



Summer 2024 Family Orientation Handbook

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WELCOME TO NAKAYOSHI GAKKO

Welcome to the 25th 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

Class	Social Studies	Values	Holidays/Events	Cultural Topics and Terms
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>) Matsuri (<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 (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, 2024. 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.
 - If COVID test is positive, please see below.

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 your child has not had a fever for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication AND other COVID-19 symptoms are mild and improving.**
 - **Mask** when around other people indoors for the 10 days* after you become sick or test positive (if no symptoms). You may remove your mask sooner than 10 days if you have two sequential negative tests at least one day apart. Day 0 is symptom onset date or positive test date.
- For more information, refer to the Santa Clara County Public Health COVID guidelines

- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-Isolation-Guidance.aspx>

If a Student is a Close Contact for COVID

- Please monitor for symptoms
- Take a COVID test 3-5 days after exposure

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 (jackrabbit.com).

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 1, 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: Saturday, June 15 (3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)
- Maintenance Day 2: Saturday, June 29 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

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
 - Create photo slideshow for Open House
 - Take video of Open House event
- Open House Committee
 - Set up Open House (Friday, June 28th)
 - Pack down Open House (Friday, June 28th)

4. MVBT OBON (Bingo Booth)

- July 20th & 21th, 2024
- 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 19th, any location nationwide, use code 923539) and BJ's Restaurant Brewhouse in Cupertino (2nd Tuesday, June 25th). Kona Ice (1st Friday, June 21st from 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 28th 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

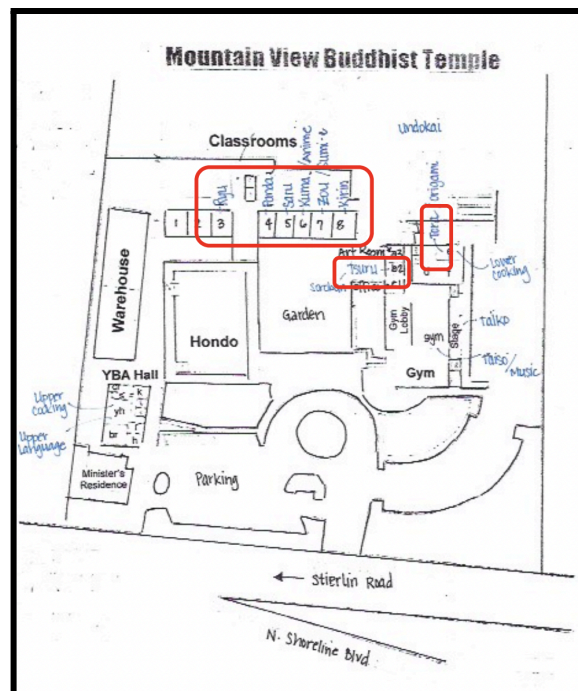
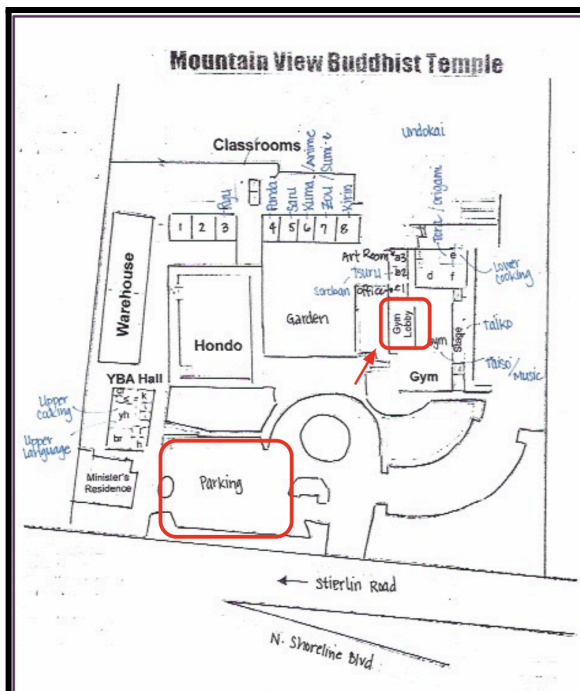
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Camp is from Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm, June 17 - 28, 2024

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 Tai so. Parents are welcome to watch Tai so 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

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Taiso
8:45 a.m.	Classes Begin
Snack Periods (10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.)	Staggered (1st - 6th)
Lunch	Staggered (1st - 8th)
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Specialty Classes
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Clean Up
3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Dismissal

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

- Bring your student to the office

EARLY PICK-UP

- Parent/Authorized adults 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 17 - 28 (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 2024 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

Principal - Joanne Endo (she/her)

I have been a teacher at Baker Elementary School in San Jose for seventeen 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 16th year at Nakayoshi Gakko.

