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The 2016-17 school year starts August 20th! Please register at

<https://recregistration.cityoflancafterca.org/classregistration/Start/Start.asp>

About

Welcome to Poppy Gakuen!

School Mission :

To educate in Japanese language and culture in a close community, implementing learning techniques that contribute to the advancement of society and humankind.

Education Goal:

Here at Poppy Gakuen, our goal is to instill in our students The Three S's – Strong, Smart and Sweetheart!

<Overview>

Departments

- Preschool & Kindergarten - Poppy Class (Meets once a month)
- Elementary, junior high, and high school classes
- Adult class

Class Schedule

- Every Saturday, 9am-12:00pm for preschool through high school (Basic and intermediate Japanese)
- Adult Class
 - Basic - 12:30pm to 2:00pm
 - Intermediate - 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Program

Japanese for all levels
*Please see program page for more detail.

A Note From The Principal

The Antelope Valley Japanese Academy Poppy Gakuen was established in 2014 by a local Japanese group. Its mission is "To educate in Japanese language and culture in a close community, implementing learning techniques that contribute to the advancement of society and humankind." We currently offer great programs for preschool to high school students as well as any level of adults every Saturday. The curriculum includes not only learning Japanese language but also Japanese culture and customs.

Our school strives to achieve the following three goals: First, we educate our students to follow The Three S's - strong, smart and sweetheart. Second, the teachers are self-disciplined, kind and considerate, and fair. Third, the school is community based, supportive through parents and teachers,

and open. We started the Antelope Valley Japanese Academy Poppy Gakuen because there weren't any Japanese schools nearby. Through the cooperation of students, parents and teachers, we can keep developing this great school's opportunities.

The students at Poppy Gakuen continue to go to local schools during the week while they come to our school to learn Japanese on Saturdays. We understand students must work very hard to do all the homework and assignments for both schools. However, we believe their efforts will be very valuable assets in their futures. They will learn many things in addition to the Japanese language, including knowledge gained through the actual experience of Japanese culture. Also, the adult students will be able to polish their Japanese language ability with their individual purposes and goals in mind every week. If you are interested in our school, please come and visit us on Saturday. We hope that you will enjoy our classes. We also encourage our parents to watch over and support your children warmly and attend our school events proactively. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Mikiko Tamashiro Corsette
Principal
Antelope Valley Japanese Academy
Poppy Gakuen

Programs

Preschool to Kindergarten Class (3 to 5 years old). We also accept children that will turn 3 years old by the end to the year.)
9am-12pm

Preschoolers can have fun and learn Japanese at the same time! Students enjoy music and dancing, games, crafts, and outdoor activities. Also, they will participate in many Japanese seasonal activities throughout the school year in order to become more familiar with customs and traditions.

Elementary to High School
9am-12pm

Basic Japanese Class (1st grade to 12th grade)

Basic Japanese class is designed for the individual student. First, students learn the basics of hiragana and katakana, two basic components of the Japanese writing system, then practice kanji: adopted logographic Chinese characters that are used in the modern Japanese writing system. These lessons are divided into each grade level. Students also acquire basic Japanese vocabularies by enjoying story time, poem reading, and word quizzes every week. The goal of this class is to gain an understanding of basic Japanese.

Intermediate Japanese (1st grade to 12th grade)

Intermediate class mainly develops students' Japanese writing skills and reading comprehension through the efforts of practicing kanji (adopted logographic Chinese characters that are used in the

modern Japanese writing system), writing essays, and reading practice with workbooks at each grade level.

Japanese Conversation (1st grade to 12th grade)

Students will be able to craft smooth Japanese sentences on their own through the lessons at this Japanese conversation class. They learn conversational and survival Japanese using exercises such as role playing and opinion exchanges about various situations.

Adult Class (Any Level, 17 years old and older)

Basic Class 12:30pm-2:00pm

Intermediate Class 1:30pm-3:00pm

*The 30 minute overlap between 1:30pm and 2:00pm is a combined class for both basic and intermediate level.

Students will learn basic to advanced Japanese conversation through listening, speaking, reading and writing according to each student's Japanese level. The basic class focuses on daily Japanese conversation, along with reading/writing hiragana and katakana (basic Japanese writing systems). On a more advanced level, the intermediate class provides more advanced Japanese lessons to students who may be planning to go to Japan to achieve their academic or career goals. The 30 minutes between 1:30pm and 2:00pm is a combined class for both of the basic and intermediate students. We do some group exercises/discussions, role playing and culture exploration. Students will also participate all year round in school events that will help familiarize them to traditional Japanese seasonal activities and customs.

*The provided age group are examples of the type of student expected in each class. Students will be divided into the best class for them based on their individual Japanese skill.

