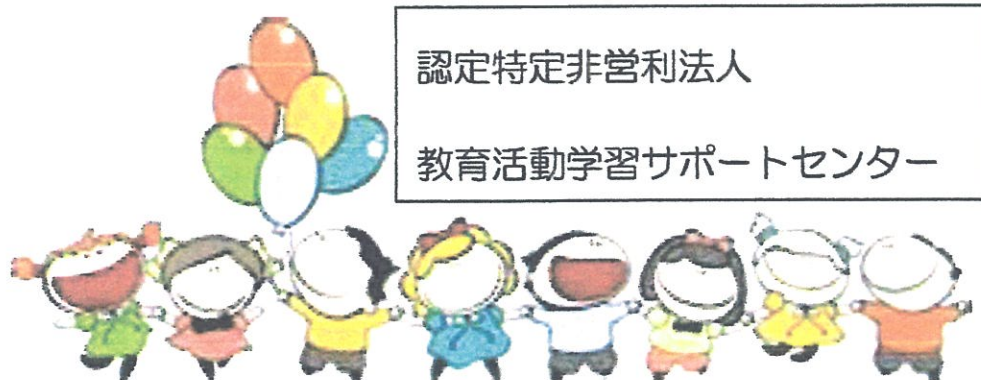


Elementary School Guidebook for students related to foreign countries



Hello!

Welcome to a Japanese elementary school!

This guidebook tells you the system of Japanese elementary school simply and shows how to spend a nice school life to you and your children.

After you read this guidebook, you will be able to come to school without anxiety.

We hope this helps you lessen your anxiety before starting a new school life in Japan.

Please enjoy studying and come to school everyday!

The educational system in Japan

School begins in April and ends in March in Japan.

The Compulsory education of Japan is nine years, six years for elementary and three years for junior high.

The school year is fixed according to your age. Your children never stay back in the class.

Your children need to pass the entrance examination to enter senior high school.



ようちえん ほいくえん
幼稚園・保育園

Kindergarten, Nursery school



しょうがっこう
小学校

Elementary school (six years)



ちゅうがっこう
中学校

Junior high school (three years)



こうとうがっこう こうこう
高等学校 (高校)

High school (three years)

Students need to pass the entrance examination.



だいがく 大学 University (four years) ・ 短期大学 College (two
Years), せんもんがっこう 専門学校 Vocational school (two years)

Students need to pass the entrance examination.

義務教育(gimu kyoiku)
Compulsory education

The school rules in Japan

Students are not allowed to bring “money, sweets, mobile phones and toys.”



Students must not leave until school hours are over.

Students come to school on foot without their parents.

Students cannot come to school by car.

Please prevent your children from being absent from class and school events.



When your children are sick or need to be absent from school, you have to write a message on your correspondence notebook and ask friends living near to submit it to your class teacher. When you would like to have something to tell your teacher, you can also use your correspondence notebook.

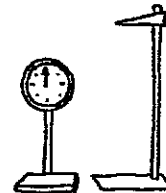
Please call the school staff in case of emergency.



One Year of the elementary school

Your class teacher gives you an annual schedule and monthly schedule.

Students should take a note of what they need to bring to school on their correspondence notebook. Be sure to bring your correspondence notebook.



Annual schedule

前 期 き	がっ 4月	Nyugakushiki, Shintai Keisoku, Jugyo Sankan, Kondankai, Katei Homon
	がっ 5月	PTA General Meeting, Undokai (spring or autumn)
	がっ 6月	Jugyo Sankan, Kaiko Kinenbi (Anniversar of a school's founding)
	がっ 7月	Chokai, Kojinmendan
	がっ 8月	Chokai, Hikitori Kunren, Natuyasumi
	がっ 9月	Jugyo Sankan, Kondankai
後 期 き	がっ 10月	Ensoku
	がっ 11月	Gakko Kokai (Open School)
	がっ 12月	Kyoiku Sodan (Educational Counseling Week), Fuyuyasumi (Winter Holidays)
	がっ 1月	Chokai, Jugyo Sankan, Kakizome
	がっ 2月	
	がっ 3月	PTA General Meeting, Kondankai (first to fifth grades)、Sotsugyoshiki, Haruyasumi



Nyugakushiki (An Entrance Ceremony)

First-year students and their parents attend the entrance ceremony.

