

For International Families

Before You Enter Japanese Elementary School

(Education System Edition)



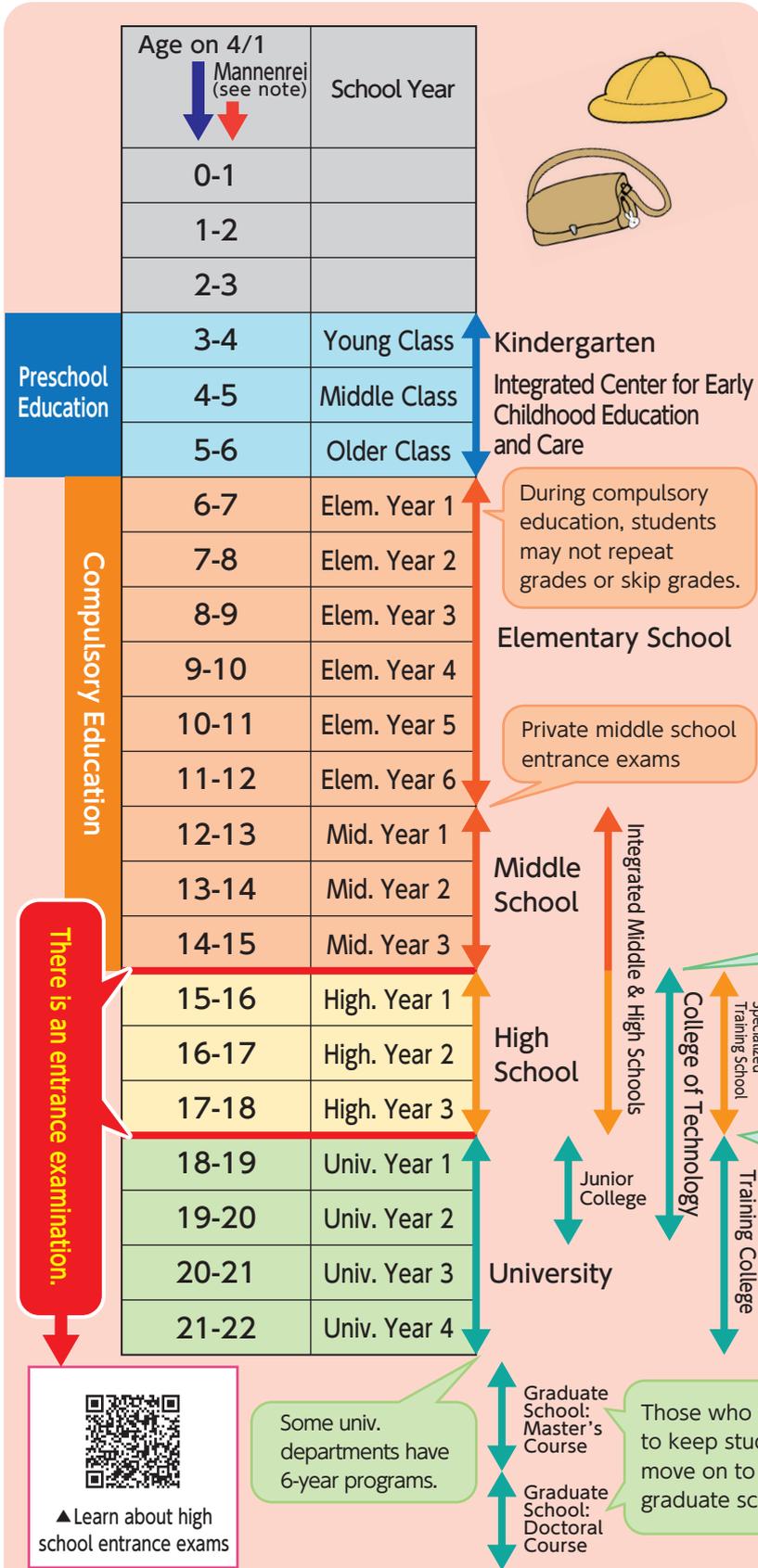
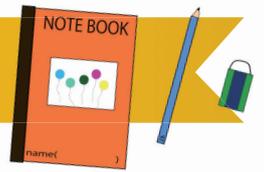
What happens after you enter elementary school?

In most international families, both the parents and the children are experiencing Japan's education system for the first time. In Japan, students choose for themselves what path they should take after they graduate from middle school. In order to continue to high school, students must take high school entrance exams. Only those who pass these exams may enter high school. This costs money; students need to study regularly and prepare financially to pursue their desired educational path. Parents and children need to prepare together.

If your child is about to enter elementary school, what path awaits them afterwards?

★Please also see the "Lifestyle Edition," "Learning Edition," and "Education Funding Edition".

Japan's Education System



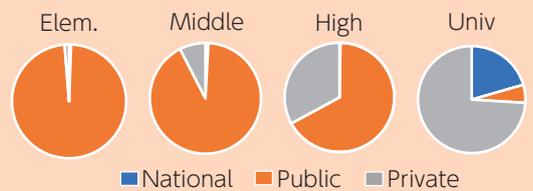
Day Care

0-1	Too Young
1-2	
2-3	
3-4	Young Class
4-5	Middle Class
5-6	Older Class

"Day Care" is a place for children who need care before they enter school.

Most elementary students start their education at public schools. Many move to private schools as they advance to high school and university.

Breakdown of Enrolled Students



参考：令和2年度学校基本調査(文部科学省)

At a college of technology, you gain technical/engineering expertise in industrial or maritime fields.

At an upper secondary specialized training school or professional training college, you learn the knowledge and skills needed for a job.



▲Scan this to learn more

Some students work while going to high school on a part-time or correspondence course basis.

Most high school students attend school full time. Most of them take the "general course" track, but there are also specialized (vocational) and integrated tracks.

Breakdown of Enrolled Students



参考：令和2年度学校基本調査(文部科学省)

- ☆The above chart shows the most common organization of school years. The school year begins in April and ends in March.
- ☆Students born from 4/2 of one year through 4/1 of the following year are placed in the same grade.
- ☆Mannerrei is a method of counting age where you are 0 years old the day you are born, and then your age increases by 1 year on each subsequent birthday.



▲Learn about high school entrance exams



〜 Let's Talk About School! 〜

● People you see at school have lots of different jobs!

Many teachers and office employees work at school each day. For example, every school has a principal, a vice-principal, a head teacher for each grade, homeroom teachers, and a school nurse. There are many other types of teachers and school staff who work where they are needed. You may see nutritionists, club advisors, school counselors, school social workers, assistant language teachers, library supervisors, cooks, janitors, and more. All of them work for the children at school in their own fields of specialty.



● In Japan, the first term starts in April!

Things like when the school year begins and how we calculate children's ages may be different in Japan than in your home country. In most countries, the school year starts in September. But in Japan, it starts in April. Each year when students advance a grade, there is a "class shuffle" when students' homeroom teachers, classrooms, and classmates all change. Thus, the beginning of the first term each year brings a drastic change in children's environments.

Depending on an elementary or middle school's local government, the school year may be divided into either semesters (2 terms) or trimesters (3 terms).

● In elementary schools, classes are usually taught by homeroom teachers!

In Japanese elementary schools, the homeroom teacher teaches most subjects. In the middle schools, each subject is taught by a different teacher who specializes in that subject.

However, there is a plan to begin phasing in the middle schools' "subject teacher system" for fifth and sixth graders in elementary school.

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