



AFTJ - Association of Florida Teachers of Japanese



Mieko Avello
President

Naoko Komura
Vice President

Etsuko Woodbury
Director

Mako Nozu
Director

Dear Teachers and Students,

On Saturday, March 26, 2011 the **2011 Florida Statewide Japanese Speech & Skit Contest** will be conducted in the GL (Green Library) 100, at Florida International University (Modesto A. Maidique Campus, former University Park Campus) in Miami.

There will be two categories for the speech contest: **prepared speech** and **skit** categories. There will be award categories at the middle school, high school, and college levels, ranging from Level 1 to Level 4 and, for prepared speech only, a special award category for students who lived in Japan more than one year. The students should be **enrolled in the level at which they are currently studying** (block schedule schools included). Competition rules and judging guidelines are included in this packet of information along with the registration form.

This year, there will be \$10 to participate. This fee includes obento box lunch. If you are an AFTJ student member, you will be reimbursed \$2 by AFTJ. Below is a list of important changes and additions instituted last year and that will again be included in this year's competition:

1. In the Speech Contest, participants are allowed to use a digital visual aid (a series of up to five pictures on a PowerPoint or PC-compatible program) to enhance the audience's experience of the speech. Students must bring their visual on a USB drive. This visual aid does NOT factor into scoring; the judges will still be looking for a well-prepared and performed speech, regardless of how visually appealing the aid is.
2. In the Skit Contest, schools may submit an **unlimited number of teams** per level. This is to ensure the participation of anyone who would like to compete, especially from schools that have numerous students in their Japanese program.
3. Unlike previous years in both the Speech and Skit Contests, awards will be given to students at all levels earning specifically-defined achievement levels, based on the average of the judges' scores. So there may be more than one medal awarded for any one place at a level in an award category (middle, high, college).
4. This year, we will again offer our state Yonkoma Manga Contest. In an attempt to include students who may not be able to attend on the day of the event, we would like to extend an invitation to submit yonkoma manga for awards. Students may create these manga by hand or with digital tools. They may also work individually or in pairs; both students must be currently-enrolled Japanese language students. We would like to feature these manga during our March 26th event as a digital slide show and possibly post exceptional examples on the AFTJ website.

All contestants' teachers must be members of the Association of Florida Teachers of Japanese (AFTJ). It is strongly encouraged that teachers accompany their students to the competition. Registration will begin at 9:30am and end at 10:00am, with the prepared speech category beginning promptly at 10:00am. Parents and friends are welcome to join the audience.



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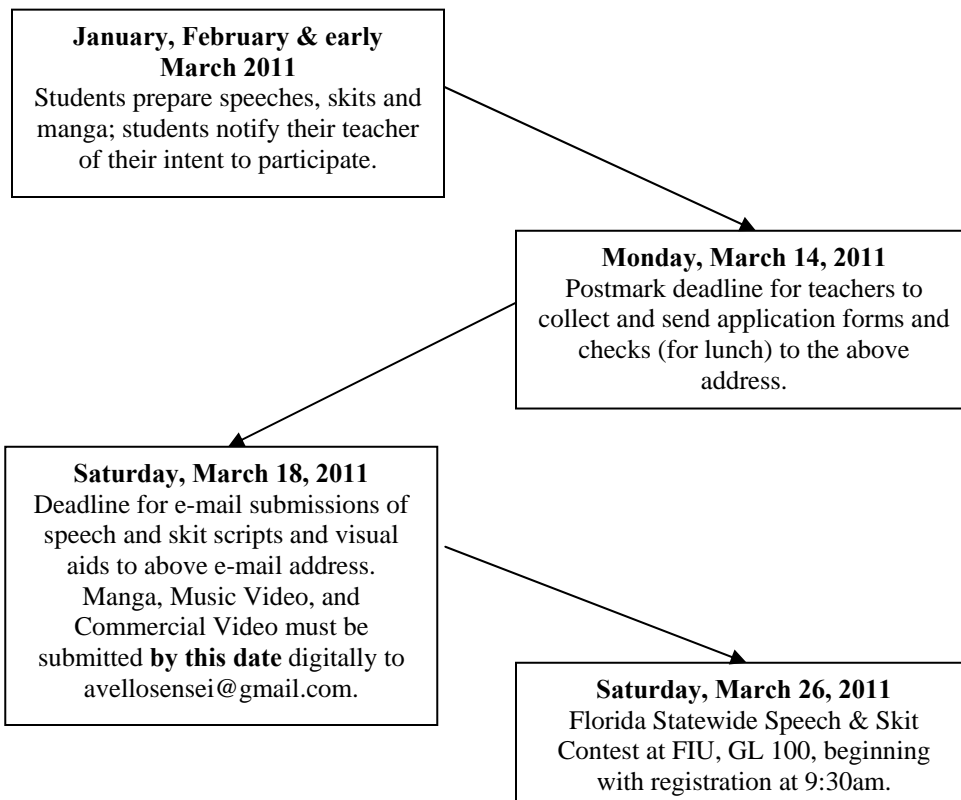
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Only contestants who pre-register will be allowed to participate. The registration form is enclosed. **There will be a registration fee of \$10 this year. There will be \$10 per person option for family and guests who would like a box lunch the day of the event. Please note that this fee is non-refundable and must be submitted with registration forms postmarked by March 14th.** Contestants and their families assume the risks and responsibilities of participation.

