

Catch the Wave Towards Building and Sustaining Strong Japanese Language and Culture Programs



Introduction

- Connection to the 5 C's
- Finding/building strength in Japanese programs



Communication

- Communication of: what, when, where, why and to whom
- Key to existence in regular curriculum
- Communicating vs. “Showing off”



Communication Opportunities

- List of outside media
- School communication avenues
- Involve heritage language communities
- Contact local service organizations



Assessment as Communication

- Assessment “for” Learning
- Results in the larger academic arena
- Importance of valuable feedback
- Users of Assessment
- Communication amongst Japanese language staff



Connections

Relationships with staff, departments and administration

- Collaboration is key
- PLC and 21st Century skills
- Being a valuable World Language Department member
- Being an active and collaborative staff member



Building and Elementary/Middle School Japanese Program

- Understanding the regular elementary school classroom
- Integration of Japanese into other subject areas
- Showing the “doable” side of Japanese for young learners



Building and Elementary/Middle School Japanese Program, cont.

- Consistent review of existing programs at the elementary level
- Vertical and horizontal articulation within the K-12/6-12 Japanese program



Connecting with elementary schools to build interest

- Find a staff member to partner with
- Classroom demonstrations
- Japanese club or experiences for younger students provided by older students
- Cultivating a “feeder” program



Cultures and Comparisons

Be a part of the whole

- One large “Japanese” Event vs. multiple “pieces” of the school experience
- Collaboration with other disciplines
- Making your school a recognizable school that learns “Japanese”



Acquiring and Maintaining Quality in Staffing

- Needs of the school, program
- Sensitive to existing staff (from the beginning)
- Look for good “mix” of qualities in the WL staff (native and non-native speakers, varied certifications)
- Look for additional “strengths” beyond the teaching of WL
- Provide unique Professional Development opportunities



Compare and Reflect

- Analyze your program and others around you
- Identify key factors for growth
- Set up timeline and plan
- Keep detailed history of your program



Communities

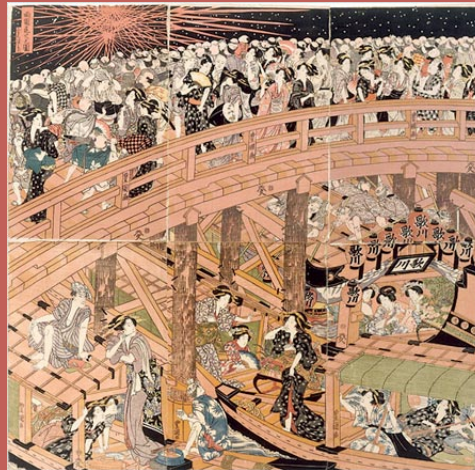
- Bringing it all together
- Building a sense of “ownership”
- Building your own path



Communities

Capitalize on Meaningful Experience

- Beyond taking students to Japan
- Connecting with the community outside of the school
- Emphasizing your students' knowledge of Japanese through other academic areas



Communities

Professional Membership/Development

- Professional membership as a Professional Development tool
- What it communicates to students, parents and administration

