

Local Students Excel at the 2020 High School Japanese Speech Contest

PITTSBURGH, PA – The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (JASP) and the University of Pittsburgh's Asian Studies Center jointly hosted the 23rd Annual High School Japanese Speech Contest. The contest was held on **Friday, March 6th** at the William Pitt Union on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

This year, **54** students from Western PA competed in this daylong competition. Japanese language students of all levels and students who are involved in Japan-related cultural activities participated in one of four speech levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced, and advanced plus) or the poster contest. Participating schools were Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Shaler Area High School, Upper St. Clair High School and City Charter High School. The contest included Japanese activities and games for student contestants and observers.

Carley Soley from **Upper St. Clair High School** won the grand prize in Advanced Plus level. **Carley** received an electronic Japanese-English dictionary as the grand prize donated by the Consulate General of Japan in New York. First place in the Advanced category went to **Zoe Babbit** from **Shaler Area High School**. First place in the Intermediate category went to **Caroline Knizner** from **Upper St. Clair High School**. The first place in the Beginner category went to **Stephane Lu** from **Upper St. Clair High School**. Finally, first place in the Poster competition went to **Alexis Wright** from **Upper St. Clair High School**.

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Final Results:

Beginner

1. Stephanie Lu – Upper St. Clair
2. Alex Edkins – Upper St. Clair
3. Tyerin Perry - Allderdice

Intermediate

1. Caroline Knizer – Upper St. Clair
2. Mai Swendsen - Shaler
3. Hunter Bench – Upper St. Clair

Advanced

1. Zoe Babbit - Shaler
2. Roman Kurz (Tie) - Shaler
2. Ian Squire (Tie) – Allderdice

Advanced Plus

1. Carley Soley - Shaler

2. Nathan Hayward - Shaler
3. Evan Baldwin - Shaler

Poster

1. Alexis Wright – Upper St. Clair
2. Roehl Benedicto – Upper St. Clair
3. Christian Farmerie – Upper St. Clair