

Information on school life (An example)

(1) Classes

- Classes are from Monday to Friday.
- There are no classes on Saturdays and Sundays. However, there may be school events on weekends that require students to come to school.
- There are 5 or 6 class periods each day. One class period is usually 45 minutes in elementary schools and 50 minutes in junior high schools.

(2) Coming to school and going home

- The starting time of each school varies, but generally it is between 8 to 8:30 A.M.
- Some events or activities (sports day, performances) may require students to come to school earlier.
- Students come to school on foot, by bicycle, or by school bus.

(3) Lunch and Lunch Hour

- In most elementary and junior high schools, school lunch is provided as part of the school's educational activities. Some schools have students bring chopsticks for lunch.
- If a student cannot eat certain foods due to health or religious reasons, please consult the school.
- Students normally set and clear the table before and after lunch.
- Students wear masks, aprons, and three-cornered hats when preparing lunch. Depending on the school, these must either be prepared and brought by the students or may be provided by the school itself.

(4) Cleaning Hour

- After lunch or after school, students share the responsibilities of cleaning classrooms and other places within school grounds.
- Students will bring dust cloths from home for cleaning. Other cleaning supplies are provided by the school

(5) School Events

The number of school events varies depending on the school or the area, but events are generally held as follows.

	Name of the event	Details
Apr.	• Opening Ceremony	
	• Entrance Ceremony	
	• Health Check by a doctor	
	• Elementary School Academic Performance Test	
	• Class Observation	• Parents or guardians visit to see how their children are doing in class and in school. Some schools hold these several times a year.

	Name of the event	Details
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trips • Overnight Camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students go on an out-of-school trip to visit facilities or companies within and outside of the prefecture, gaining experience from participating in activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Excursions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Junior High School Students
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students enjoy exercising by doing activities such as short distance running, relays, ball games, dancing, and by cheering on their classmates.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Observation 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term Exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Junior High School Students
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool Opening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Elementary School Students
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st term Exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Junior High School Students
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent-Teacher Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers exchange information with parents or guardians regarding their student's school life.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Term Ceremony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ceremony to declare the end of the term. It is also done at the end of the 2nd term.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Summer Vacation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 40 days of vacation from late July to late August.
Aug.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Vacation 	
Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Ceremony 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Junior High School Students.
Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students' Performance and Cultural Festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event to view art pieces or crafts made by the students, also showing exhibits on class projects and stage performances for students to share what they have learned.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term Exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Junior High School Students.
Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Entrance Exam Explanatory Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Junior High School Students.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Observation 	
Dec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd term Exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only for Junior High School Students.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent-Teacher Meeting 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Calligraphy of the Year Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students write their new motivation or goals for the beginning of the new year as part of a Japanese tradition. They practice for the First Calligraphy of the Year Competition in January.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of the Term Ceremony 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Vacation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around two weeks of vacation, from the end of December to the beginning of January.
Jan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Ceremony 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Calligraphy of the Year Competition 	

	Name of the event	Details
Feb.	• Private High School Entrance Exams	• Only for Junior High School Students.
	• Class Observation	
	• Explanation Meeting for New Students	
Mar.	• 3 rd term Exams	• Only for Junior High School Students.
	• Prefectural High School Entrance Exams	• Only for Junior High School Students.
	• Graduation Ceremony	• An event to celebrate the graduation of the highest grade.
	• End of the Term Ceremony	• This is a ceremony not only to declare the end of the 3 rd term but also the end of the school year.

(6) Club activities and other activities

- There are usually many activities for students to attend after school or on weekends that include club activities for both school types and junior high student council.

(7) School Clothing

- Uniforms and physical education uniforms must be bought from stores designated by the school.
- Schools prohibit accessories, manicures, and pierced ears, as well as makeup and perfume.

(8) Items to bring to school

<Examples of common items for both elementary and junior high school>	
*Varies depending on the school or time of year	
<input type="checkbox"/> writing implements (pencils, erasers, pencil case, ruler, triangle ruler, compass, red and blue pencils, scissors, glue, desk pad)	<input type="checkbox"/> toothbrush /cups
<input type="checkbox"/> contact information book	<input type="checkbox"/> dust cloth
<input type="checkbox"/> notebooks for each subject	<input type="checkbox"/> sportswear (summer / winter)
<input type="checkbox"/> mask / apron / hat for school lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> indoor shoes
	<input type="checkbox"/> textbooks (given at school)
	<input type="checkbox"/> tablet for learning
	(loaned by the municipal board of education)
※ Bringing mobile phones, comic books and games to school is prohibited.	

(9) Contact between the school and families

- Parents or guardians should read communications and newsletters from school every day. These not only have the schedule for the next day, but also important personal messages from teachers. If parents or guardians have a message for the school, they should let them know in the manner that is easiest for them.
- If a student will be late or be absent, parents or guardians must provide a reason for the student's tardiness/absence. Elementary schools may require that the leader of the attendance team also be notified.