

Tamayo Hattori



Kindergarten – Japanese Immersion

Tamayo Sensei teaches the Kindergarten and 1st Grade Japanese immersion classes. She began teaching at JSIS in 2005. She grew up in a small town in Nagano about 4 hours northwest of Tokyo. In college she majored in English Education. One of her earliest teaching experiences was in an English immersion kindergarten in Nagano, Japan. She saw Canadian teachers interact with Japanese 4 & 5 year-olds successfully without language/cultural barrier. Her interest toward immersion education started then.

After completing graduate school in Fairfax, VA, Tamayo Sensei moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where she taught first, second, and third grades in a Japanese immersion program from 2001-2005. She says this four-year experience in North Carolina was an invaluable experience as a teacher. She met great teachers and families there, and above all, she learned that students have endless possibilities in learning.

Tamayo Sensei enjoys teaching students at JSIS in an immersion setting, even though it can sometimes be challenging. She remembers as a girl being very shy about using her English and is consequently very proud of how bravely JSIS students use their Japanese/Spanish. What she likes about language immersion is that students can focus on academic content (Mathematics & Science etc) while being immersed in a new language.

Tamayo Sensei loves the JSIS school community, where staff and families create an international community together. She encourages her students and their families to learn more about Japanese culture and to participate in the wide variety of Japanese cultural activities that are available to us here in Seattle. Look up the following websites if you are interested in learning more...

- Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle <http://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp>
- Japan-America Society of the state of Washington <http://www.us-japan.org/jassw/index.htm>
- Japan Foundation <http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/index.html>
- Study in Japan <http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/index.html>

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