will be a Sophomore at Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill. He has attended Nakayoshi Gakko as a student and volunteered as a Jr. Sempai last year. He enjoys coaching and playing basketball, particularly club. He also enjoys playing volleyball.

### **Jenna Iwamura**

Jenna is entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Los Altos High School. She plays softball and helps with the House of Medical Emergencies. She has been a student at Nakayoshi Gakko for four years, and a junior sempai for one year.

### **Cori Nishimoto**

Cori is going into the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Mountain View High School. She was introduced to the Nakayoshu Gakko program as a kindergartener. Cori enjoys snowboarding and playing basketball. In her free time, she likes being with friends, listening to music and going to YBA. During summer vacation she enjoys fishing, swimming and inner-tubing with family and friends. She is looking forward to the upcoming 2011 summer program.

## **ASSISTANT SEMPAI**

### **Trini Inouye**

Trini will be a sophomore at Los Altos High (and taking Japanese at Mountain View High again) this fall. Trini ended her K-8th District years performing as Class Vocalist and Valedictorian Speaker and stunned to straddle 2 new high schools with few friends and little free time left traveling between schools! Her hobbies include her much missed school musicals (laaa-ah!), piano competitions, swimming (a JV Division Finalist - woah!) and late nights of comedy/action movies and/or "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" marathons. She's attended Medaka no Gakko and Nakayoshi Gakko for 7 years and is excited to return to see her friends and students as a 2nd year classroom kohai!

### **Jackie Yee**

Jackie will be a sophomore in the fall at Monta Vista High School. She enjoys hanging out with friends, playing volleyball, basketball, and sewing. This is her second year as a Jr. Sempai and third year here at Nakayoshi Gakko.

## 2011 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-President 1	Hope Nakamura (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr)	president@nakayoshigakko.org
Co-President 2	Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto	
Registrar	Sachiko Itagaki (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr)	registrar@nakayoshigakko.org
Secretary	Junko Bryant	
Treasurer	Matt Mukoyama	
Facility Coordinator	Debbie Kitani	

### Working Board

Special Events	Yuki Kita (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr) Lisa Yee
Purchasing	Dana Nakagawa (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr) Joan Takenaka
Jr. Registrar	Kerrie Utsumi
Fundraising	Miki Bellon (2 <sup>nd</sup> yr)

## HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Margaret was elected to the Mountain View City Council in November 2006. She served as Mayor in 2009 and as Vice-Mayor in 2008. She started her public service work as an aide to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo from 1993-1999. She then went on to assist former Cupertino City Councilmember Michael Chang in launching the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute (APALI) at DeAnza College and served as its associate director. She also became a small business owner in 2000, and ran an indoor cycling fitness facility. In 2002, Margaret was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Education, representing Area 1, which covers the North County area. She served as the Board's Vice-President in 2004. In 2005, Margaret returned to APALI to help develop several new programs encouraging civic engagement until her election on the Mountain View City Council.

Her community involvements include past service on City of Mountain View's Environmental Planning Commission and the Human Relations Commission, the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association steering committee, and the Boards of the Mountain View Sister Cities Association, Avenidas Senior Services, the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club Board, which she also founded, the Peninsula Democratic Coalition, Democratic Activists for Women Now, the Executive Council of Leadership Mountain View, Silicon Valley Japanese American Chamber of Commerce, JACL San Mateo Chapter, San Jose Taiko where she served as President in 1996, and on the the Santa Clara County Democratic Party executive board. She also practices the martial art of Kendo where she holds a third degree black belt. In 2002, she was a member of the Northern California Kendo Federation Women's Team, which took the Championship at the All United States Kendo Federation Championships. Margaret holds an A.B. in government from Harvard University. She is married to husband Yotto, and they have daughters Aili and Aina. Aili is a participant in Nakayoshi Gakko.

She has been recognized for her leadership and community service by the California State Assembly as Woman of the Year for the 22nd Assembly District in 2009 chosen by Assemblymember Paul Fong, as one of the top "40 under 40" years of age to watch by the Silicon Valley Business Journal in 2008, with Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss' Asian American Heroes award in 2001, and the Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) Youth Leadership Award in 2004.

## **The Honorable Michael M. Honda**

U.S. Congressman, 15<sup>th</sup> District of California

Since 2001, Mike Honda has represented the 15th Congressional District of California in the U.S. House of Representatives. His district includes Silicon Valley, the birthplace of technology innovation and the leading region for the development of the technologies of tomorrow. Mike has been a public servant for decades during which he has been lauded for his work on education, transportation, civil rights, national service, the environment, and high-tech issues.

Mike was born in California, but spent his early childhood with his family in an internment camp in Colorado during World War II. After a decade living in Chicago, his family returned to California in 1953, becoming strawberry sharecroppers in San José's Blossom Valley. In 1965, Mike interrupted his college studies to answer President John F. Kennedy's call for volunteer service. He served in the Peace Corps for two years in El Salvador, returning with a passion for teaching and fluent in Spanish.

Mike earned Bachelor's degrees in Biological Sciences and Spanish, and a Master's degree in Education from San José State University. In his career as an educator, Mike was a science teacher, served as a principal at two public schools, and conducted educational research at Stanford University.

In 1971, Mike was appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta to San Jose's Planning Commission. In 1981, Mike won his first election, gaining a seat on the San José Unified School Board. In 1990, Mike was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, where he led efforts to acquire and preserve open space in the county.