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 10th 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 – 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 the Kuma class this summer.

Zou Sensei – Hayley Arima (she/her)

My name is Hayley Arima (she/her/hers). I am a 7th 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 second 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 seventeen 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 and is back this summer in the Sempai program. My son, Logan, will be in Tsuru. I have been teaching for 20 years in the field of Deaf Education for preschool through middle school aged students. I look forward to seeing everyone this June!

Ryu and Odori 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 17 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 – Junko Aoki (she/her)

My name is Junko Aoki. I have taught at the San Jose Japanese Language School for over 10 years. Currently, I teach Japanese at Mountain View High School, tutor elementary school students in Japanese, and teach an AP Japanese class. This is my first year at Nakayoshi Gakko, and I am really excited to join the team. We will be learning Japanese together through songs and drawing. I look forward to a fun and engaging summer with your children!

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).

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 6 years. I retired from Monta Vista High as a Special Ed secretary and paraeducator. This is my 22nd 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 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class for one year. This is her 12th year teaching cooking for the 7th and 8th grade classes at Nakayoshi Gakko. She is looking forward to joining the staff again.

Music Sensei – Cheryl 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 - Jake Aquino (he/him)

I am going into my second year at Cal State Long Beach. I went through the entire Nakayoshi program from Panda to Tsuru and was also a sempai during high school. I am excited to return to Nakayoshi and teach origami this year.

Taiko Sensei - Emi Kosakura (she/her)

Hi, my name is Emi Kosakura! Growing up, I played taiko here at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Since then, I have continued playing taiko with my collegiate taiko group. Nakayoshi Gakko has always held a special place in my heart, as I have attended as a student, and was a Sempai up until last summer. I am looking forward to a fun summer at NG!

Sumi-e Sensei - Maddie Matsumoto (she/her)

My name is Maddie Matsumoto. I graduated from the University of California, Davis with a dual BA degree in Design and Digital Media. In high school, I was enrolled in the advanced art classes and received training in several traditional art forms. I was a former attendee and sempai at Nakayoshi Gakko, and I am excited to return as this session's sumi-e sensei.

Anime Art Sensei - Hao (Albert) Tran (he/him)

Hao Tran is a visual development artist based in San Jose, California. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus on Animation/Illustration from San Jose State University, he continues to refine his skills and bring his wildest imaginations to life. Before joining Nakayoshi Gakko, Hao taught art to children and young adults at his part time job. In his free time, he enjoys playing video games and discovering new and exciting activities.

Undokai Sensei - Vanessa Higa (she/her)

My name is Vanessa Higa. I will be entering my 4th year at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the fall where I am studying business marketing. 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...)

Connor Sato(he/him), Head Sempai

My name is Connor Sato and I just finished my senior year at Homestead High School and entering my first year into college. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko as a student. I am excited to see and work with old friends.

Jillian Higa (she/her), Assistant Head Sempai

My name is Jillian Higa. I'm going into my senior year at Mountain View High School. I've played basketball on my high school team for three years, one year on Junior Varsity and two on Varsity. As well as, five years on my club team. I've also participated in Taiko at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple for about eight years, with this experience I have been a part of some Nakayoshi Gakko demos. For my Nakayoshi experience, I've gone through Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda to Ryu, as well as a Sempai for the past two years. I am excited to see familiar and new smiles, and to be able to continue working on my leadership skills. I am truly grateful for this opportunity.

Kylie Uyekubo (she/her), Panda (1st grade) Sempai

Hi! My name is Kylie Uyekubo and I will be a junior at Aragon High School this fall. In my free time, I enjoy playing basketball, reading, and hanging out with my family and friends. I have been a part of Nakayoshi since Panda class and am excited to return as a sempai again this year. Nakayoshi is something I always look forward to and I hope to help make this experience just as memorable for the Nakayoshi kids as it was for me.

