



NAKAYOSHI GAKKO
FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL

Summer 2019
Family Orientation Handbook

Located at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple
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WELCOME TO NAKAYOSHI GAKKO

Welcome to the 20th year of Nakayoshi Gakko. As we get closer to the end of 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 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 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 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, 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>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 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 first day of the session.**

Refunds

Payment is fully refundable until April 13, 2019. No refunds will be given for cancellations made after that date. Unused extended care is not refundable.

PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS

As a parent cooperative I, 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 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. You MUST stay until 4:15 PM or when all children have been picked up or escorted to childcare, whichever occurs later.
- 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 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.
- While at at Nakayoshi Gakko, parents are expected to:
 - Treat Sensei, Sempai, office staff, and each other with respect and courtesy.
 - Use appropriate language and gestures.
 - Refrain from physical and verbal aggression.
 - Respect and take care of Temple property.
 - Refrain from using cell phones and other electronic devices during working hours as you should be paying attention to the students and helping the teachers when needed.

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 folders 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 by completing a shift in the Bingo booth on the Saturday or Sunday of Mountain View's Obon Festival. Date to sign up for shifts will be pre-announced and then opened during the Nakayoshi Gakko session.

PARENT/FAMILY EVENTS

Afternoon Demonstrations (3:15 - 4pm Daily)

Parents and family members are welcome to attend our daily afternoon demonstrations. Unless otherwise specified, these take place in the gym. Schedule will be posted in the Office.

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.

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 a buffet-style 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 you will be charged automatically. Parents arriving late will be assessed the extended care daily fee of \$20 per day. In addition, if you are late in picking up your child(ren) from extended care, you will be assessed a late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for every 5-minutes per child after the initial 5-minute grace period. All late fees will be collected before the last day of session. Failure to pay such late fees may result in loss of priority, or even denial of registration from future Nakayoshi Gakko sessions.

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.

"Rule of 3" BUDDY SYSTEM

We are committed to the safety of our students and have adopted the "Rule of 3" Buddy System for Nakayoshi Gakko. What this means is that if a student needs to leave the classroom for any reason (e.g. needs to use the bathroom), the student will need to not only have a Sempai or adult escort them but they will also need to select a buddy. This ensures that everyone is protected and kept safe.

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. Children 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 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 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. 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 other 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. No fees will be refunded for expelled students.

DISCLAIMER

The policies listed in this handbook are by no means exhaustive. Not every situation is included or addressed. Nakayoshi Gakko 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 adult and minor to work together to ensure a comfortable and safe 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

I have been a second grade teacher for ten years at Baker Elementary School in San Jose. I especially enjoy teaching science, writing, and art. During my free time, I like to do crafts, play the guitar, and visit Disneyland. This will also be my 10th year at Nakayoshi Gakko.

Panda Sensei – Annette Lowe

My name is Annette Lowe. I am currently a Kindergarten teacher at Sedgwick Elementary School in Cupertino. Prior to teaching Kindergarten, I taught a K-2 Special Day Class for 17 years. I got my degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders from Fresno State University and earned my Multiple Subject teaching credential and Special Education credential. I live in San Jose with my husband and our two wonderful children, This will be my 19th year teaching the Panda class.

Saru Sensei – Marilyn Higa-Armistead

My name is Marilyn Higa-Armistead. This will be my 4rd 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 I was in the 2nd grade. 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 in Mountain View.

Kuma Sensei – Cindy Ando

I am a Hawaii transplant and moved to the Bay Area in 2000. I have been teaching 4th grade at Addison School in Palo Alto for the last 18 years, and taught 3rd and 6th grade before moving to the Bay Area. I attended Oregon State University as an undergraduate and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies. Further, I received my Teaching Credential and Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Hawaii. I am a 4th Grade Brownie Leader for the San Jose Betsuin Girl Scout Troop and a CYS Board Member as the secretary. I have two children who will be attending Nakayoshi Gakko as a Kirin and Ryu. I am also an active parent volunteer, as the Art Vista Teacher for my daughter's 4th grade class. I am really looking forward to this summer and have lots of exciting ideas to make it a huge success.

