

# New Japanese Curriculum in East Bay

by TAMAKI KAMEDA, Hokubei Mainichi

CASTRO VALLEY — Misae Moro established the East Bay Japanese Language School three years ago with a curriculum that has focused on teaching Japanese as it is taught to native speakers.

It has also placed a lot of importance on teaching natural expressions and their unique conveyance in Japanese. The school used learning methods emphasizing the plethora of mimetic words and onomatopoeia that are unique to Japanese, as well as idiomatic expressions.

But there were challenges to providing the education of both a local school and a Japanese school. Further, Moro and her staff came to the conclusion that following a text-centric curriculum was making the students lose interest in Japanese. This opinion was also shared by parents, so the school decided to reassess its curriculum.

With its new program, the school will set goals that the students should reach after six years of study. This will include teaching the vocabulary that is ordinarily obtained through a six-year course of study at a standard Japanese school. The school will appeal to parents to use that vocabulary at home, in hopes that this combination will help students learn the usage and meaning of the words more naturally.

Adjustments will also be made to the class schedule in order to lighten the homework load for



Students at East Bay Japanese Language School.

students. For example, classes that were being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays will now be on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Moro said, "We hope to change our school's tradition and offer a new style of Japanese language education through this original curriculum."

She also expressed enthusiasm for building further trust between parents and the school, and for "strengthening the base of our unique school" over the next year.

The school is currently accepting student applications for grades 1 through 4. Students are also welcome to apply for summer school.

For more information, call (510) 695-4326, e-mail [ebjlc@enihongo.info](mailto:ebjlc@enihongo.info) or visit the school's website at [www.enihongo.info](http://www.enihongo.info).

*Translated by Lefteris Kafatos*