Jordyn Matsushima (she/her), Panda (1st grade) Sempai

I attend the Piedmont Hills High School and after this summer, I am entering 10th grade. I play basketball in and out of school and I've been playing it since 2nd grade, and I also like to draw and do art in my free time. I am also a girl scout. I joined with my troop in kindergarten and plan to finish it all the way until 12th grade. I joined Nakayoshi in the Panda year and ended with Tsuru, also attending virtually for my Ryu year. I am so excited to be going back to Nakayoshi as a sempai since as a kid I loved playing and having sempais so I'd like to give kids that same joy as well.

Rebecca Kunze (she/her), Saru (2nd grade) Sempai

Hello! I'm Rebecca, and I will be entering 11th grade this fall at Notre Dame San Jose. In my free time, I participate in Speech and Debate, Track and Field, and play Taiko, among other things! I've attended Nakayoshi for my entire life, and it's something that has always been one of the best parts of my summer. I'm looking forward to making memories and connecting with everyone while learning even more about leadership and my culture!

Addison (Addy) Ando (she/her), Saru (2nd grade) Sempai

I am going to be a sophomore at Leigh High School. I played JV tennis in the fall and JV basketball in the winter. I have been in Girl Scouts since I was a Kinder Daisy. I'm also a member of the San Jose Jr. YBA. I've always loved my summers at Nakayoshi Gakko, starting as a 1st grade Panda to 8th grade Tsuru. I have always looked up to my sempais and now I have the chance to be one.

Emi Hirabayashi (she/her), Kuma (3rd grade) Sempai

Hi, my name is Emi Hirabayashi and I am an incoming Junior at Homestead High School! After being a part of Nakayoshi Gakko for 9 years I am very excited to be a sempai again this year. Getting to attend Nakayoshi Gakko has created some of my favorite childhood memories, so I am eager to be a part of those same memories for other kids. I had an amazing time getting to interact with everyone last year, and I am super excited to get back and see everyone while also meeting new people. Nakayoshi Gakko has played a big part in helping me connect with my culture while making lifelong friendships, and I hope I can help other kids do the same!

Sara Chavez (she/her), Kuma (3rd grade) Sempai

Hello! My name is Sara Chavez and I'm entering my Sophomore year at San Jose Notre Dame High School. I'm extremely excited to become a Sempai since I've been in the program for many years and I've had an incredible time. The friendships I've created from this two-week course have become life-long and I wish to create the same experience for your children. I look forward to meeting you and I hope you have an amazing day!

Miya Kosakura (she/her), Zou (4th grade) Sempai

Hi! I'm Miya Kosakura, and I am going into my senior year at Monta Vista High School. I've been in the Nakayoshi Program since Panda, and have been a Sempai for the past two years, and it's always been a fun and memorable experience! In my free time, I play basketball and like to make stickers! I'm so excited to be able to work with kids that are going through this same program, and I'm looking forward to these two weeks!

Bradley Aquino (he/him), Kirin (5th grade) Sempai

My name is Bradley Aquino, I go to Mountain View High High School and I will be entering my senior year. Some of my interests include Lacrosse and going out with friends. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko every year I could, and was previously a Sempai for the Saru & Kuma classes which I thoroughly enjoyed. I am most looking forward to seeing all the kids and fellow sempai this year!

Bree Widmeyer (she/her), Kirin (5th grade) Sempai

Hello my name is Bree and I am a graduated senior from Homestead High School. A few interests of mine are volleyball, traveling, and reading. I was a previous Nakayoshi Gakko student for all 8 years and I am excited to continue making more memories at Nakayoshi Gakko as a sempai!

Bria Shimada (she/her), Tora (6th grade) Sempai

Hi! My name is Bria Shimada and I'm an incoming senior at Los Gatos High School. I love to play basketball, have fun with my friends, and go on road trips. I was fortunate enough to be a student at Nakayoshi Gakko for many years and a sempai for the past two years! I'm so excited to reconnect with all of the students and continue to create new memories with this amazing community!

Kaitlyn Yee (she/her), Tora (6th grade) Sempai

Hi! My name is Kaitlyn Yee, and I will be a junior at Leigh High School this coming fall. Some of my interests include playing basketball, baking, cooking, spending time with my friends and family, listening to music, and making art. Ever since being a panda, the program has held a special place in my heart. Being a sempai last year enabled me to not only meet new friends and build new connections but also to spend time with old friends and reconnect with them. This year I am excited to continue building my leadership skills and growing as an individual while spending time with the kids and helping to excite them about this program.

