

## Curriculum

# Learn Japanese Art & Culture through Taiko-do (Way of Japanese Drum) and Shodo (Brush Calligraphy)

### Information for Parents

The goal of these unique classes is to learn Japanese Culture and Art through two traditional art forms (**Japanese drumming Art** (Taiko-do) and **Japanese brush Calligraphy Art** (Shodo)).

Through these classes, children have a variety of opportunities of learning Japanese Art and culture by drumming, singing, writing, speaking Japanese, making beautiful Art and craft (Origami, Calligraphy Art, and more).

The Last day of the class, we will have a mini drumming concert, which will be presented by students. They are also wear the uniform they created at Calligraphy Class.

**Shodo** is Japanese calligraphic art. The direct translation for Shodo is "The Way of Writing". It is considered one of Japan's traditional cultural arts. Sado (Japanese tea ceremony), Kado (Japanese flower arrangement) and Budo (Japanese martial arts) are also well-known cultural arts of Japan.

Children in Japan learn Shodo at school, but as with other traditional cultural arts, it takes a long time and a lot of practice to master the art of Shodo.

It is an ancient art separated from any other creative work. It differs in that its main focuses are **simplicity, beauty and - most importantly - a mind-body connection**. Shodo's true calligraphy is achieved by applying the elements of art, line, shape and space. The real mastery of all these elements of art and skill requires a lot of practice and connection with your inner self.

**Taiko** (太鼓) means "a broad range of [Japanese percussion instruments](#). In [Japanese](#)", the term refers to any kind of drum, but outside Japan, it is used to refer to any of the various Japanese drums called *wadaiko* (和太鼓 "Japanese drums") and to the form of ensemble taiko drumming more specifically called *kumi-daiko* (組太鼓 "set of drums").

Taiko is a synthesis of rhythm, movement, spirit (like heart beats) whose origins lie deeply embedded in Japanese culture and history. Taiko were used in peasant festivals to mimic the sounds of animals, wind, ocean, thunder, or fire in attempts to please or appease the spirits. Whether dancing at a festival, praying in a temple, watching a theater performance or fighting a battle, the sound of the taiko could be heard as part of everyday Japanese life for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years.

These are brief explanation of Taiko-do (way of drumming) and Shodo (way of writing). We will provide interesting experiences through these two beautiful traditional Art forms in Japan.

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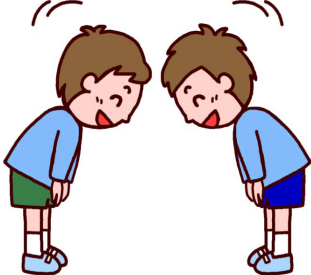
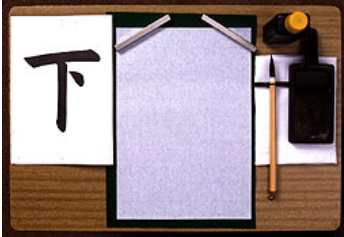

