

2023/2024 J-LEAP REPORT



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こんにちは！ I'm Yohei :) First, let me introduce myself quickly. I was born in Nagoya and graduated from university in Kyoto and worked at a trading company in Tokyo. While working there I had a chance to do business in Indonesia, so that I was getting more interested in working at foreign countries. I have had a dream that I want to be active all over the world since I was a child. However, the pandemic was expanding, and I lost a chance to work

abroad with the company. Therefore, I decided to go abroad by myself. I went to Vancouver but I had no money, job, friends and residence. I thought a lot about how I can help people in such a severe situation and got interested in an educational field because my parents work as a teacher, and it was quite familiar to me. I started to work at a Japanese language school for elementary school students. I worked there for two years and half and started to manage the small Japanese language club in North Vancouver too. In addition, I put effort into running social media such as Instagram, YouTube and TikTok. They are a very popular Japanese Educational channel so there are 20K followers now.

After that experience, I thought I wanted to improve my teaching skills more and found the J-LEAP program by chance. Recently, I felt that I can connect between America and Japan in the aspect of Language through this program.

I'm working at Los Gatos High School (LGHS) in California. My LT is Kumi-sensei. Los Gatos means "wild cat" in Spanish so there are many cat monuments in my town. LGHS is very popular for sports, especially football. Many spectators visit our school every Friday to watch students play. I also like to see my students' game with coworkers and scream



their name from the bleachers. There are J1, J2, J3, J3H, J5 and AP classes in LGHS. I talk a lot about each class planning together with Kumi-sensei to find the best way to teach Japanese to students. I always feel happy that my LT is Kumi-sensei. She has such a strong passion for students. She is also quite tough and patient so always thinking how we can make our class better. I respect her passion for dealing with students. I would like to become a Japanese teacher like Kumi-sensei who loves students and is loved by students.



There are so many kinds of activities. For example, we play a “Rajio-Taiso” every time as an ice break. To exercise, students can refresh their mind and join the class positively. The “onigiri action” is also one of the popular activities in our Japanese class. This is an event where students bring their favorite ingredients and make their own onigiri. I tried Halloween for the first time in America. I pretended to be Pikachu and Son-Goku. My house is on Johnson Avenue and it’s famous for a Halloween Street. Many visitors come to my street from far away areas. One Day one of my students who plays football lent me a uniform. In LGHS, students give their

uniform to invite the game. I was very very happy to receive that. Besides, we often play the “LGHS Japan Bowl”. It is really fun to answer the question about Japanese culture. I also enjoy making questions to imagine the student’s joy. I get used to my work a little bit, so I want to try something new. I’ll do my best so that students get more interested in Japanese culture.

American life is really tough. Because I have been in Canada for about two years, I thought “Canada and America are almost the same, so easy, easy!” However, they are totally different. So many things to do were waiting for me after arriving at Los Gatos. They are a kind of “paperwork” such as getting a social security number, opening a bank account, applying for driver's license and finding a new



residence. So, I had to do a lot of things besides daily work. Especially, we can’t do anything without a car here. I didn’t have so many friends at first, so I felt lonely but now, I feel very

comfortable making more friends, host families, coworkers and so on.

I am grateful to be a member of the J-LEAP program and to get a lot of support from the Japan Foundation, Laurasian Institution, Los Gatos High School, Kumi-sensei, my family in the U.S. and Japan, my teammates of LG Softball, and coworkers. Thanks to everyone, I can be here. Thanks to everyone, I can teach Japanese. Thanks to everyone, I always feel happy. I would like to conclude my report. Thank you all for your patience, I wish you all a very good day.