At the ceremony, first the principal makes a greeting speech. You will meet your class teacher and classmates for the first time.

You and your child(ren) wear in a suit or formal wear not in the party wearing at the ceremony.

Your children will receive their textbooks. Your children need to bring their school backpack, handbag and indoor shoes.

At the entrance, students change their shoes for indoor shoes and wait for the beginning of the ceremony. Please be punctual.



Shintai Keisoku (Anthropometry)

Height and weight of your children are measured and are filled out a record card. Your children will take that home and show it to you. Please check the record and put the seal on the card. Your children should bring it to their class teacher.

Katei Homon (Home visit by a class teacher)

Your children's class teacher visits your house for ten or fifteen minutes to see how each student's home environment is like.

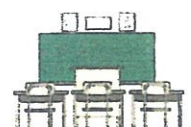


Kojin Mendan (An individual interview)

Parents have individual interviews with children's class teacher about his/her school life and studies.

Jugyo Sankan (Parental visitation of a school and observation of their children's classes)

Parents will have a chance to see your children's class and their art works.



Kondankai (Parents meeting)

The meeting is held to meet your class teacher and other parents. Please participate in the meeting because there will be important topics.

Hikitori Kunren (Drilling of attending school in case of emergency)

It is an emergency drill in case of disasters; e.g. earthquake. You have to come to school to pick up your children on the emergency drill day.

Undokai (A field day)

On the field day, students enjoy dancing, running and other games. Students compete against other groups, e.g. red group, white group...

Students will begin the practice about one month before the sports day.

On sports day, please bring your lunch and eat them with your family including your child(ren).

Ensoku (A school excursion)

Students go on an excursion to a park or an aquarium with their teachers and other students on foot, by bus or by train. Students should bring their lunch.

Gakushu Happokai (A school day of exhibitions and performances)

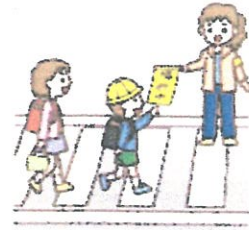
Students sing songs, perform a play and have a presentation of their studies. Those programs vary according to a school year.

**Sotugoshiki (Commencement ceremony)**

In March, a commencement ceremony is held for the sixth grade students and their parents. Sixth-grade students and their parents are to wear suits or formal clothing. The principal gives diplomas to the sixth-grade students. The fifth-grade students attend the ceremony on behalf of the rest of the students of the school. They needn't put on the suits.

A typical day schedule for first grade students

7 : 0 0 Wake up
 7 : 1 5 Breakfast(please don't skip your breakfast)
 7 : 4 5 Leave your house and go to school



8 : 0 0 ~ 8 : 2 0

Arrive at school

8 : 2 5 ~ 8 : 4 5

Morning gathering or each grade gathering.

8 : 5 0 ~ 9 : 3 5

1st period (ichi jikan me)

9 : 3 5 ~ 1 0 : 2 0

2nd period (ni jikan me)

1 0 : 2 0 ~ 1 0 : 5 0

Recess (Nakayoshi time)

1 0 : 5 0 ~ 1 1 : 3 5

3rd period (san jikan me)

1 1 : 3 5 ~ 1 2 : 2 0

4th period (yo jikan me)

1 2 : 2 0 ~ 1 3 : 0 0

School Meals (Kyushoku)

1 3 : 0 0 ~ 1 3 : 1 0

Lunch break (hiru yasumi)

1 3 : 1 0 ~ 1 3 : 3 0

Clean classroom (soji)

1 3 : 3 0 ~ 1 4 : 1 5

5th period (go jikan me)

(Wednesdays 1 3 : 1 0 ~ 1 3 : 5 5)

After school meeting Go home

Students have a gathering at the schoolyard, where students listen to the principal's speech.



