

6th Grade Japanese Immersion Curriculum **Hamilton International Middle School**

The sixth grade Japanese Immersion curriculum consists of Japanese Language, Social Studies, Art/Music, and Physical Education. These areas are integrated into thematic units of study that focus on strengthening students' language skills while exploring Japanese culture and history. The following framework explains how each area is developed.

Japanese Language

The sixth grade Japanese language curriculum focuses on further development of vocabulary, reading, writing, and oral language skills and begins a comprehensive review of grammar that will continue throughout the middle school curriculum. Throughout the elementary grades, students have had exposure to a variety of grammatical structures and have naturally acquired many language skills. At this point students are ready for a more directed focus on how the Japanese language works. The sixth grade curriculum uses a language-based series to review and further develop students' vocabulary and grammar while integrating social studies-based themes and projects to strengthen students' reading, writing, and oral language skills through meaningful content.

Social Studies:

In alignment with the 6th grade Social Studies curriculum, students in Japanese Immersion will explore the history of Japan and its influence on modern Japanese culture. The following themes will be used to explore different aspects of Japanese history and culture.

- Geography
- History
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Religion
- Science
- Communication
- Arts & Crafts
- Daily Life
- Entertainment

Art/Music/P.E.

As part of each Japanese Immersion block, students will participate in art, music, or physical education that will take place entirely in the target language. Often these activities will relate to the curriculum on Japanese history and culture in some way. Thematic units have been designed to integrate art, music, and movement whenever possible so that at least one or two of these activities each week will be related to the current unit of study. Examples of these activities may include: learning to play traditional sports and games, cooking Japanese recipes, and doing traditional Japanese crafts.

We will also work with two artists in residence, who will be doing Taiko drumming and storytelling with the Koto.

Schedule

The first hour of the block will usually be devoted to language and Social Studies. The second hour we will have Art the first semester and PE the second semester. The block will still be flexible, and there may be days when Art will take both periods. We do not have access to a gym, so we will be limited during the winter months. Thank you for your understanding.