

The Constitution of The Japanese National Honor Society

ARTICLE I: NAME AND CLASSIFICATION

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) and it includes two chapters: JNHS Junior and JNHS Senior. JNHS Junior is for a middle or junior high school and JNHS Senior is for a high school.

Section 2. Its purpose is to promote interest in Japanese and to recognize high achievement in Japanese by students of middle or junior high schools and high schools.

Section 3. The organization is sponsored by the National Council of Japanese Language Teachers (NCJLT) and is classified as a national educational society in the study of Japanese.

Section 4. Each unit of the society located in a school is a chapter of the national society. Schools offering both junior high school level and high school level Japanese may operate a JNHS Junior chapter and a JNHS Senior chapter, but each chapter is independent from the other. The name of the chapter shall be a Japanese name chosen by the chapter. The person in charge of the chapter is the chapter sponsor.

ARTICLE II: QUALIFICATION OF SCHOOLS AND SPONSORS

Section 1. All accredited public and non-public middle or junior high schools and high schools are eligible to start a chapter.

Section 2. Chapter sponsors/co-sponsors must be members in good standing of the NCJLT.

ARTICLE III. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A regularly enrolled student of a middle or junior high school or a high school who has completed the 1st term of his/her second year of study and who has maintained a 3.5 GPA in Japanese and 3.0 GPA overall is qualified.

Section 2. A student must continue to be regularly enrolled in a middle or junior high school or a high school Japanese program through his/her last term.

Section 3. Should a student become ineligible, he/she will be placed on probation for a period of one term. During this probationary period, the student will be expected to participate in all of the society's activities, but he/she will not be allowed to vote or to hold office. The student has only one term to regain his/her eligibility.

ARTICLE IV. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Application for membership from a middle or junior high school or a high school seeking a chapter is made on an official form provided by NCJLT. To make the initial contact, sponsors will need to send a letter of request describing their Japanese program and JNHS related activities on school stationery along with a complete application form and one check for the application fee.

Section 2. The annual chapter fee for membership shall be designated by the NCJLT, and all chapter schools, new and renewing, must pay the fee each year. If a school starts both JNHS Junior and JNHS Senior chapters, they must apply for each chapter separately.

ARTICLE V. DUES AND FEES

Section 1. No monthly dues or annual assessments are charged schools affiliated with the Japanese National Honor Society.

Section 2. The student membership fee in the society payable at the time of the initiation shall be designated by the NCJLT. The certificates will not be sent out until the student fees have been received by the honor society chairperson.

Section 3. Failure of the chapter sponsor to remit students' membership fee to the honor society chairperson each school year automatically places the chapter on inactive status and may result in the withdrawal of the chapter, unless the sponsor notifies NCJLT that no students qualify for initiation during the participation of the school year.

ARTICLE VI. INSIGNIA

Section 1. The seal of the JNHS is the seal of NCJLT.

Section 2. The colors of the Society are red and white.

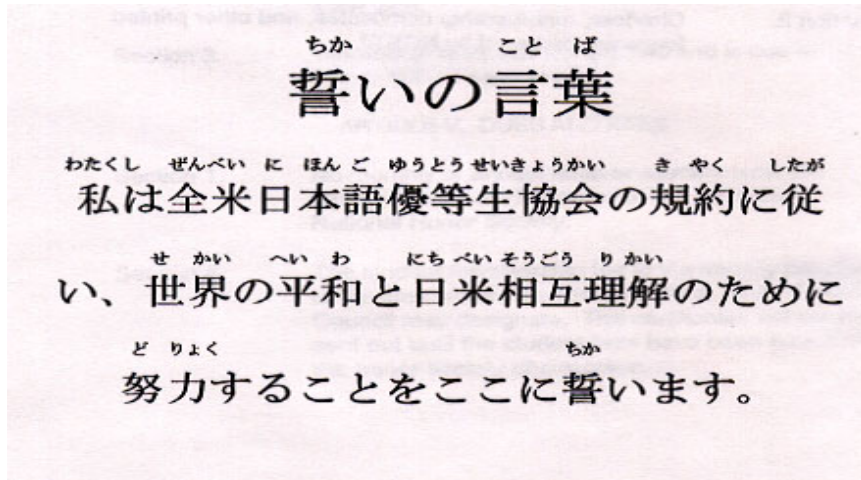
ARTICLE VII. PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. JNHS announcements will be published in the Oshirase, the official newsletter of NCJLT.

Section 2. Chapters, membership certificates, and other printed forms are prepared by NCJLT.

The student Oath Translation

I pledge to serve the Japanese National Honor Society as a bridge of international understanding between Japan and the United States. I will serve as an ambassador to promote friendship between Japan, the United States, and other countries. I will abide by the Honor Society's constitution and be a willing participant thereof.



Suggested Initiation Ceremony

We are gathered here to honor the following students of (School Name) for their outstanding achievements in Japanese. Their initiation into the Japanese National Honor Society not only reflects their academic performance, but also their desire to understand other cultures.

In the presence of these witnesses you will now join the Japanese National Honor Society.

The students will then repeat the oath. For the first year the teacher or sponsor may read the path, but after officers have been selected for the chapter, they may lead the ceremony the next year. The teacher may choose to pin the students with red and white ribbon, the colors of the society, after the oath has been recited. The teacher will then congratulate the students as new members of the honor society.

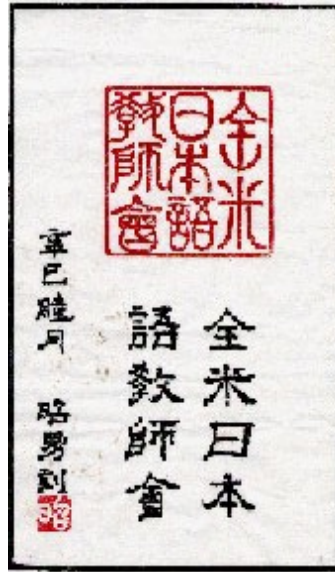
After the students have been declared members of the honor society, the teacher should call them to receive their certificates.

"Please come forward when your name is called to receive your membership certificate."

Optional:

You may want to have a candle light ceremony. In this case before the students recite the student oath, the teacher will light the candles that the students are holding. The light from the candle represents their commitment to promote friendship and understanding between Japan, the U.S., and other countries. When the candles are lit, the students should be told that they are now members of the Japanese National Honor Society.

Our Seal



The seal of the Japanese National Honor Society was carved by Mr. Akio Fujita. He lives in Hachioji, Japan. The National Council of Japanese Language Teachers expresses our special appreciation for his contribution.

篆刻

About Tenkoku

(seal carving). Carving of a name or sobriquet in a durable material, such as stone or wood, to fashion a seal. *Tenkoku* (Ch: *zhuanke* or *chuan-k'o*) refers to the carving of seals used in an unofficial capacity to imprint works of graphic art, and in particular to seals carved for their own use by *bunjin* (Ch: *wenren* or *wen-jen*; literati artists; see BUNJINGA). The term derives from *tensho* (Ch: *zhuanshu* or *chuan-shu*; archaic script), the calligraphic style in which seals are usually carved. Seal carving came to Japan from China in the Kamakura period (1185-1333) but did not flourish until the Edo period (1660-1868), when the practice spread among *bunjin*. Craving of seals and the study of old imprints continues today, and exhibitions are well attended by aficionados. See also RAKKAN.