Zou Sensei – Aiko Hatakeyama

My name is Aiko Hatakeyama. This will be my first year teaching at Nakayoshi Gakko, and I couldn't be more excited about it! I just finished teaching my 12th year of 1st grade at Franklin Elementary School in San Jose, so I can't wait to upgrade to 4th! I was born and raised in SF. Got my BA at UCI (zot!) and then my teaching credential at SF State. Then I somehow found my way down to San Jose where I've made my home! When I'm not teaching, I love walking my two doggies with my husband, eating yummy food with friends and family, reading, traveling and exploring, doing any arts and crafts, and playing board games! I'm looking forward to this summer at Nakayoshi!

Kirin Sensei – Satomi Fujikawa

Satomi Fujikawa grew up in Oakland and has been teaching in San Jose for over ten 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 hiking, calligraphy, and ceramics. One day, she would like to volunteer at a National Park for a year, but for now, she enjoys just visiting and revisiting them

Tora Sensei – Ann Chavez

I am so excited to be a part of the Nakayoshi Gakko community. My daughter, Sara, will be in the Kirin class and my son, Logan, in Kuma. I have been teaching for 16 years in the field of Deaf Education with birth through high school aged students. I am a South Bay Area native and a huge Sharks fan!

Ryu Sensei – Tiara Wirkkala

Tiara Wirkkala works in the Los Altos School District. Originally from Washington State, she first came to the area as an undergraduate at Stanford. She studied for a year in Kyoto and then worked in Tokyo and Washington, DC. Tiara returned to the area for graduate school, and she began teaching in 2012. She is excited to be back for her fourth year in the Ryu class.

Tsuru Sensei – Brian Tamekuni

After receiving his teaching credential from San Jose State, Brian has been a teacher for 13 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 started teaching the Tora class for several years, and then moved to the Tsuru class.

Cooking Sensei (Ryu and Tsuru) – Irene Nishimoto

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 16 years, she taught at Country Lane Elementary School for 21 years. When her children were younger, she was a board member of Medaka no Gakko in Palo Alto and taught a combo 4, 5, and 6th grade class for one year. This is her 9th year teaching cooking for the 7th and 8th grade classes at Nakayoshi Gakko. She is looking forward to joining the staff at again.

Language (Lower) Sensei – Miho Poelman

I graduated from Sozoshu school of graphic design in Japan. I also graduated from San Jose State University with BFA program and a minor in Psychology.

I worked for NTK Technical Ceramic, American Airline as a special service, AT&T as a customer service, Eastside Adult School as a cooking instructor, Evergreen Community Center as a preschool aide and an art instructor, and Evergreen school district as kindergarten aide. Currently, I am working for San Jose Betsuin as a Japanese language instructor. I have three grown children and live with my husband in San Jose. I love creating something like painting, cooking, craft, home improvement.

Language (Upper) Sensei – Lisa Nakamatsu

Lisa Nakamatsu was born and raised in the South Bay. While in college, she had an opportunity to work in Japan and jumped at the chance. After living in Japan for 10 years, she returned to the Bay Area with her husband from Okinawa and two little girls. She also returned to San Francisco State, but this time to major in Japanese and then to earn her teaching certificate. Lisa did her student teaching at Palo Alto High and can teach PE, Dance, and History in addition to Japanese. She has taught Japanese and Dance at Homestead High for the last twelve years and is the Japanese National Honor Society Advisor. Lisa has been to 17 different countries and loves to hike and bike as much as possible.

Cooking Sensei, Panda through Tora – Cathy Nakamura

I worked as a nutritionist and registered dietitian for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service in San Francisco for 7 years, I also worked at Sun Pac Foods catering and have taken many cooking classes. Currently, I help special ed. students at Monta Vista High School as the dept. secretary and paraeducator. This is my 18th year at Nakayoshi Gakko.