Teachers, please collect all completed student registration forms and checks (for the optional lunch) and send them **as a school** addressed to Mieko Avello **postmarked by March 14th, 2011. No submissions will be accepted after this date.** If you have any questions about placement of a student or about any other details regarding this event, please e-mail Mieko Avello at avellosensei@gmail.com.

Make checks payable to **AFTJ** and mail your registration forms by March 14, 2011 to:
Mieko Avello, AFTJ
Miami Palmetto Senior High School
7460 SW 118th Street
Miami, FL 33156

COMPETITION TIMELINE





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PREPARED SPEECH CONTEST **Competition Rules and Judging Guidelines**

- Description:** The contestant speaks on a topic of their choice, which is related to Japan. Students must submit their topics with their registration. Topics must be given in Japanese and in English at the time of submission.
- Conditions:** The contestant may bring his/her script, notes, outlines, and flash cards. **However, reading a script or frequent use of these supplements will cause them to lose points.** A participant may have a visual aid as a digital backdrop to the speech.
- Dress Code:** **Professional attire.**
- Time Limits:** **Level 1** - Two minutes
Levels 2 & 3 - Three minutes
Level 4 & 留学経験者 (more than one year) - Four minutes
There will be different award categories for middle school, high school and college.
- Criteria for Evaluation:** Language usage, vocabulary, structure, pronunciation, intonation, length, and performance (examples: enthusiasm, expression, language)
The visual aid will NOT be considered as a part of the evaluation process.
- General Rules:** Judges' decisions will be final.
Any presentations exceeding the set time will be stopped by the judges, yet no penalty will be assessed.

Judging Guidelines: These are the questions the judges will be using as guidelines for scoring.

A. Communication Skills

1. Does the student's ability reflect the level in which they are competing?
2. Are the words easily understood? Are they relatively free of their native language's influence?
3. Does the speech flow naturally, without extended pauses and with proper rhythm?

B. Presentation and overall effectiveness

1. Does the student develop the topic of the speech and focus on the topic with relevant details?
2. Does the student seem comfortable and confident with his/her speech?
3. Does the student show he/she is familiar enough with the speech so as not to have to read it from his/her notes?
4. Does the student speak comfortably within the established time frame?



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SKIT CONTEST

Competition Rules and Judging Guidelines

- Description:** Students will perform an originally-written memorized skit.
- Conditions:** Contestants will be allowed a total of 5 minutes for their skit. The topic of the skit is of their choice and must be submitted at the time of application for inclusion in the program.
- Each school may enter an unlimited number of teams for each level.** There is a maximum of **five** students per skit; **all participants in a skit must be the same level.**
- The skit **MUST** be an **original skit**, written by the participants.
- Students may use props, but time for set-up and take-down of props after the skit has begun will be included in the 5-minute time limit.
- Time Limit:** 5 minutes
- Criteria for Evaluation:** Language usage, vocabulary, structure, pronunciation, intonation, creativity
- General Rule:** Judges' decisions will be final.

Judging Guidelines: These are the questions the judges will be using as guidelines for scoring.

- A. Are the words understood by native speakers? Is the pronunciation relatively free of the first language accent? Do speech sounds approach native speech?
- B. Does the students' intonation and rhythm sound natural in Japanese?
- C. Do the students get their point across and communicate their intent? Do they successfully develop the topic of the skit?
- D. Is the speech confident? Is the skit well memorized?
- E. Is the content of the skit creative? Have the students used their imagination?



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YONKOMA MANGA CONTEST Competition Rules and Judging Guidelines

- Description:** Students will create a themed, four-frame comic by hand or digitally.
- Reference:** Refer to NCJLT's website for samples of this style of manga at <http://www.ncjlt.org/contests.htm>.
- Conditions:** Contestants must create the manga with a theme that fits in one of the three contest categories: Comical, Historical, and Cultural. Any one manga may only be submitted for **one** category.
- A contestant may submit a maximum of two manga, whether hand-made or digitally-created. **ALL characters must be original creations; no use of copyrighted images and materials will be accepted for submission. Manga must be submitted electronically.**
- Manga must be on an 8 1/2 X 11 inch white paper or the equivalent size digitally. The measurements and specifications must match the template provided in this information packet.
- All handwriting on the manga must be legible; manga may not be judged if the writing is not clearly visible. The student must write his/her name in the material used to draw the comic in the location shown in the template. Students must write their name in katakana, unless the names are of Japanese origin, in which case, they may use kanji.
- Schools who cannot attend the contest may still enter their schools' manga in the competition. **Students who participate ONLY in this category do not have to pay the registration fee.**
- Parameters:** Participants may create the manga by hand with any writing utensil (penciled creations will need to be darkened for scanning purposes).
- Contestants may create the manga digitally using any image-creating software available to them. The file must then be converted to a standard image file (jpeg, gif, etc.) for submission.
- Contestants may work individually or in pairs to complete the manga. Both students must be currently enrolled in an AFTJ-affiliated Japanese program.
- Criteria for** Language usage, vocabulary, structure, creativity, overall appearance



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Evaluation:

appropriateness to theme/category

General Rules:

Judges' decisions will be final.

