Dear Obama Parents and Guardians,

My name is Casilli Sensei and I will be teaching all high school students enrolled in IBMYP Japanese for grades 9 and 10. The freshman and sophomore courses expose students to Japanese language and culture through the development of communicative skills and cross-cultural understanding. Language learning in the MYP continuum is designed to be comprehensive rather than exclusive. The courses offer experiences that encourage students to examine Japanese language and culture in a context that is relevant to their own interests and experience. Students are encouraged to find their goal:

✔ Why are you studying Japanese?
✔ What do you want to do with it?
✔ What kind of fun things do you want to do with your new skill?

I. Course Outline:

ようこそ！The purpose of this course is to enable students to communicate proficiently in Japanese through a communicative and cultural approach to language learning. We will practice and build the skills necessary for the 4 integrated benchmarks of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Proficiency exams will be given to all students in years 1, 2, and 4 to measure progress in speaking and reading comprehension. All results will be shared with students to help improve their linguistic skills.

All materials presented in class are designed to support students in all grades in the following areas:

✔ communicating clearly and effectively in a range of situations;
✔ understanding and use accurately oral and written forms of the language that are commonly encountered in a range of styles and situations;
✔ understanding and use a range of vocabulary;
✔ selecting a register and style that are appropriate to the situation;
✔ structuring arguments in a clear, coherent and convincing way;
✔ understanding and respond appropriately to written and spoken material;
✔ showing an awareness of and sensitivity to the culture of Japan.

II. Objectives:
By the completion of year 2 students will:

✓ Demonstrate knowledge and application of specific vocabulary used in everyday life, including: greetings, social interactions, classroom objects and activities, personal information, family relationships, daily activities and hobbies, weather and time expressions, transportation and travel, and expressions related to health and illness.
✓ Respond to simple oral directions, questions and classroom commands.
✓ Recognize, read and write the basic Japanese scripts—hiragana and katakana; they will read and write some basic kanji as well.
✓ Comprehend reading materials containing items on menus, schedules, timetables, maps, and signs.
✓ Say and write simple declarative and interrogative sentences in the present, future and past tense using correct word order; they will also be able to say and write personal data including age, dates, nationality, address and other biographical information.
✓ Comprehend basic aspects of Japanese culture such as holidays, customs, common foods, leisure time activities and selected artistic forms.

III. Materials:

✓ Notebook (Single subject preferred, pocket folder for handouts)
  The daily notebook must include the completed warm-up for each lesson. Students will earn points daily for each completed warm-up, 5pts each, 25pts weekly.
✓ Writing utensil
✓ Handouts and flashcards given in class
✓ Textbook

Though each student will have access to a text book, classes aren't text driven. Additionally, we will use a variety of authentic resources for conducting class such as films, magazines, songs, poems, short stories, essays and computer based resources.

IV. Assessment in Language Acquisition MYP:

Language Acquisition objectives are organized into four communicative processes and are assessed utilizing the same criteria:

A) Comprehending spoken and visual text
As appropriate to the phase, the student is expected to be able to
  • Listen for specific purposes and respond to show understanding
  • Interpret visual text that is presented with spoken text
  • Engage with the text by supporting opinion and personal response with evidence and examples from the text.

B) Comprehending written and visual text
As appropriate to the phase, the student is expected to be able to
  • Read for specific purposes and respond to show understanding
  • Interpret visual text that is presented with written text
• Engage with the text by supporting opinion and personal response with evidence and examples from the text.

C) Communicating in response to spoken, written and visual text
As appropriate to the phase, the student is expected to be able to
• Interact and communicate in various situations
• Express thoughts, feelings, ideas, opinions and information in spoken and written form
• Speak and write for specific purposes

D) Using language in spoken and written form
As appropriate to the phase, the student is expected to be able to
• Organize thoughts, feelings, ideas, opinions and information in spoken and written form
• Develop accuracy when speaking and writing in the target language

V. Grading:

All Language Acquisition courses will use the following weighted criteria for grading:

- Classwork – 20% (Warm-ups, Japanese alphabet practice, independent work, teacher directed activities, vocabulary practice, etc.)
- Written Assessments (tests, quizzes, essays, hiragana, katakana, kanji writing assignments, IB test practice, etc.) – 20%
- Homework – 10%
- Oral Class Participation – 30% (speaking Japanese with the teacher, responding appropriately, partner work, asking questions, showing comprehension of classroom commands, everyday conversation, warm-ups, etc.)
- Speaking and Listening Assessments – 20% (presentations, some translation including English to Japanese and Japanese to English, debates, class conversations, etc.)

VI. Homework:

Learning a foreign language requires constant review and practice. Homework is an important part of this process because it:

- Reinforces material taught in class
- Prepares students for upcoming lessons and full class participation.
- Helps students develop self-discipline and organizational skills.
- Homework for Japanese IBMYP will take on many forms. Sometimes it will be vocabulary review, kanji practice, text reading, researching a trend in Japanese culture, online practice or other type of assignment, but there will be a nightly review of the lesson taught during the day.
- Papers to be collected will be done so at the beginning of class. Students have a one day lateness without penalty courtesy on all assignments. Assignments will lose 10% of their value each day after that. After 1 week, assignments will be marked at 50%. Students will receive a grade of 0 for assignments that are not handed in.
- No opportunities for extra credit exist.
VII. Classroom Expectations:

- We are a team and we will conduct ourselves professionally, maturely, appropriately, respectfully and purposefully at all times.
- Students are not permitted to leave the classroom without an agenda book.
- Class will be conducted at least 80-90% of the time in Japanese. If you do the math, in a 40 minute period, expect about 3-5 minutes of English to be spoken. Use it wisely.
- Each student will receive a daily grade and be awarded scores on a scale of 0-5 in class according to the following criteria:

  0 = unexcused absence  
  1-2 = present but unengaged/not on task  
  3-4 = prepared, working and willing to participate when called on  
  5 = actively participated and regularly contributed  
  N/A = excused absence

- Follow directions the first time they are given.  
- Be on time to class with your materials and homework completed.  
- Stay genki!  
- Cellphones must be put away at all times

VIII. Communication:

Email is the most expedient method for contacting me. My address is lcasilli1@pghboe.net or you can call me at 412.529.6377, and I will return your call within 24 hours.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am truly looking forward to an unparalleled year in achievement and success.

Warm regards,

Leonard Casilli  
Teacher of Japanese
PLEASE READ AND RETURN THIS PORTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher name</th>
<th>Mr. Leonard Casilli</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>412.529.6377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcasilli1@pghboe.net">lcasilli1@pghboe.net</a></td>
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<td>Student name</td>
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<td>Parent/Guardian name</td>
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I have read and discussed this handout with my child and we understand the requirements for this class.

Student signature ___________________________ Date ___/___/2016

Parent/Guardian signature ___________________________ Date ___/___/2016

Approved: ___________________________

(Dr. Wayne N. Walters, Principal)