Allyson Itow (she/her), Ryu (7th grade) Sempai

My name is Allyson Itow and I will be graduating from Willow Glen High School. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko all eight years and have been a sempai for the past three years. My interests include reading, working out, and listening to music. I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone during the session.

Lacey Armistead (she/her), Ryu (7th grade) Sempai

My name is Lacey Armistead, and I am a rising Senior at Pinewood School. My interests include playing soccer and volleyball, watching TV, and hanging out with friends. I have attended Nakayoshi Gakko as a student every year excluding Panda and Tsuru. Additionally, I have continued at this program as a Sempai for 2 years. As a Sempai this year, I am looking forward to interacting with the students and seeing how they grow throughout the program.

Sienna Rembulat (she/her), Tsuru (8th grade) Sempai

My name is Sienna Rembulat, and I am currently graduated from Branham High School and soon entering college. I am on my school's track team, and I am involved in Girl Scouts and YBA. I have been attending Nakayoshi Gakko since I have been in Panda and have been a classroom Sempai for three prior years. In my last year as a sempai, I am excited to bond with the kids and create a memorable experience for them this summer.

Mari Mizota (she/her), Tsuru (8th grade) Sempai

Hi! My name is Mari and this is my second year as a sempai. I have attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda all the way to Tsuru and will be entering 11th Grade this fall at Mission Early College High School. 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.

Madisen Nishimoto (she/her), Lower Cooking Sempai

I go to Leigh High School and I am entering 10th grade. I am on the color guard team for Leigh and participate in outside activities like Girl Scouts. I have gone to Nakayoshi Gakko since I was entering first grade, all the way to when I was entering eighth grade. I am looking forward to a new experience as a sempai and the opportunity to learn a lot.

Kendall Inouye (she/her), Lower Cooking Sempai

Hi, my name is Kendall Inouye and I am going to be a junior 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.

Zoe Tang (she/her), Upper Cooking Sempai

Hi my name is Zoe Tang, I'm currently attending Branham High School, and I'm an incoming Junior. My interests are baking and cooking. I love making baked goods for my friends, neighbors and family around the holidays or for any occasion. When they taste my treats it brings them joy. Besides baking, I love playing sports. This year I played high school basketball and volleyball. I love playing sports because of the best friends I've formed over the years and the adrenaline rush of winning and playing hard teams. I've been attending Nakayoshi Gakko since Panda class, and I'm excited to make new friends and give the little kids the experience I was very lucky to receive from former sempai.

Alexis Maag (she/her), Upper Cooking Sempai

My name is Alexis (Lex) Maag. As I am writing this, I am a freshman in high school, but by the time summer comes around, I'll be preparing to become a sophomore. I am a fan of art and bugs, which are two things that I try to expose myself to often. I started in Nakayoshi Gakko years ago as a Panda, and participated every year all the way until being in the Tsuru class. I'm excited to be coming back this summer as a sempai and help others on their journey through Nakayoshi!

Damon Tatsuo Uyehara (he/him), Program Sempai

Hi my name is Damon Tatsuo Uyehara, and I attend Fremont High School. My interests include sports such as baseball and basketball, and musical instruments such as guitar and clarinet. My previous connections to Nakayoshi Gakko are all years as a student except for covid, and I am a member of the Mountain View YBA and Mountain View dharma school. I am excited to learn a lot about leadership and help others throughout the camp.

Julian LeConte (he/him), Program Sempai

I go to Leigh High school, and am entering 10th grade. My interests are drones, fishing, and gaming. I went to Nakayoshi Gakko from first grade until 8th and now I want to become a sempai to be able to help out around. I am looking forward to helping out.

Kate Hojo (she/they), Program Sempai

I am an incoming sophomore at Carlmont High School. In my free time, I often cook, bake, and I am on the sideline and competitive cheer teams at my school. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko through all eight grades and I attend the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, and am a member of YBA. I loved all of my years throughout this program and made many long lasting friendships during my summers. I am looking forward to being a role model and working with the kids.

Summer Duazo (she/her), Program Sempai

My name is Summer Duazo. I am an incoming 10th grader at Westmont High School. I love art and aim to become an architect in the future. I went to Nakayoshi Gakko from 1st (Panda) to 8th (Tsuru) grade and am excited to come back as a sempai! I hope to connect with more people and inspire younger kids to pursue future leadership opportunities.

2023-2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD INFORMATION

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

Executive Board

Co-Presidents	Doug Doi Julie Uyekubo	president@nakayoshigakko.org
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