



ともだちじゃぱん
TOMODACHI JAPAN

SCHOOL GUIDE 2026-27

Learn Japanese. Make real friends.

An online Japanese school for children
growing up outside Japan.

Run by NIJIN Inc. — the team behind NIJIN Academy (1,000+ students enrolled to date), winner of Japan's Prime Minister's Award of Encouragement and the Kids Design Award.

Pilot opening December 2026 — early registration is open now.

"There's no such thing as a child who **isn't bright**."



HEAD OF SCHOOL / CEO, NIJIN INC.

Tatsuro Hoshino

School of Education, Chiba University → two years with JICA in Guatemala → seven years teaching in Japanese public elementary schools → founded NIJIN Inc. in 2022

In Guatemala I made five thousand friends in two years, in a language I did not speak when I arrived. People become friends long before the grammar is right. I came home and spent seven years in an elementary school classroom, where I kept meeting the same child — **the one who could not be themselves at school**. They did not look dim because of anything they had done. It was the system around them.

So in 2022 I founded NIJIN on one rule: **don't blame people — build systems**. Children growing up outside Japan deserve the same thing: somewhere to say what they mean in Japanese, and friends who are actually waiting for them. That is TOMODACHI JAPAN.

Head of School, TOMODACHI JAPAN / CEO, NIJIN Inc.

Tatsuro Hoshino

We haven't opened yet — but the company behind us has a record.

1,000+

NIJIN Academy
students enrolled to date

1,200+

Teachers trained
by NIJIN

~2%

Teacher hiring
pass rate

13+

Education ventures
we run

NIJIN Academy (alternative elementary and middle school), NIJIN High School, NIJIN GLOBAL ACADEMY and the teachers' community Jugyou Terasu. **Prime Minister's Award of Encouragement / Kids Design Award / Nikkei Pitch Grand Prix / Forbes "100 Hope to Save the World."** Featured on NHK and TV Asahi.



"Studying" doesn't last. Friends do.

1

A group, not a tutor

Not one-to-one, and not an app. Classes of eight, with children in the same situation as yours. "They understood me" and "we laughed together" are what make a child want to come back tomorrow.

2

Kids their own age in Japan, every day

Their classmates are students at our sister school, NIJIN Academy (1,000+ enrolled to date) — friends rather than practice partners. Living Japanese, not textbook Japanese.

3

Serving teachers from Japan, for children

A school, not a tutoring service. Teachers who passed a ~2% hiring rate and train in one of Japan's largest teacher communities lead a class of eight as their homeroom teacher.



= The one thing that is hardest to arrange abroad — **someone their own age to speak Japanese with** — with zero commute, in a small group where it feels safe. Instead of Saturday school, or alongside it.



"I once said I didn't even want to be alive" — a child who used to talk that way now speaks about their own dreams. **Feeling connected to the world again, as a family we're so glad we chose NIJIN.**

— A parent at NIJIN Academy, our sister school

OUR TEACHERS

Only the ~2% who got through teach your child.

Our head of school and our teachers all show their real names and faces. Every teacher came through a hiring process with a roughly 2% pass rate, and keeps training inside NIJIN's own teacher communities, **Jugyou Terasu** and **Chugakkou Terasu (1,200+ teachers coached to date)**. What we look for is not teaching technique — it is **the ability to have a conversation with a child.**



Tatsuro Hoshino **Head of School**

7 years in Japanese public elementary schools / JICA Guatemala / CEO, NIJIN Inc.

"We'll be waiting for you on campus!"



Nike-sensei

Registered Japanese-language teacher / 4 years teaching middle-school Japanese / licensed for Japanese, grades 7–12

"Let's make lots of friends."



Shota-sensei

Loves sport, anime and manga

"Come and make a friend, won't you?"



Hii-sensei

Completed the 420-hour Japanese teacher training course / loves travel and hot springs

"Right — let's see who wins!"



Hikarun-sensei

Believes children learn because it's fun, not because something is missing

"Let's speak Japanese and enjoy it!"



Mayu-sensei

TESOL / was once the lonely one far from home, and stays close to children because of it

"Hello — we're friends from today!"

