January 11, 2019

JAPANESE LANGUAGE AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Students and Families,

We are writing to let you know about opportunities for continuing Japanese language study at Lincoln High School when it reopens in September, 2019. Lincoln High School has been designated as the NW Region Dual Language Immersion (DLI) High School Pathway for both Spanish and Japanese. Lincoln will be opening for just grades 9 and 10 in school year 2019-2020, but will add grades 11 and 12 in the subsequent years. Because of the DLI pathway, we plan for the school to offer multiple levels of Japanese starting next September.

The Japanese DLI families at Hamilton International Middle School, and the feeder elementary programs at John Stanford International School and McDonald International School, are working hard with us to encourage students interested in studying Japanese language to higher levels to choose Lincoln as their high school next fall. With some additional district support the first year, this recruiting effort will ensure that Lincoln High School has enough students to fund a full-time Japanese language teacher to not only teach all the sections we plan for, but also to have time to develop curriculum for additional 9th grade World History classes to be taught in Japanese in school year 2020-2021.

How can students enroll in Lincoln High School?

Students who live in the Lincoln Attendance Area will be automatically assigned to Lincoln (unless they choose other schools). Otherwise, students who were part of the Dual Language Immersion program in 8th grade at Hamilton must actively select Lincoln during Open Enrollment, but they are guaranteed placement there. Other interested students who do not live in the Lincoln Attendance Area, but want to go to Lincoln, can also select Lincoln during Open Enrollment February 4-15, 2019.

What are the Japanese Language course options at Lincoln?

For 2019-2020, Lincoln is expecting to offer multiple levels of Japanese language classes:

- Japanese 1, Japanese 2 (if needed), Japanese 3
- Japanese 4 (primarily for 9th grade DLI students), and AP Japanese 5 (primarily for 10th graders)
- In addition: World History 3 for 10th grade Japanese DLI students (or other students who meet the target proficiency level of at least Intermediate Low to Mid from STAMP testing)

Students who have completed Japanese world language classes would generally be placed as follows:

- If completed Japanese 1B, then place into Japanese 2 at Lincoln
- If completed Japanese 2B, then place into Japanese 3 at Lincoln
- If completed Japanese 3, then place into Japanese 4 at Lincoln (possibly AP Japanese 5)
- If completed Japanese 4, then place into AP Japanese 5 at Lincoln

How can students be tested in Japanese (and earn high school credits)?

Students who speak, read, and write Japanese, but have not taken Japanese language classes in Seattle Public Schools before, can complete World Language Credit testing to earn credits for their current language skills and to help the school place them into an appropriate class at Lincoln. Current 8th grade DLI Japanese students at Hamilton will also be tested (at Hamilton) to determine their credits and help with placement in high school. Other students can register for testing at the Seattle World School on the upcoming dates of January 26, February 9, March 9, or March 30 at: https://www.seattleschools.org/academics/international_education/world_language_credit_testing.
World Language Credit will be granted (in high school) if students meet the following levels of proficiency across the four skills tested on the STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) test (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking):

- Novice Mid earns 1 credit, recommended placement into Japanese 2
- Novice High earns 2 credits, recommended placement into Japanese 3
- Intermediate Low earns 3 credits, recommended placement Japanese 4
- Intermediate Mid earns 4 credits, recommended placement into AP Japanese 5

Credit will appear on the high school transcript with a "P" for pass as the grade mark. Students will need to specifically request to have the credits added to their high school transcript once they arrive there.

**Why should students continue studying Japanese at higher levels?**

Japanese is a vital language to our state, in Asia, and around the world. We cannot even imagine right now when and how knowing Japanese will give students opportunities in future education or jobs that will set them apart from other students or employees. However, they need to develop their language skills to the highest level possible while they are still in high school.

Students should definitely aim for the **State Seal of Biliteracy**. They can qualify for that by passing the AP or IB Japanese language exams or by testing with the STAMP at overall Intermediate Mid level proficiency (i.e. earning 4 credits). But the goal for Dual Language Immersion programs is for students to reach **Advanced** level proficiency by high school graduation. To reach that level, students will need to commit to continuing their study of Japanese throughout high school. Students who reach Advanced level may qualify for the new **Global Seal of Biliteracy** at Working Fluency (Advanced) level!

Lincoln High School will offer challenging courses beyond AP Japanese 5 starting in 2020-2021 that will help students continue learning in Japanese and polishing their skills to reach Advanced level proficiency. Lincoln will also offer students the opportunity to take the **Japanese Language Proficiency Test** by senior year. When they graduate high school, they will be well prepared to use their language skills in many jobs and definitely in college, no matter what field of study they choose.

This is a unique opportunity available to students interested in Japanese language study because of the Dual Language Immersion pathway. Please take advantage of it!

Sincerely,

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**Helpful Links:**

- Seattle Public Schools [https://www.seattleschools.org/admissions/school_choice](https://www.seattleschools.org/admissions/school_choice)  February 4-15, 2019
- Lincoln High School Course Catalog [https://www.seattleschools.org/schools/high_schools/lincoln_high_school/updates/2019-2020_course_catalog](https://www.seattleschools.org/schools/high_schools/lincoln_high_school/updates/2019-2020_course_catalog)
- WL Credit Testing [https://www.seattleschools.org/academics/international_education/world_language_credit_testing](https://www.seattleschools.org/academics/international_education/world_language_credit_testing)
- Seal of Biliteracy [https://www.seattleschools.org/academics/international_education/seal_of_biliteracy](https://www.seattleschools.org/academics/international_education/seal_of_biliteracy)
- Global Seal of Biliteracy [https://www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net/](https://www.globalsealofbiliteracy.net/)
- Japanese Language Proficiency Test [https://jlpt.jp/e/about/message.html](https://jlpt.jp/e/about/message.html)