Mike served in the California State Assembly from 1996 to 2000. In 2000, Mike was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and serves on the Appropriations Committee, with postings on that body's Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Legislative Branch Subcommittees. As an appropriator, Mike focuses on directing funding to critical areas such as: access to affordable healthcare; worker training; port and border security; law enforcement and the safety of our neighborhoods; health care for our veterans; recovery from natural disasters, particularly Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ike.

Mike served as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for seven years, coordinating with his colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucuses to champion the causes of under-

represented communities by promoting social justice, racial tolerance, and civil rights.

In 2007, he was named House Democratic Senior Whip by House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC). Senior Whips are a select group of Members and Democratic Caucus opinion leaders tasked with strategic planning about how issues impact targeted Members or groups, and will help develop strategies to ensure legislative success.

In 2009, Mike was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee. Working with DNC Chair Tim Kaine, some of Mike's work will involve registering new Americans to vote, outreaching to ethnic and specialty media, ensuring that Democrats' voices and votes abroad are counted, and reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community given Mike's Spanish fluency. In all this work, Mike's priority is to make sure that the DNC, state and local Democratic parties/bodies are more reflective of America.

Mike is widowed and has two grown children. His wife, Jeanne, was a teacher at Baldwin Elementary School in San José before her untimely passing in 2004. His son, Mark, is an aerospace engineer and Michelle, his daughter, is a public health educator with three young boys.

### **The Honorable Tom Kinoshita**

Former Trustee, Morgan Hill Unified School District

Tom Kinoshita served on the Morgan Hill Unified School District Board of Trustees for ten years. Currently, he is the Public Policy Director for the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN). He is also the part-time Interim Associate Director for the Alum Rock Counseling Center. He is on the Board of Directors for Housing For Independent People, Inc. (HIP). Tom is currently the Vice-Chairperson of the Santa Clara County Senior Care Commission. He was the Executive Director of Community Solutions in South County for ten years and has been in nonprofit management for 30 years. He is a former Peace Corps Volunteer stationed in Venezuela. His family is originally from Hawaii and farmed strawberries in Gilroy, Hollister and Morgan Hill from the 1950s to the early 1970s.

**The Honorable Jeremy Nishihara**  
Trustee, Oak Grove School District

Jeremy was appointed to the Board of Education for the Oak Grove Elementary School District in 2006. He is currently the Communications Manager for the Cupertino Union School District. Prior to joining the school district, he worked for the State Legislature for Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn and Assemblymember Sally Lieber working in the issue areas of K-12 education budget and policy, public safety, and domestic violence. He attended U.C. Davis and graduated with a B.S. in Managerial Economics and a minor in Psychology. In addition to serving on the Oak Grove School District Board of Education, he serves on the Board of Directors for the San Jose Taiko group and the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project (APYLP).

**The Honorable Richard K. Tanaka**  
Trustee, San Jose/Evergreen Community College District

Richard Tanaka believes that every citizen has the opportunity to make his/her community a better place to live. He has been serving the community for more than 35 years, and through his initial efforts, became one of first Asian American Trustee, if not the first to serve in Santa Clara County. In the 1970's, he was first elected to the East Side Union High School Board of Trustees and has been re-elected for five terms serving more than 21 years on this Board. In 1992, Richard ran, and had been elected to the San Jose/Evergreen Community College Board of Trustees, and now serving his (5th) term.

Due to his leadership ability, he has been elected President of the State of California Community College Trustees, which serves the entire 108 California Community College systems.

Richard was born in San Jose, California, and was interned with his parents in Poston, Arizona during World War II, (1942-1945). After the War, he and his family moved and resided on the East Coast, (New York, Michigan) then after many years, returned to the West Coast, (California).

Tanaka is also an author, who wrote "America on Trial", chronicling his experiences during the war years of internment (1942-1945).

Mr. Tanaka had received a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Michigan and holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from San Jose State University. He is the founding partner in a 90-person architectural, planning, interior offices firm located in San Jose, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Then Mayor Norman Mineta and the City Council have appointed Richard to the San Jose Bicentennial Commission in 1975, and shortly thereafter his appointment, the Commission elected him Chairman of the Commission. Also, the City Council created the (San Jose Commission of Internment of Japanese Americans), which Richard was later appointed as its Chairman. Tanaka then formulated and became the founding Chairman, of the now present Nikkei Matsuri, where he served for seven years. He has been responsible and credited for the Japanese American Internment Memorial at the Federal Building located in downtown San Jose, executed by the world-renowned artist, Ruth Azawa.

Mr. Tanaka serves on organizations and civic groups encompassing the entire State. He was the founding Commissioner of the Santa Clara County Human Relation Commission, the East Side Union High School District, Martin Luther King Art and Poster Contest, served on the Board of Governors of the Boy Scouts of America, and the National Conference of Community and Justice, and numerous other community and civic organizations.

Richard has been given numerous awards, “the Citizen of the Year” award by the City Council of San Jose, “Human Relations” Award from the Santa Clara Human Relations Commission, “Community” Award from the San Jose JACL, Award from the California Community College Trustees and well as from other state, civic and community organizations.

Mr. Tanaka and his wife, Barbara, have four children and seven grandchildren. Craig, AIA, Architect (University of California, Berkeley), is Director of Capital Planning at Stanford University, Todd, (San Jose University) is a Director of Marketing, Sandra, (San Jose State University) an elementary school teacher, Trent, (University of Southern California) a producer and video journalist, is in the IT Department at San Jose State University.