The character we hire for

- Values the conversation over the right answer
- Respects a child's own pace, and can wait
- Notices the small "I did it" moments
- Never laughs at a mistake — finds it interesting

So this is how they teach

- Listening comes before teaching
- They watch the child's change, not the score
- They greet your child by name after class too
- Beginners get a qualified teacher one to one

Honest answers to what worries parents most

1

Safe and supervised

Classes of eight with a teacher present. The campus is closed to enrolled students only — no DMs from strangers. Parents can see how things are going.

2

Grade-level Japanese

We check conversation level before joining and place your child in a close-level class. Reading and writing too — a foundation for re-entering school in Japan.

3

Their "friends" are our students

The children they meet are enrolled at NIJIN Academy, our sister school. This is not a service that matches your child with strangers.

More teachers are joining. Backgrounds, lessons and open trial times: tomodachi-japan.nijin.co.jp/en/our-teachers/

It isn't just the lesson. It's the whole day.

8

Children per class,
with a homeroom teacher

~100

Live sessions a month
to choose from

Flat

Unlimited — come
every day for one fee

Your TZ

Time slots matched to
where you live

The day opens with everyone's face on screen, moves into conversation-led live classes, and keeps going after class: a campus to hang around in, clubs, projects built on whatever your child already loves, and weekend events the whole family can join. **Japanese grows inside all of that, not in a worksheet.**

A day at TOMODACHI JAPAN



A campus they actually go to

- Somewhere to drop in after class ends
- Some children come only for after-school
- They even eat lunch together

Weekends, with the family

- Seasonal events and online excursions
- Manga, video, making things, research
- Japanese turns into a reason, not a chore



Yes, it works with your time zone.

We don't hand you a timetable to fill. **You choose from around 100 live sessions a month**, by level and by interest. Because it is unlimited, a child who comes every day and a child who comes twice a week pay the same. Here is one way a week can be put together.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning meeting	Good morning	Good morning	Good morning	Good morning	Good morning	—	—
Live class	Japanese (language arts)	Speaking & listening	Japanese (language arts)	Reading & writing	Your pick	Your pick	—
After school	Campus	Clubs	Campus	Circles	Campus	—	—
Projects	—	—	Go deeper	—	Share it	—	—
Weekend	—	—	—	—	—	Seasonal event	Online excursion (family too)

One example of how a week can be built. Times are set to the time zone where you live, and you choose from the sessions running when you join.

Where you are makes it easier than you think. Saturday morning in Japan is Friday evening across the Americas. In Australia and New Zealand it lands right after school. In Europe and the Gulf, weekday evenings line up with the Japanese school day.

Three ways families use us

A

As the main school

The centre of your child's Japanese and their place to belong — from the morning meeting through to after school, every day.

B

Instead of, or alongside, Saturday school

Keep the local school and add a weekday afternoon or two. Zero commute — and you get your Saturdays back.

C

Through every move

Several time slots, so a posting or a move home doesn't end it. The friends and the learning travel with you.

It isn't only the language. Alongside grade-level Japanese, children build the confidence to speak and a reason to like themselves — the things a test can't measure.

A Japanese school every family can reach.

BEFORE WE OPEN

¥16,500 / month, tax included — dedicated support plan

TOMODACHI JAPAN has not opened yet. The real shape is a class of eight, but there aren't enough children yet to form one — so until then **one teacher takes your child on personally**. **This is not the tuition after we open**, and we aren't promising this figure continues. **Families who start on this plan pay no enrolment fee**. This is the figure published on our Japanese fees page; if you live outside Japan, ask your teacher at the free trial what the scholarship price for your country is.

How tuition will work — the TOMODACHI JAPAN Scholarship

STEP 1

One worldwide list price

The classes are the same wherever you are, so we start from a single honest price.

STEP 2

A scholarship for your region

A discount matched to everyday life in your country, applied automatically.

STEP 3

Your family's price

Flat and unlimited. Every day or twice a week, the fee is the same.

