

*So You're Planning to Start a **JAPANESE** Language Program?*

Information and Resources (December 2006)

What provincial curriculum and resources are available to support a Japanese language and culture program?

Provincial Programs of Study

The following provincial programs of study are available:

- Japanese Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 4–5
- Japanese Language and Culture Six-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- Japanese Language and Culture 10-6Y, 20-6Y, 30-6Y
- Japanese Language and Culture 10-3Y, 20-3Y, 30-3Y

Current provincial programs of study may be viewed and downloaded at www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp.

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents and *Curriculum Summaries* contain information on subjects, programs and courses available in Alberta schools. For more information, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks.

Learning and Teaching Resources

To obtain a copy of the Japanese language and culture guide to implementation and the authorized resource list and annotated bibliography, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp.

Alberta Education's Authorized Resources Database is a searchable database of all authorized resources and may be viewed at www.education.gov.ab.ca/lrdb.

To order authorized learning and teaching resources, contact the Learning Resources Centre at www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca.

Assessment Support

Teachers may find the following assessment tools useful:

- benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12
- performance standards for Grade 4
- performance standards for Grade 5 (under development)
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 4
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 5 (under development)

Support for Japanese Language Programming

Alberta school jurisdictions benefit from the expertise and assistance of the Special Advisor for Japanese Language and Culture through an agreement between the Japan Foundation and Alberta Education. In addition to providing workshops on a variety of topics upon request, the Special Advisor provides information to teachers about:

- Japanese language and culture programs, support resources and materials
- possible professional development opportunities
- exchange and study opportunities for teachers, students and school jurisdictions that support programs available through the Japan Foundation.

Questions? Contact:

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Additional Supports

Information regarding grants, exchanges, programs and resources is available from the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary. For more information, visit www.calgary.ca.emb-japan.go.jp, e-mail infocul@conjapan.ab.ca or call (403) 294-0782.

Teachers may be interested in borrowing materials for teaching Japanese from the Japan Foundation Toronto Library. For more information, visit www.japanfoundationcanada.org, e-mail library@jftor.org or call (416) 966-1600.

The Japanese Language Education Consortium is a collaboration of school jurisdictions, post-secondary institutions and stakeholders involved in Japanese language education in Alberta. For more information, contact International Languages, Curriculum Branch, at (780) 427-2984 (toll-free within Alberta by dialling 310-0000 first).

Professional Development

Teachers who are interested in joining a network of Japanese teachers may contact the Alberta Japanese Teachers' Association, through Hajime Sakaguchi (chair) at (780) 469-1315 or hajime.sakaguchi@epsb.ca.

Various professional development opportunities for language educators can be found at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/ProfDevl.asp.

Further information regarding language learning and professional development opportunities is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/EducatorOpportunities.pdf.

Language teachers with at least three years of teaching experience in Alberta, who are planning to take a summer program of at least four weeks duration in a language or language-teaching methodology, may be interested in the Language Teacher Bursary Program. For more information, visit www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=874.

The Intercultural and Second Languages Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that may interest language teachers. For more information, visit www.islc.teachers.ab.ca.

Student Learning Opportunities

Information regarding language learning opportunities for students is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf. These opportunities include:

- Student Language Development Exchange Program
- Alberta-Hokkaido Student Exchange
- Yamate Gakuin One-year Student Exchange Program
- Yamate High School Student Exchange Program—Short
- The T. Mikuriya Award in Support of Alberta/Japan Student Exchanges

For more information, e-mail exchange.programs@gov.ab.ca or call (780) 427-2035 (toll-free within Alberta by dialling 310-0000 first).

Further information regarding student exchange programs is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/nie/exchange.

School Twinning

Information regarding the Alberta International School Partnership Program is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/educationguide/pol-plan/polregs/341.asp.