IMPORTANT:

When you submit your yon koma manga, please include the following information with your submission: 1. NAME(S), 2. SCHOOL, 3. CATEGORY: COMICAL, HISTORICAL or CULTURAL (CHOOSE ONE).

Template:

(1)	(2)
(3)	(4)

名前

*Note: Each square must be 3X4 inches and be drawn in the order shown. The student's name must be written vertically in the space on the left in place of “名前”. The squares should be centered on the paper as a “landscape” format.



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MUSIC VIDEO CONTEST **Competition Rules and Judging Guidelines**

- Description:** Students will perform an original music video using a pre-recorded Japanese track of their choice.
- Conditions:** Contestants will be allowed a total of 2 minutes for the music video. Students will use the original Japanese music, but can create their own music video to accompany the song. Students may choose to sing the song, but they are welcome to lip-sync.
- Each school may enter up to two music videos.** There is no maximum of participants and levels may be mixed.
- Schools who cannot attend the contest may still enter their schools' videos in the competition. **Students who participate ONLY in this category do not have to pay the registration fee.**
- Time Limit:** 2 minutes
- Criteria for Evaluation:** Creativity, Ability to convey the song's message
- General Rule:** Judges' decisions will be final.
- IMPORTANT:** **When you submit your music video, please include the following information with your submission: 1. NAME(S), 2. SCHOOL, 3. TITLE OF SONG AND ARTIST.**
- SUBMISSION:** *****Please send a DVD/CD-Rom of the video to Mieko Avello at the address above by March 18, 2011.*****

Judging Guidelines: These are the questions the judges will be using as guidelines for scoring.

- A. Is the content of the music video creative? Have the students used their imagination?
- B. Do the students successfully represent the message of the lyrics in their video?



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JAPANESE PROMOTIONAL COMMERCIAL Competition Rules and Judging Guidelines

- Description:** Students will create a short commercial to promote Japanese study in their school, community and state.
- Conditions:** Contestants will be allowed a total of 30 seconds maximum to create a commercial which promotes the study of the Japanese language. The commercial should include a mix of Japanese and English.
- Each school may enter up to two commercials.** There is no maximum of participants and levels may be mixed.
- Schools who cannot attend the contest may still enter their schools' videos in the competition. **Students who participate ONLY in this category do not have to pay the registration fee.**
- Time Limit:** 30 seconds
- Criteria for Evaluation:** Creativity, Ability to convey a positive message about Japanese language learning
- General Rule:** Judges' decisions will be final.
- IMPORTANT:** **When you submit your commercial, please include the following information with your submission: 1. NAME(S), 2. SCHOOL.**
- SUBMISSION:** *****Please send a DVD/CD-Rom of the video to Mieko Avello at the address above by March 18, 2011.*****

Judging Guidelines: These are the questions the judges will be using as guidelines for scoring.

- A. Is the content of the commercial creative? Have the students used their imagination?
- B. Do the students successfully convey the advantages of learning Japanese to the audience?



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Florida Statewide Japanese Speech & Skit Contest 2011 REGISTRATION FORM

Directions: Print or type in all information. Fill in or circle ALL information as necessary. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of your presentation.

Name: _____ Level: _____
First Last

Home address: _____
Number & Street City State Zip Code

E-mail address: _____
 (Please write clearly as you will be added to a competition e-mail list for information reminders and last-minute updates).

Telephone numbers: () _____ () _____
Home Mobile (optional)

Name of school or organization: _____

Name of your Japanese teacher: _____

*** Write a \surd next to the events you will be entering and include the titles IN BOTH JAPANESE & ENGLISH:**

_____ **I. Prepared Speech Contest**
 Speech title in Japanese: _____
 Speech title in English: _____

_____ **II. Skit Contest**
 Skit title in Japanese: _____
 Skit title in English: _____

Number of members participating in skit (circle one): 2 3 4 5

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING FOR THE TWO EVENTS ABOVE, REGISTRATION COSTS \$10. IT INCLUDES A BOX LUNCH.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER ADDITIONAL BOXED LUNCH FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, IT WILL BE \$10 PER BOX LUNCH.

*** I have attached a check made payable to AFTJ for \$ _____ for (#) _____ box lunches.**