

## EDUCATION

# Instructor will lead Japanese Honor Society in tea ritual

Keiko Kitazawa to perform the ceremony thanks to grant process aided by teacher Kei Sakayama

BY PAIGE SLATER  
Staff Writer

**DEMAREST** - Northern Valley High School at Demarest Japanese Honor Society students will have the chance to participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony during their induction in May



**Keiko Kitazawa**

thanks to a \$900 grant from the Sakura Grant Program.

Northern Valley Demarest Japanese teacher Kei Sakayama initiated the grant process in June 2014, aided by World Language Supervisor Jim Buoye, who wrote and applied for the grant.

The money will be used to hold an authentic tea ceremony and bring professional tea ceremony instructor Keiko Kitazawa to the school to perform it.

"Ms. Keiko Kitazawa is a practitioner of the Ometesenke tea ceremony style and will conduct the ceremony to coincide with the induction of students into the Japanese National Honor Society in May," said Buoye, adding there will also be a ceremony will for the student members of the Japan Club.

"The tea ceremony embodies many of the aesthetics that inform Japanese culture," said Buoye. "As such, it represents a precious cultural immersion opportunity for high school students."

"I am proud of the work of Ms. Sakayama and Mr. Buoye," said James Santana Principal of Northern Valley Demarest. "Grant writ-

ing is not easy. In the society we live in, it is important that schools maintain these programs in order to prepare our students to compete in a global economy."

The Sakura Grant Program supports public, private, and charter schools that provide Japanese language or cultural education to

students at the K-12 level.

The funding is provided by the JCAW Foundation which is part of the Japanese Commerce Association of Washington D.C.

According to JCAW, this year represents the highest number of Sakura Grant applications received.

The remaining funds from the grant will be used to purchase materials needed for the ceremony such as tatami mats and utensils. With the materials, students in Japanese classes can hold their own tea ceremonies in the future.

*E-mail: [slater@northjersey.com](mailto:slater@northjersey.com)*