

**Recognition
Board of Trustee Meeting
April 13, 2021**

NABE Elementary Student of the Year

The National Association for Bilingual Education recently named Taiyo Kobayashi-Hare, a fifth-grader from Pecan Creek Elementary School, as their National Elementary Student of the Year. Taiyo will be honored as their national winner at their hybrid conference hosted in Houston on April 28-29,

Taiyo submitted an essay, written in Spanish, explaining his feels on becoming trilingual and the importance of embracing his family's heritage and culture. His first language is Japanese, his second language is English, and he is currently learning Spanish.

In his essay, he shared, "I am only 10 years old and now I know one of the most difficult languages. I am very proud of that fact. At the end of my life, I will be trilingual. I will accomplish that by not giving up on learning Spanish."

Taiyo was selected from essay entries representing all NABE state chapters and for this honor, he will receive a \$500 honorarium and a trophy.

The National Association for Bilingual Education is the only national professional organization devoted to representing bilingual/multilingual students and bilingual and dual-language education professionals.

NABE is highly committed to preparing 21st-century multiliterate global citizens who will make contributions in economic, civic, technological, and cultural advancement. They advocate learning more than two languages and cultures. NABE members are the ambassadors who choose to create unity within a diverse and interdependent world.

Amanda Bomar is the principal of Pecan Creek Elementary School.