Promises

If students(you) don't go to Waku-waku plaza, you have to go directly back home, then you can go to the park.

Waku-waku plaza

Students have a place where they can go after school.

Waku-waku plaza (please apply for attendance)

Open hours : from after school to 18:00

During the holidays 8:30~18 : 00

Parents need to pay for insurance and snack (sweets).

Subjects for First Grade Students

Japanese, math, socioenvironmental studies, music, arts and crafts, physical education

Your children's class teacher teaches all these subjects.



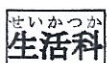
Japanese

Students learn how to speak what they see and think, also they can listen to their classmates' thoughts. They learn hiragana, katakana, and 80 kanji.



Math

Students study about numbers and shapes.



Socioenvironment Studies

Students study about the natural and social environment of their own community. From the third grade, socioenvironment studies is split into the subjects of science and social studies.



Music

Students sing songs and play musical instruments. They will use a keyboard harmonica, a pair of castanets, and a tambourine. You need to buy a keyboard harmonica for your child.



Arts and Crafts

Students create art such as drawing pictures and making crafts with paper and clay.



Physical Education

Students exercise by running, playing ball sports, rolling on gym mats, etc.

During the summer (from June), students have swimming lessons (practice swimming).

Your student's classroom teacher will explain later on on what your student will need when swimming.

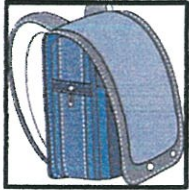


Tools for study

Parents will need to prepare (buy) these belongings for your children before starting school.

ランドセル

School backpack



手さげ袋

School bag



上ばき

Indoor slippers



上ばき袋

Bag for indoor slippers



体操着

P.E. clothes



赤白帽

Red/white reversible cap



体操着入れ

Bag for P.E. clothes



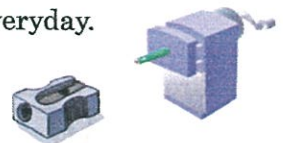
All belongings must have your child's name written in hiragana on them.

ふでばこ Pencil case (5 pencils(2B), a red pencil, an eraser)



Your children need to sharpen their pencils at home everyday.
You can buy a pencil sharpener at a stationary shop.

えんぴつけずり



したじき

Plastic sheet to place under paper



のり、はさみ

Glue, Scissors



いろえんぴつ

Colored pencils



ぼうさい 防災ずきん

Disaster hood



給食用ナフキン

Lunch cloth



ナフキン入れ

Bag for lunch cloth



ぞうきん

Dust cloths



This will be prepared by the school. Payment will be withdrawn from your bank account.

^{どうぐばこ} 道具箱 Tool box、^{こくごのおと} 国語ノート Notebook for Japanese、

^{どうぐばこ} 道具箱 Tool box

^{さんすうのおと} 算数ノート Notebook for math、^{さんすう} 算数ブロック Tools for math、



^{れんらくぶくろ} 連絡袋 Correspondence notebook case

You need to buy them after enrolling.

^{けんぱんはあもにか} 鍵盤ハーモニカ

Melodica air tube



なわとび

Jumping rope



^{みずぎ} 水着

Swim suite



^{ごおぐる} ゴーグル

Goggles



^{えのぐ} 絵の具セット

Paint set

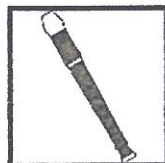
(from the 2nd grade)



リコーダー

Recorder

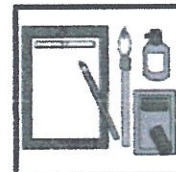
(from the 3rd grade)



^{しやどう} 書道セット

Calligraphy set

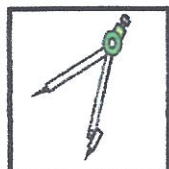
(from the 3rd grade)



コンパス

Drawing tool

(from the 3rd grade)



^{さんかくじやうぎ} 三角定規

Triangle

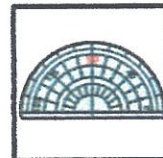
(from the 3rd grade)



^{ぶんどき} 分度器

Protractor

(from the 4th grade)



To students:

You need to bring your textbooks, notebooks, and pencils (pencase) every day.