Undokai Sensei – Jaimie Nishimoto

Jaimie has earned her Bachelors of Arts in Liberal Studies from San Francisco State University. She is planning to go back to college to get her Teachers Credential, become a teacher and teach fifth grade. Jaimie is a member of the Mountain View Buddhist temple and has attended Nakayoshi Gakko in the past. This will be her fourth year being the Undokai Sensei.

Anime and Manga Drawing Sensei – Zitlallyc Bazan

Hello, I am Zitlallyc Bazan. I am an artist for as long as I can remember. In other words art is part of my nature, from painting, drawing, singing, film etc. I love creating something and turning it into a message for my audience as if a puzzle or math problem to figure out. I'm excited to be teaching young artists for a few weeks! This will be my 2nd year at Nakayoshi Gakko. If any questions don't be afraid to ask me.

Taiko Sensei – Hayley Arima

Hayley Arima is a sophomore Child Studies major at Santa Clara University. She has been playing taiko with Mountain View Buddhist Temple Taiko since she was in third grade. She has been through the Nakayoshi Gakko program from Panda to Tsuru, and she has been a sempai for four years.

Sumie Sensei – Hiroko Frederick

Hiroko Frederick was born and raised in Japan; in the Tochigi Prefecture near Nikko. She has been tutoring Japanese for almost 20 years and studying Sumi-e from Sensei Ami Wada. She is also the curator of cultural exhibits and performances at the Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival. She enjoys singing with the Japanese women's chorus group, Harmony '84, and watching SF Giants games. Hiroko taught music at Nakayoshi Gakko the first year the school opened and both her sons attended the school. She is excited to be a part of the Nakayoshi family again as a Sumi-e instructor.

Origami Sensei- Cheryl Uyehara Shay

Cheryl Shay grew up in Sunnyvale and has attended the Mountain View Buddhist Temple since childhood. She currently teaches middle school math in San Jose. Cheryl enjoys volunteering at the Hands on the Arts origami booth in Sunnyvale and playing the piano for MVBT.

Music Sensei – Brigitte Doss-Johnson

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

Soroban Sensei- Joy Tanaka

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

SEMPAI (In their own words...)

Evan Tsukahara, Head Sempai

Hello Everyone, my name is Evan Tsukahara and I am a graduated senior from Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, California. While at Bellarmine, I have been an active member in the Cross Country and Track teams. Ever since I was young, I always was eager to attend Nakayoshi Gakko and see many of my friends. Since graduating, I have participated in the Sempai program and aim to provide a similar experience to all the students.

Josef Sueoka, Assistant Head Sempai

Josef Jiro Sueoka lives in Salt Lake City, UT and graduated from Rowland Hall this past year and will be attending Santa Clara University in fall 2019. He has gone to Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda to Tsuru, and has been a sempai from 2016-2018. Josef is a member of his high school golf team and is editor of the school newspaper and the yearbook. His hobbies include cooking, traveling, and playing "Magic: the Gathering" with his friends.

Kalyn Wong, Assistant Head Sempai

My name is Kalyn Wong and next fall I'll be a senior at Lincoln High School in San Jose. Some hobbies include playing competitive soccer, reading, and eating lots of carbs. I'm also a Girl Scout Senior here at the temple. I started Nakayoshi Gakko as a Panda and went all the way through Tsuru. For the past two years, I've been a cooking sempai and a classroom sempai. I've loved being a part of this program and I can't wait to have fun and learn about Japanese culture together!

Vanessa Higa, Panda (1st) Sempai

Hi, my name is Vanessa Higa and I will be beginning my junior year at Mountain View High School this coming fall. It will also be my third year on the Mountain View High School varsity cheer team. This will be my second year as a sempai for Nakayoshi Gakko. Along with going through the program all 8 years as a student I was also the Panda sempai last year.

Caitlyn Higa, Saru (2nd) Sempai

Hi, my name is Caitlyn Higa, I am a graduating senior from Mountain View High School. I am planning on going to Southern California for college. Through my high school years I have played basketball and lacrosse and played for a club basketball team as well. I went through the Nakayoshi program as a student for all 8 years and have been a Sempai for the past 2 years. I have made so many friends, connections, and memories within this program and loved being part of it all!

