



### Nice to Meet You – Ashley Prescod

Hello Daini High School! I am one of the new ALTs that will be working with you here. I am so excited to be teaching and learning from you. Let's start with introductions.

My name is Ashley Prescod. My age is the same as the Internet's (can you guess how old that is?). I am from America and have lived in many different states such as: New York, Connecticut and New Hampshire (which is right next to Boston). In New Hampshire, we love maple syrup. The process of getting syrup from trees is called sugaring.

I studied psychology and counseling at Southern New Hampshire University. I love learning about people and studying behavior. I want to learn more about why people do what they do and what influences them.

My hobbies include: gaming, ice skating, chess and exploring! I enjoy learning and trying new things and am open to any recommendations you all may have.

By the way, this is my first time in Japan! There are a lot of new things and I don't know the language very well. Sometimes going to a new country where you're not very confident in the language and culture can be scary. Not knowing what to say or if you're saying the right thing might make you scared to speak. However, if you never take the chance to try you will never know. Taking a chance to try and learn something that might be new and scary is how we expand our world.

I am very excited to share my language and culture with all of you and hope you can share yours with me. Let's work together and grow together.



### Good Culture Shocks – Katelyn Sondereker

I have lived in Japan for almost three years, so I thought I would talk about some good culture shocks that I have experienced. At first, these parts of Japanese culture were surprising to me, but now I cannot imagine my life without them.

One of the things I like the most is that in Japan, decisions cannot be made alone. In America, people sometimes talk about their decisions together, but ultimately (結局) decisions are made by one person or leader. But here in Japan, the leader's main job is to communicate: They tell the group members the important information so that everyone can decide together. This way, everyone shares the responsibility (責任) of the decision and feels the joy when a plan succeeds (成功する). I have felt this especially while participating (参加している) in English Club 😊

Another thing I really like is the culture of hospitality (おもてなし). In America, people serve you, but it lacks the same warmth (温もり) that I feel when I go to stores or restaurants in Japan. When I go home, it shocks me because I feel a coldness (冷たさ) or a disinterest (無関心) from workers compared to how comfortable (心地よい) workers make me feel in Japan. Of course, lots of workers in America are kind, but Japan's ability to make you feel welcome and comfortable is on another level.

Finally, I like the Japanese spirit of persevering and never giving up (頑張る). In English, before competitions (大会) or tests, we say, "good luck" or "you got this", but it doesn't have the same feeling as saying, "頑張ってください". For me, using 頑張る tells you to keep going even when it's difficult, to try your hardest because you already have everything you need to succeed inside of you. Basically, the other person is telling you that they believe in you (あなたを信じている) and your efforts. So, this phrase is much more encouraging (心強い) to me than just saying, "good luck".

What do you think about these culture shocks?



*Driving through New Hampshire in the winter.*

## *Fun Facts about Ms. Ashley*

### What is your favorite video game?

Baldur's Gate; but I do play League of Legends, Minecraft and mobile games.

### Do you like to travel?

Yep! I've traveled all around the United States. I've also gone to Argentina, Ireland, Trinidad and Tobago.

### Fun fact:

I enjoy playing the piano and my favorite pieces are by Mozart and Chopin.

During this summer vacation, I went to back home to Ohio in America for two weeks!  
Here are some pictures of my trip, please enjoy them and ask me questions if you want to! – Kate



I spent a lot of time with my family, especially my niece (姪), Evelyn! She is so cute 😊 We went to the zoo and the National Aviary (国立鳥類園) and celebrated my 31<sup>st</sup> birthday together! It was so much fun!