Schedule

<Time Schedule>

Pre-Kinder Poppy Class

8:45~9:00	Drop off
9:00~9:10	Morning Meeting (Radio Taiso Exercise, School Song Practice)
9:10~9:30	Eurythmics, Rhythmic Exercises, Songs with Motions
9:30~10:00	Story Time, Pre-schooler Writing and Easy Crafts
10:00~10:30	Integrated Study, Recess, and Snack Time
10:30~11:00	Crafts
11:00~11:35	Outside Play
11:35~11:40	Recess
11:40~11:50	Cleaning Time
11:50~12:00	Closing Meeting
12:00	Pick up

Elementary, Junior and Senior High School

8:45~9:00	Drop off
9:00~9:10	Morning Meeting (Radio Taiso Exercise, School Song Practice)
9:10~9:20	Story Time/Silent Reading
9:20~10:30	1st Period (Basic - Intermediate Class)
10:30~10:40	Recess and Snack Time
10:40~11:00	Integrated Study
11:00~11:40	2nd Period (Conversation/Math)
11:35~11:40	Recess
11:40~11:50	Cleaning Time
11:50~12:00	Closing Meeting
12:00	Pick up

Adult Class

12:30~1:30	Basic Class - Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing Comprehension
1:30~2:00	Basic/Intermediate Combined Class (Conversation, Group Discussion, Role-playing, Culture Learning etc.)
2:00~3:00	Intermediate Class - Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing Comprehension

Students

Kotomi Tucker (Elementary)

Hello! My name is Kotomi. I am ten years old. The reason why I started going to Poppy Gakuen is because I want to understand when my relatives in Japan talk to me. Also, I want to enjoy watching Japanese TV shows. Learning Japanese in Poppy Gakuen has been very fun so far. I have learned about 25 Japanese letters and multiplication in Japanese. Now I feel happy when I find Japanese letters I can read. In Poppy Gakuen, there is mix of ages from 2 years old to 15 years old students. We only have 2 subjects: Japanese and math in Japanese. One day, I would like to teach some of my friends Japanese. I also would like to write letters in Japanese to my relatives in Japan. And maybe, I can translate for people who don't understand Japanese.

Matthew Hiromasa Frederick (Kindergarten)

My name is Matthew Hiromasa. I'm 5 years old. I love my Japanese school so much. I like my teacher. I like my class and classmates. I learned a lot of Japanese letters and words. It is fun! I will keep studying Japanese and I want to talk with my oba-chan and oji-chan (grandma and grandpa).

Alumni

Yoshihiro Shintani (High School, 2014-2015)

I learned Japanese and math at Poppy Gakuen. I normally spoke Japanese only at home but hadn't written in Japanese for the last six years after my family moved when I was a fourth grade student to the US from Japan. I did not know how to write a good essay nor how to describe mathematical terms in Japanese at all. After we moved to the Los Angeles area, I gave up on going to a Japanese school because existing schools are very far away from where I live. I was very happy that Poppy Gakuen was established in this area. Also, I am happy that I could brush up my Japanese writing and listening skills at Poppy Gakuen. I learned and enjoyed a lot although I had something I did not understand completely through the once a week classes.

My dream is to be a math teacher, so I went back to Japan and graduated from a Japanese high school and a university to accomplish my dream. I took and passed an entrance exam for a Japanese high school here in Los Angeles. I am transferring to the school as a junior student this April. Even though I have some concerns living at the school dormitory without my family, I will keep working hard and not forget what I learned at Poppy Gakuen.

Thank you all the teachers for teaching me how to write proper essays in Japanese and providing me intensive training for kanji as well as teaching me mathematical terms and the delight of mathematics. I could move one step forward to my dream come true since the teachers taught me precisely, patiently and politely.

I am still growing; however, I would like to become a teacher who can help people as my teachers at Poppy Gakuen. It was a short time, but I really appreciate your support and guidance.

For all the students at Poppy Gakuen, please keep working hard with your dreams. I will do so in Japan, too!

Parent Testimonials

My son has been a student at Antelope Valley Japanese Academy Poppy Gauken for several months now, and his experience there has been wonderful. The staff is always very positive and uplifting, and they go out of their way to make learning fun and exciting. He's learning how to read, write, and speak Japanese and is also learning about the culture and traditions of Japan. I'd like to thank you and the entire staff for providing such a positive, uplifting education for my son.

- B.M. (a parent at Elementary School)

I highly recommend Antelope Valley Japanese Academy for any child or adult! They have terrific classes for all age levels, and a caring native Japanese faculty that is committed to teaching Japanese language and culture. In the Mommy/Daddy and Me class, my 3-year-old and I have learned greetings, numbers, colors, animals, foods, verbs, and songs in Japanese. This program has all the benefits of a regular preschool, with the additional benefit that your son/daughter is learning a second language! The facilities and playground are excellent, and my family thoroughly enjoys the friendships we've made.

I have been extremely impressed with the kindergarten class. Although my daughter started with zero knowledge of Japanese, each week she is comprehending and speaking more words. The teacher speaks strictly in Japanese. She does an excellent job keeping the class on track, and takes time with each student to make sure they are writing the Japanese letters properly. She drills them on letter

recognition and vocabulary, and provides many fun worksheets. Creative games and crafts are mixed into the school day, along with snack and recess. All the Japanese holidays are celebrated. I am so thankful we discovered Poppy Gakuen.

- Sarah S. (a parent at Mommy/Daddy & Me and Kindergarten)

We have attended Poppy Gakuen for 6 months now, and are extremely happy with their Japanese program. The teachers speak in Japanese to our kids the whole time (even though they are just beginners), and they always have tons of interesting activities prepared! My kids look forward to it every Saturday, and sing the songs themselves throughout the week.

- Laney S. (a parent at Mommy/Daddy & Me and Kindergarten)