Mitchell Kita, Saru (2nd) Sempai

Hello, I just graduated from Los Altos High School and will now be venturing off to college majoring in architecture. I've grown up going to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and also have gone through the Nakayoshi Gakko program. I love playing basketball and am a die hard Warriors fan. I like to go out with friends to shoot photos, and jam to music.

Kylie Mukoyama, Kuma (3rd) Sempai

Hi, I'm Kylie Mukoyama and I will be a senior in the fall of 2019 at Santa Clara High School. I am a part of organizations such as the Girl's Empowerment Club, Acts of Random Kindness Club, and Unicef Club. I love being an active member in my community and giving back as much as I can. Some of my interests include photography, art, and cooking. I attended all the years of Nakayoshi Gakko as a child, and enjoyed having the opportunity to enhance my knowledge about my Japanese culture. I was a program sempai in the summer of 2017, and the Kuma class sempai last year, in 2018. All of my years at Nakayoshi Gakko were memorable and extremely fun, and I think all children should have that same experience.

Rina Mok, Kuma (3rd)

I attend Branham High School, and will be entering the 10th grade in the fall. My interests are basketball, Key Club, and Girl Scouts. In my free time I enjoy cooking, art, and hanging out with friends. I was lucky enough to be a student in the Nakayoshi Gakko Program from Panda all the way to Tsuru Class.

Taylor Yee, Zou (4th) Sempai

Hi my name is Taylor Yee! I attend Leigh High School and will be a senior this coming fall. This will be my third year as a sempai, I was a cooking sempai and a classroom sempai the previous years. I have attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Panda through Tsuru. I love this program and I am very grateful that I have had these opportunities to be a sempai.

Kelli Kosakura, Kirin (5th) Sempai

Hi I'm Kelli and I am going to be a junior at Monta Vista High School. I love playing basketball, getting boba with friends, and spending time with family. Other activities I do include taiko, Girl Scouts, and YBA. I have attended Nakayoshi Gakko for all eight years and last year was my first time being a sempai!

Chloe Lim, Kirin (5th) Sempai

I will be an upcoming junior at Homestead High School. I enjoy cooking, baking, shopping and spending quality time with family and friends. I'm highly involved in Homestead's Marching Band and Winter Percussion. I'm also a member of the Mountain View YBA. I was a former student from Nakayoshi Gakko and this will be my 2nd year as a Sempai.

Connor Alicaya , Tora (6th) Sempai

Connor Alicaya is entering his Junior year at Homestead High School in the fall. He loves to play volleyball and hopes to play varsity for his school in the coming spring. He started his Nakayoshi education in the Kirin class, and graduated from Nakayoshi in 2016.

Stacey Kawabata , Tora (6th) Sempai

Stacey Kawabata will be a Senior at Homestead High School this coming year. This is her second year being a sempai at Nakayoshi, and she really enjoys being able to work with the students! Her interests include reading, playing tennis, and Girl Scouts. She also loves to listen to music and play the piano.

Megan Nakagawa, Ryu (7th) Sempai

Megan Nakagawa is an incoming junior at Branham High School. She has gone through all eight years of the Nakayoshi Gakko program, and this is her second year as a Sempai. In her free time, she loves doing calligraphy and playing golf. She also enjoys camping by the beach and going hiking.

Jory Furukawa, Ryu (7th) Sempai

Hello my name is Jory Furukawa and I attend International connections Academy which is an online private school. I will be entering my junior year for the 2019-2020 school year. I enjoy playing and watching sports including basketball. Lastly I have gone through all eight years of the Nakayoshi Gakko program and was a program Sempai last year.

Shelby Tsudama, Tsuru (8th) Sempai

I will be becoming a senior at Leigh High School. I have been playing basketball since preschool. I have been to Nakayoshi Gakko since panda.

Kimberly Yamaguchi, Tsuru (8th) Sempai

I'm Kimberly Yamaguchi and just graduated High School from Cupertino. Next year, I will be a freshman in college. My interests and hobbies include playing basketball and listening to music. I went through the program from Panda to Tsuru.

