

Forest Grove Win Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl Championships on First Attempt

March 12, 2024 – PORTLAND, OR

Forest Grove High School, whose students have to travel to Pacific University to follow their passion to study Japanese, turned that passion into victory in their first appearance at the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl at Clark College in Vancouver, WA on March 9th. Students Maya Luevane and Aidan Siemsen beat out close competition from both Shorewood High School (WA) and Beaverton High School in the senior division Level 4 finals, winning a trip to represent our region in the National Japan Bowl Championships in Washington DC on April 18-19.

Twenty-eight teams, a total of 84 students from 13 schools in Oregon and Washington, fought it out for top prizes in 3 different levels over the day. Sunset High School with students Freya Sticka, Riley Mitlehner, and Aaron Guo were the Level 3 winners, edging out two separate teams from Bothell High School in the finals and winning the other slot in the National Championships in Washington DC. International School of Beaverton won the most junior Level 2 competition, victorious over Westview High School in second, and Bothell High in third place.

The Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl continues to grow, now in its seventh year. Local Japanese businesses including SEH America, Hitachi High Tech, Uwajimaya, Yamasa, Live Your Colour and Wacom join forces with over 12 colleges and universities, to partner with the Japan-America Society of Oregon, who own and operate the event. Celebrating Japan for the day includes bento lunch, cultural performances and activities, along with the language and culture quiz sections – and over 50 volunteers from as far away as Seattle, Bend and Eugene ensure the event runs smoothly.

For more information on The Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl, and all Japanese language learning programs in Oregon and Southwest Washington, contact info@jaso.org.