You will have homework every day that must be checked by your parents or guardians every day.

You need to bring your gym clothes to school on Monday and you will change into gym clothes before class.

After class, you will change from your gym clothes back into your regular school clothes.

Please bring your gym clothes home on Friday and wash them.

The student school lunch duty is one week from Monday to Friday.

On Friday, when the students' lunch duty ends, students bring their cooking apron and cap back home. Please wash, iron, and have your child bring them back to school on Monday.

Write in the Correspondence (Contact) Notebook

When your children are absent from school, are late for school, or are returning home early, please write a message in the correspondence notebook and ask a friend living nearby to submit it to your child's class teacher.

日本語	Your language
休みます	
遅刻します	
早退します	
熱があります	
咳が出ます	
大使館へ行きます	
インフルエンザ	
気持ちが悪いです	
おなかが痛いです	

1	2	7				
1	0	6				
		金	水	木	ようび	
	休みます。インフルエンザです。	早退します。病院へ行きます。	遅刻します。大使館へ行きます。	休みます。熱があります。咳が出ます。	れんらくすること	
						印

Parent should come to school with child.

Parent should come to school to pick up child.

Let's practice before entering elementary school.

1. Let's say your name.
2. Let's say "hai=yes" if the teacher calls your name.
3. Let's greet in Japanese "konnichiwa=hello" and "sayonara=goodbye".
4. Let's go to the restroom by yourself.
5. Let's change your clothes alone.
6. Let's practice walking from your home to school.
7. Let's practice saying, "your stomach hurts", "Onaka ga itai desu" and when you feel bad (sick), "Kimochi ga warui desu".

Call below locations or look for information at the below site.

You can also ask teachers of elementary school, kindergarten or nursery school for help.

- ① Kawasaki International Center 0 4 4 - 4 3 5 - 7 0 0 0

<http://www.kian.or.jp/kic/soudan.shtml>

Visit to Kawasaki Ward Office. Interpreter is available at

First and third Tuesdays 9 : 3 ~ 1 2 : 0 0 (Tagalog)、

1 4 : 0 0 ~ 1 6 : 3 0 (Chinese)、

First and third Thursdays 1 4 : 0 0 ~ 1 6 : 3 0 (English)

- ② Earth Plaza Consultation room about Education for foreign People

0 4 5 - 8 9 6 - 2 9 7 2

http://www.earthplaza.jp/forum/foreign_education/

1 0 : 0 0 ~ 1 3 : 0 0、 1 4 : 0 0 ~ 1 7 : 0 0

(Tuesdays: Tagalog, Wednesdays: Portuguese,

Thursdays and Saturdays: Chinese, Fridays: Spanish)

- ③ Multilingual Support Center Kanagawa (English, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnam)

0 4 5 - 3 1 6 - 2 7 7 0

<http://www.kifjp.org/kmlc>

* Support Site for Foreign Parents (English, Chinese, Korea)

<http://www.renrakucho.net/>

④ Kawasaki shi Sogo Kyoiku Center

0 4 4 - 8 4 4 - 3 6 0 0

<http://www.keins.city.kawasaki.jp/>

Words for Mathematics in six languages

<http://www.keins.city.kawasaki.jp/content/taiyaku/taiyaku.htm>

⑤ NPO Kyoiku Katsudo Sogo Support Center

0 4 4 - 8 7 7 - 0 5 5 3

Bibliography etc.

- Kawasaki International Association

“Guidebook for foreign related students who are about to enroll in elementary school. Welcome to elementary schools in Kawasaki!”

- Yokohama Educational Committee

“Welcome to schools in Yokohama III To the guardians”

<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/kyoiku/kyoikukatei/nihongoshido-tebiki/>

- Aichi Prefecture Preschool Manual

<http://www.pref.aichi.jp/soshiki/tabunka/0000028953.html>