Yumi Bellon , Cooking Sempai, Upper-Grades

Hello, my name is Yumiko Bellon, I attend Homestead High School, I am in will be in 11th grade. My interests are in things that are hands-on such as baking, writing, and reading. I also enjoy choir, calligraphy, and hanging out with friends. As I was growing up I attended Nakayoshi Gakko, and learned so much about Japanese culture, starting as a panda and now a sempai, I have enjoyed every moment.

Summer Yokota, Cooking Sempai, Upper-Grades

My name is Summer Yokota and I'm excited to be a Sempai this year. I will be a Sophomore at Leigh High School this Fall. I've been a Nakayoshi Gakko student for 8 years (Panda - Tsuru). I love alpacas, video games, and crafting. :)

Jessica Furumasu, Cooking Sempai, Lower-Grades

I am currently attending Homestead High School and will be a sophomore this fall. I enjoy playing basketball and volleyball for fun. I also enjoy being around my friends and family. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko for eight summers and made many close friends.

Kaila Nishikawa, Cooking Sempai, Lower-Grades

I am a graduating senior from Carmont High School, and plan to study business and chemistry in the fall. I love to play basketball and dance with my friends. I have been going to Nakayoshi Gakko since I was in fourth grade. I am excited to spend another summer as a sempai at Nakayoshi Gakko!

Hana Bryant, Program Sempai

I will be a Sophomore at Sequoia High School next fall. I like to play volleyball and dance, including hip hop, street jazz, jazz, lyrical, and ballet. In my spare time I like to hang out with my friends and watch movies. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko all the way through from Panda to Tsuru and I'm excited to come back as a sempai!

Lauren Hamasaki, Program Sempai

My name is Lauren Hamasaki and I just completed my Senior year at Fremont High School. I played on the Varsity basketball team my Senior year and Varsity softball team since my Freshman year . Connecting myself to Nakayoshi Gakko, I had started Nakayoshi Gakko at the 1st grade (Panda class) and continued all up until the 8th grade (Tsuru class). I enjoyed

learning about Japanese culture from the activities I did while I was here and also had lots of fun with my classmates.

Sara Ho, Program Sempai

Next year I will be a junior at Lynbrook High School. One of my favorite hobbies is basketball, and I have played 2 years of varsity and also outside of school with club and AAU. I also enjoy playing with my dog and watching Netflix. I attended Nakayoshi all 8 years, and left me with memories I will never forget.

Evan Itow, Program Sempai

Hi. My name is Evan Itow and I am going to be a sophomore at Willow Glen High School. I attended all eight years of Nakayoshi Gakko. I enjoy cross-country, track, and basketball. I also like hanging out with my friends and watching sports.

Jarett Nishikawa, Program Sempai

I attend Carlmont High School and am entering 10th grade. I enjoy working with children, especially the younger ones because of how energetic and compelled they can be. On my free time I like to run for my school sports and spend time with my friends or family. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko from around 1st to 5th grade and thought that it would be nice to help this program after enjoying it when I was younger.

Tyler Sato, Program Sempai

I am going to be a junior at Homestead High School. I attended Nakayoshi Gakko from Saru to Ryu. I like to play basketball and video games in my free time. I am also part of Mountain View Buddhist Temple YBA where I dedicate a lot of time to.

2019 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	Christine Fradenburg Julie Uyekubo	president@nakayoshigakko.org
Ex-officio/ Sempai Coordinator	Yumi Higa	
Registrars	Lauren Uyeda Miyuki Newhall	registrar@nakayoshigakko.org
Secretary	Jenny Inouye Annie Hsu	
Treasurers	Cindy Hiroshige Grace Kosakura	
Facility Coordinators	Norm Higa Michi Wang	
Special Events	Michelle Lim Coline LaConte	
Purchasing	Curt Matsushita Colleen Duazo	
Fundraising	Treasurers	
Webmaster	Barry Tao	

HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

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

The Honorable Jeremy Nishihara
Trustee, Oak Grove School District