How the scholarship is decided

- No application form, no income statement
- Decided by where your family lives right now
- Not by nationality, passport or family registry
- If you move, we review it at your next renewal

Paying, and discounts

- There is a sibling discount
- Credit card or bank transfer
- Local payment methods added country by country
- Enrolment fee waived for the founding class (apply by 31 March 2027)

All of this is in the flat fee

- ✓ Metaverse campus and morning meeting
- ✓ ~100 live sessions a month, unlimited
- ✓ Everyday conversation with kids in Japan
- ✓ Parent support in English or easy Japanese
- ✓ A class of eight, with a homeroom teacher
- ✓ A class meeting every week
- ✓ Clubs, circles and interest groups
- ✓ Seasonal events and online excursions

Optional add-ons: clubs and circles / dedicated beginner support (a qualified Japanese-language teacher one to one, for children starting from zero) / request your homeroom teacher. We open with a pilot in December 2026, so the programme and fees may still change; the tuition after opening goes to everyone who has registered, first.

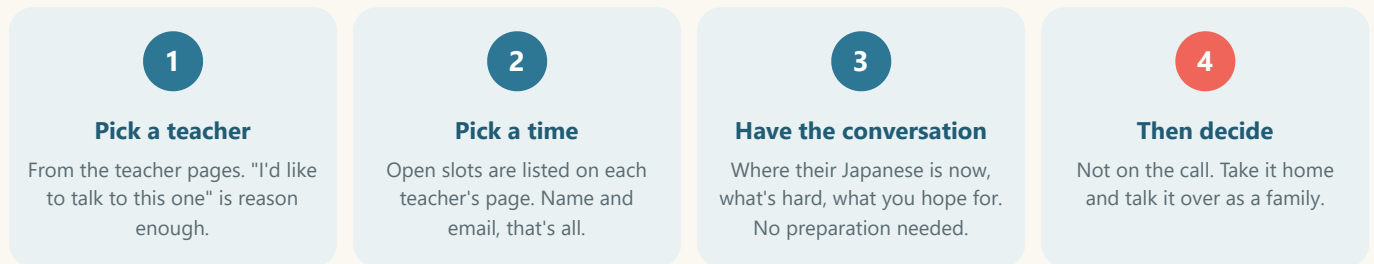
Next to other Japanese schools

	TOMODACHI JAPAN	A typical Japanese school
How you attend	Unlimited — every day, one flat fee	One to one, sold by the session
Price worldwide	Scholarship by where you live, no application	One price for everyone
What it is for	A place to belong, and friends in Japan	JLPT, business, university entrance
Who it is for	Children — small live groups, teachers from Japan	Mostly adult learners

Before anything else, talk to a teacher.

Sometimes a conversation is faster than a brochure. **The trial and the consultation are free.** It isn't a recording and it isn't a salesperson — the teacher who would actually take your child is the one who shows up. Come on your own if you prefer; a shy child is not a problem at all.

Four steps, start to finish



We will not push. Some families are a fit and some are not, and if you feel we're not the one, please just say so — that is genuinely fine. We don't chase people.

Answered in advance

My child barely speaks Japanese. Is that all right? – Yes. That is what the school is for – Beginners get a qualified teacher one to one – Some teachers can support a child in their own first language	We're a long way from Japan. Will the timing work? – There are several time slots – Each teacher's open times are on their page – If nothing fits, ask the teacher directly
Support for parents – In English or easy Japanese, included in the fee – Your child's homeroom teacher tells you how they're doing – A class meeting every week keeps you in the loop	When do you open? – A pilot is planned for December 2026 – Trial-day registration opens November 2026 – Registered families hear the date before anyone else

FOUNDING CLASS ONLY

Enrolment fee waived

For applications received by 31 March 2027. Families who start on the pre-opening dedicated support plan pay no enrolment fee either.

Free trial & consultation tomodachi-japan.nijin.co.jp/en/our-teachers/

Questions tomodachijapan@nijin.co.jp — English support available



Register on your phone



○ Classes of eight ○ Kids their age in Japan, daily ○ Teachers from a ~2% intake

A child who makes friends in Japanese.

Pilot opening December 2026.
Registered families get the first seats.

▶ Get the free school guide



Scan to register

Run by NIJIN Inc. TOMODACHI JAPAN — online Japanese school for kids tomodachi-japan.nijin.co.jp/en/

Enrolment fee waived for the founding class (apply by 31 March 2027) / registration is free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

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