

Our Program

The Rosa Parks Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program (JBBP) is a 35-year old, K-5 alternative elementary school program of the San Francisco Unified School District. Its distinctive curriculum integrates instruction and experience in Japanese language and culture – delivered through native Japanese-speaking instructors or “sensei” – with a rigorous core curriculum taught in English by credentialed teachers. The result is a unique educational experience for students and their families.

History

In partnership with the Japanese American community, San Francisco’s first Board of Education established JBBP in 1973 to preserve and advance the legacy of Japanese Americans and the Japanese language and culture for future generations. Since then, JBBP has been recognized for providing an excellent educational experience, due to the combined efforts of its founders, teachers and families and the unwavering support of the community – perhaps the most distinguishing hallmark of the program.

In the Fall of 2006, JBBP relocated to Rosa Parks Elementary School, centrally located in the Western Addition (from its former home in the Sunset District), continuing its distinguished program model and academic offerings, while building a new future together with the existing general education and special education programs on site. Located one block from Japantown, the move is a homecoming to JBBP’s founding community, with unprecedented opportunities to enhance and strengthen its cultural and academic resources from the rich multi-cultural assets of the surrounding area.

Community Outreach and Service Learning

Community service learning projects such as inter-generational activities with nearby seniors and with preschoolers are part of the learning experience of JBBP. Family volunteers school wide also support the San Francisco Food Bank Pantry at Rosa Parks, which provides families in need with weekly groceries.

Family Participation

Active involvement of dedicated families is a key component of Rosa Parks JBBP’s success. Families help out in various capacities determined by their interests and schedules. Some are available during the day and can assist in the classroom or with general program support; others help from home. Many of our talented family members share their musical, scientific, technical, artistic, and gardening talents with students.

Rosa Parks JBBP families are encouraged to participate in special program events and fundraising efforts. Family and faculty participation, as well as community participation, is significant at all events.

Through a very special partnership between teachers, sensei, families, community and the SFUSD, an outstanding education coupled with the authentic experience of Japanese language and culture is offered at Rosa Parks JBBP.

Rosa Parks Elementary School
1501 O’Farrell Street (off of Webster)
San Francisco, CA 94115
School – p 415. 749.3519 / f 415. 749.3610

Call 415. 839.8590 to speak to a parent for information and school tour reservations

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Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program
Rosa Parks Elementary School



Goals & Philosophy

Rosa Parks JBBP integrates Japanese language and culture acquisition with a rigorous core curriculum to provide a rich educational experience for students – regardless of Japanese language fluency – and their families.

Key Principles

- Deliver a challenging core curriculum taught in English, enriched by an hour of Japanese language instruction and culture daily, maximizing the integration of language development through core content learning.
- Utilize native Japanese-speaking instructors in each classroom to model authentic linguistics and provide relevant and genuine cultural experiences.
- Reinforce use of grade-based Japanese language standards by teachers in each classroom throughout the school day.
- Preserve and advance an appreciation for Japanese language and culture for future generations of all people.
- Provide an awareness and appreciation of Japanese and Japanese-American history, culture and community and in doing so, impart a greater understanding of our multicultural world.
- Create an environment where all students are proud of their own heritage and respectful of the contributions and value of others' background and experiences.
- Engage families and the greater community to play an integral role in the program.

Core Curriculum

An integrated teaching approach — experienced teachers work in partnership with the Sensei, SFUSD World Languages staff, and others to deliver a stimulating and challenging educational experience for each child.

Core curriculum taught in English — reading, writing, math, science, social studies, language arts and multicultural studies are aligned with State and SFUSD curriculum requirements. Physical education, art, music, gardening and computers enhance the curriculum.

Japanese Curriculum

Japanese is taught through formal classroom instruction reinforced by **“teaching language through culture and community”**. Celebrations of Japanese and other cultural holidays, traditional arts, crafts, field trips, and more provide a meaningful context for language acquisition.

Daily instruction — Japanese language instruction by native-speaking language paraprofessionals or Sensei. They provide students with essential language expressions and patterns, exposure to authentic Japanese linguistics, basic speaking, reading and writing skills, and a genuine knowledge of Japanese culture.

Proprietary educational technology — Unique Japanese language software – developed by JBBP’s Japanese Language Integration Program (JLIP) and featured at the National Association of Bilingual Education Conference – complements instruction. Students use JBBP’s mobile iBook lab to access the software.

Academic studies are combined with cultural enrichment — social and intellectual growth is fostered. Our diverse student body thrives within Rosa Parks JBBP’s program. **No prior knowledge of Japanese is necessary. JBBP provides access to the experience of Japanese language and culture for all interested students and their families.**

Cultural Activities

Rajio Taiso — Daily morning exercise
Keiro No Hi — Honoring our Elders Day
Tsukimi — Autumn Moon Viewing
Undokai — Sports Day Competition
Speech Taikai — Japanese Speech Competition
Oshogatsu — New Year’s Celebration
Bunka No Hi — Japanese Culture Day
Hina Matsuri — Girls’ Day
Gakugei Kai – Performing Arts Showcase
Sakura Matsuri — Cherry Blossom Festival & Parade
Kodomo No Hi — Children’s Day

2007 - 2008 Program Highlights

Akatsuki Elementary School Classroom Videoconference — Sensei are once again planning a series of live, real-time audio/video teleconferences between 4th and 5th graders and students from Akatsuki Elementary School in Aichi prefecture.

Japanese Teaching Interns – In February, JBBP will be hosting a number of teaching interns from all over Japan through Educational Planning Inc. which has offices in the U.S. and Tokyo. They will attend school for two weeks, assisting Sensei and engaging students.