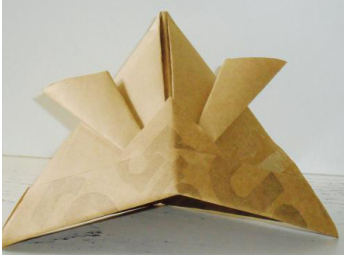

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<b>Location &amp; Time</b>
Max. 20 students enrollment 1 hour class
<b>Tuition Fee</b>
<b>Tuition: \$200 per workshop (Please let us know your budget)</b> Instrument, tools, craft materials included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drum and bachi (drum stick)</li><li>• Calligraphy tools (brush, Special Ink, ink holder, rice paper, Paper Weight, Shitajiki (base fabric)</li><li>• Blank T shirt for drawing</li><li>• Origami papers</li></ul> <p>Note: we use very expensive instruments, tools plus and a lot of unique materials for art creations, any donations are welcome too! Thank you very much!!</p>
<b>Instructors</b>
<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Taiko-do</b> Ken Koshio, John Paul Mendes
<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Shodo</b> Ishiko Tomomi, Eriko Saxon Fujiyoshi
<b>Concept / Goal</b>
<p>The goal of these unique classes is to learn Japanese Culture and Art through two traditional art forms (<b>Japanese drumming Art</b> (Taiko-do) and <b>Japanese brush Calligraphy Art</b> (ShoDo)). Through these classes, children have a variety of cultural opportunities of learning Japanese art and culture by drumming, singing, writing, speaking Japanese, making beautiful Art and craft (Origami, Calligraphy Art, and more).</p> <p>The Last day of the class, we will have a mini drumming concert, which will be presented by students.</p> <p><b>Through Taiko-do</b> Ken Koshio teaches Taiko Do. It is not only drumming but also based on Shin Gi Tai, Japanese Budo (武道) or Martial Art concept, which means mind - technique - body. Learn how to play the fascinating, awe-inspiring taiko! Taiko playing requires great energy and teamwork – its expression is primal and earthy. Taiko playing is also great exercise. It is a musical activity that is challenging and fun, and offers wonderful benefits like reducing stress, aiding relaxation and inviting personal expression.</p> <p><b>Through Shodo</b> Our concept is not only to study basic traditional calligraphy but students will also have an opportunity to experience making these artistic characters or drawing in a carefree and joyful environment. Yet we will teach respect. We will create unique artworks each session in a classroom.</p>

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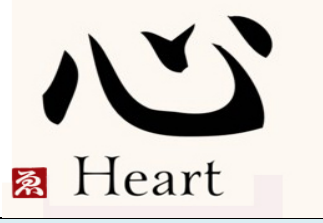



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## Theme and Plan for each class

<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Taiko-do - 1</b>
	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is WA daiko?</li><li>• Basic Japanese, greeting and counting</li><li>• How to prepare yourself for Taiko (stretch)</li><li>• Learn how to be flexible and relaxed</li><li>• About Taiko and Bachi, how to hold Bachi</li><li>• Basic stance of Taiko</li></ul>
<b>Class 2</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Shodo - 1</b>
	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greeting and counting excise</li><li>• Meditation</li><li>• What's Shodo</li><li>• Basic form, how to hold brush, Arm movement etc.</li><li>• Explanation of tools, how to use tools</li><li>• Be friend with Japanese Brush, Free experience</li></ul>
<b>Class 3</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Taiko-do - 2</b>
	<b>Basic Rhythm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stretch &amp; Excises</li><li>• Breathing, Meditation</li><li>• Basic Form, how to hold Bachi (stick), Arm movement</li><li>• Learning Song – Voice Music (Singing Drum Rhythm)</li></ul>
<b>Class 4</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Shodo – 2</b>
	<b>Origami &amp; Calligraphy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making Warrior Hat in paper (Origami)</li><li>• Decorate your warrior hat and write your name or add your own design by Japanese Brush</li></ul>
<b>Class 5</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through TaikoDo - 3</b>
	<b>Learning Song 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning Song- Voice Music</li><li>• Learn first part of Song</li><li>• Practice</li></ul>

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<b>Class 6</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Shodo – 3</b>
	<b>Learn how to write your name in Japanese</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn how to read the Japanese Katakana alphabet sheet</li> <li>• Learn how to write your name in Japanese</li> <li>• Write your name by Japanese Brush</li> </ul>
<b>Class 7</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Taiko-do - 4</b>
	<b>Learning Song 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Song- Voice Music</li> <li>• Learn Second part of Song</li> <li>• Practice</li> </ul>
<b>Class 8</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Shodo – 4</b>
	<b>Make your own art with your favorite symbol (kanji)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the meaning of your favorite Kanji</li> <li>• Learn how to write your favorite Kanji</li> <li>• Make your own art</li> </ul>
<b>Class 9</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Taiko-do - 5</b>
	<b>Learning Song 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Song- Voice Music</li> <li>• Learn Third part of Song</li> <li>• Practice</li> </ul>
<b>Class 10</b>	<b>Learn Japanese Art &amp; Culture through Shodo – 5</b>
	<b>Make your T-shirt, designed with brush Calligraphy art (sumie style)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing your image of Japan (Taiko drum, Dragon or any Kanji you learnt)</li> <li>• Design your own T shirt (with Fabric Paint) Blank T will be prepared. Student will wear your own Tshirt in the concert on December 5</li> </ul>
<b>Class 11</b>	<b>Last Day of Understanding Japanese Art &amp; Culture</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehearsal of entire Taiko Song 1, 2 and 3</li> <li>• Taiko Drum Concert with original calligraphy T-shirt</li> </ul>