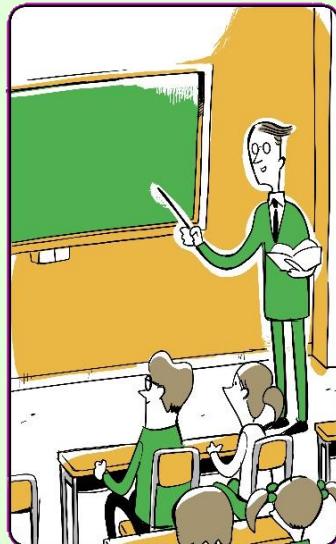


Before enrolling in Japanese elementary school (Learning)



“Speak in Japanese”
“Study in Japanese”



Illustrated by Kengo Morita

Cherish the joy of learning

What dreams does your child have now?

Children's dreams are limitless. When children enter elementary school and begin to study, they understand their own strengths and weaknesses and learn how society functions, and then, their dreams will become more concrete. As an international family, there are possibilities and choices that are not available to Japanese people. The dream horizons will expand by learning and gaining a lot of knowledge. "I am happy when I am able to understand what I did not understand so far," "I want to know more," and that is "the joy of learning." Fun learning will surely enrich one's life.



★School Life for a First Grader in Elementary School

Basically, the "Tannin no Sensei" (the teacher who is in charge of the class for one year) is responsible for everything.



Example: A typical day in elementary school

Time	
8:15	Arrive at school
8:35	Morning Routine
8:55	Morning Assembly
	1 st Period
9:40	<u>Japanese Language</u>
	Recess (Restroom/Preparation)
9:50	2 nd Period
10:35	<u>Physical Education</u>
	Recess
10:55	3 rd Period
11:40	<u>Arithmetic</u>
	Recess (Restroom/Preparation)
11:50	4 th Period
12:35	<u>Ethics</u>
13:15	<u>School Lunch</u>
13:35	<u>Cleaning</u>
14:00	Lunch Break
14:45	5 th Period
15:00	<u>Classroom Activity</u>
	Afternoon Homeroom
	Leave school



Subject Learning

Japanese Language :

Development of thinking and expressiveness through "speaking," "listening," "writing," and "reading" in Japanese. This does not teach Japanese as a foreign language.

Music : Sing songs and play various songs using musical instruments. Some schools use keyboard harmonicas melodica.

Arithmetic :

Learn about numbers, calculations, volume, measurements, shapes, and quantities. Practice using a ruler.

Physical Education : Various exercises such as dodgeball and skipping rope are performed at the playground and gymnasium. Change into gym clothes.

Living Environment Studies :

Think about yourself and your relationship with society and nature through activities and experiences. Learn the habits and skills necessary for life.

Ethics : Think about "what is important for living better as a person" and "how should I live?" while learning the rules and morals necessary for living in society.

Art and Craft : Draw pictures and make crafts. Use scissors and glue.

Outside of Subject Learning

Lunch : School lunches are designed with the mental and physical development of a healthy child in mind. Proper eating habits and knowledge about food will be learnt through school lunch, preparation and tidying up.

Classroom Activity : Activities are carried out to lead a better school life. It is conducted on a class-by-class basis and aims to adapt to school life.

Cleaning : Work with classmates. Also, as a member of the group, children can realize the meaning of the role given to them.

<Let's encourage learning our native language>

Learning one's mother tongue is important to a child. Raising a child in their mother tongue implies the development of thinking and expressiveness in the child. Developing skills to think and express will be useful when you study in Japanese. Conversely, if thinking abilities are not developed, it will not only be difficult to study in Japanese but also to think and judge yourself.

So, how does your child develop his/her mother tongue (linguistic ability)? The answer is to have different experiences at home using the words spoken by dad and mom. Children's language skills will grow as the family members read to their children and talk to each other about what happened during the day. We encourage you to enjoy talking about what happened every day.



Q & A



Is it necessary to do homework?

Yes. Make sure to do the homework from school. Doing the homework enables you to find out what your child does not understand, and that will help in learning and reviewing the lesson. Homework is also an important time for studying at home.

What do I do when I am unable to understand the studies?

First, talk to your homeroom teacher. You can also ask a language counselor or an acquaintance who can interpret for you at school. However, do not ask your child to interpret. It is difficult for children to interpret what adults say to each other. Also, neither the teacher nor the parents know if the child is interpreting correctly.

Talk to your school about what to do if you have trouble with your school life.

How do you get grades in Japan?

In elementary school, grades are not determined only by the test scores. Grades will be determined by the behavior in attending classes, efforts in studies, submission of homework, and daily attitude.

Is it better to study hiragana before enrolling?

Hiragana can be studied after enrolling in elementary school. However, it does not mean that subject learning begins after one becomes comfortable with hiragana. Along with studying hiragana, textbooks written in Japanese will be read, and notes will be taken in Japanese at the same time. It will be possible to use hiragana through repetitive reading and writing.

If it takes time to read and write hiragana, it may not be possible to understand the content of the lesson. If you are not comfortable, you can practice reading and writing hiragana before enrolling.

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