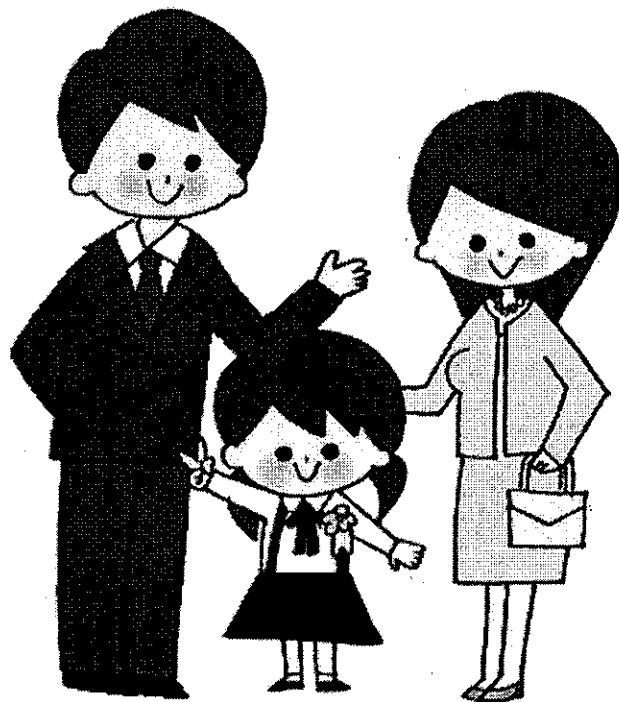


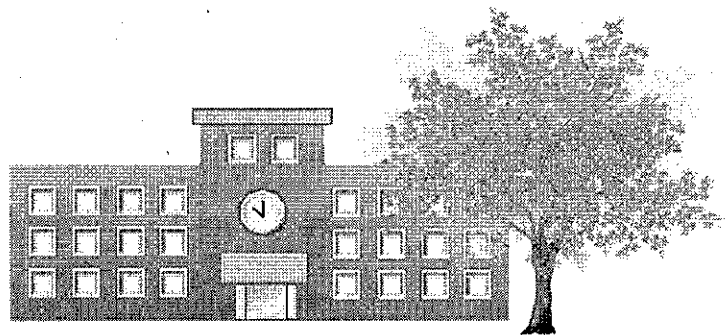
Guidebook for Entering School



Yamanashi Prefecture

<International Affairs Division>

Note: The medical and government institutions of Japan do not usually employ foreign language interpreters, so if you cannot speak Japanese, please ask for the help of an acquaintance who can when you contact or consult with these facilities.



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I. Education System

Japan ratified in 1994 the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989.

This Convention protects children's right to receive education. Though Japanese government does not obligate guardians of children and students with foreign nationality to have their children receive a general education, according to the International Covenants on Human Rights, "Rule A", Article 13th, municipal boards of education and their schools accept children and students with foreign nationality.

1 The Japanese Education System

(1) 6.3.3.4 System

The Japanese education system is basically comprised of 6 years in elementary school, 3 years in junior high school, 3 years in senior high school and 4 years in university (or 2 or 3 years in community college).

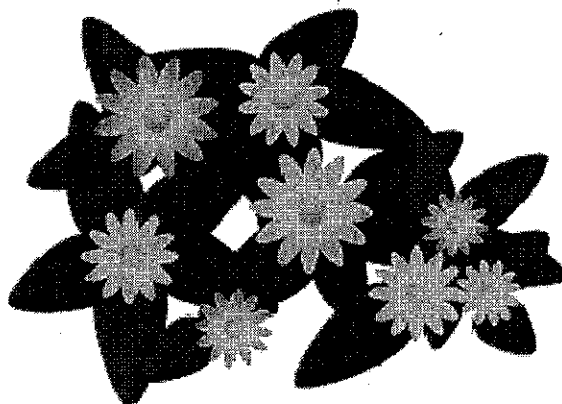
(2) Compulsory education

Among these, elementary school and junior high school are compulsory, so all children must enter and graduate from these schools. Though compulsory education is an obligation for the Japanese people, children and students with foreign nationality from 6 to 15 years of age who live in Japan can enter or be admitted to a local elementary school and junior high school, regardless of their nationality, just like the Japanese, if they so desired. With your child's future in mind, it is advisable to have your child enter or be admitted to a school. Please consult with your local municipal office (board of education).

(3) Other information

After graduation from the junior high school, most children in Japan enter high school and university. For entrance to high schools and universities, the applicants need to take selective (entrance) examinations.

There are kindergartens for children before entering elementary schools. There are also colleges and schools mainly for junior and senior high school graduates that teach occupational skills and knowledge. There are special support schools for the handicapped, too.



2 Japanese Schools

(1) National / Public schools and private schools

There are 3 types of schools: national schools managed by the State; public schools managed by prefectures, cities, wards, town and villages; and private schools managed by school foundations.

There is no entrance examination for public elementary and junior high schools, because which school you enter is based upon where you live. However, for private schools, the applicants need to take selective examinations.

(2) **School year, school term, holidays**

The school year begins in April and continues until March of the following year, and one year is divided into three terms in most schools. The 1st term begins in April and ends in July, the 2nd term is from August to December, and the 3rd term is from January to March.

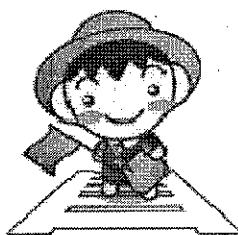
However, in some schools, one year is divided into two terms (1st semester: from April to September, 2nd semester: from October to March). And between the terms, there is summer vacation for about 40 days, plus winter vacation and spring vacation for about 2 weeks each. Added to this, there is a break (about 3 days) between 1st semester and 2nd semester for the semester system.

II. Procedure for Entering School

1 Entering Kindergarten

➤ For kindergarten

- (1) Persons who have not completed their alien registration should register at the citizens division (or the resident division—the division's name may differ according to cities, towns or villages) in the city, town or village office.
- (2) Guardians get an "application for admission" at the kindergarten they want their child to attend, fill in necessary information, and submit it to the kindergarten.
- (3) Guardians go to the kindergarten where they applied, on the appointed day



2 Entering Elementary and Junior High Schools

(1) **Entering elementary and junior high schools**

If you want to enter your child in a public school, please submit an Application for a Foreign Child to Enter School (*Gaikokujin Shugaku Shinsei*) at your city, town or village office or board of education. The alien registration cards of both child and guardian are required for the application. Applications can be accepted at anytime. When you receive an entrance permit from the municipal board of education several days later, please go to school with your child and the entrance permit. When children and students with foreign nationality receive schooling in Japan, the procedure is basically the same as Japanese children and students.

In Japanese schools, the school year is decided depending on the child's age. For foreign nationals too, children are admitted into the school year corresponding to their age.

When people want to enter their child in an international, national or private elementary or junior high school, they should apply directly to the school.

*A Notice to Enter School (*Nyugaku Tsuchisho*) is sent to the guardians of children who are registered as aliens and have reached school age.

*In case a Notice to Enter School does not arrive, and the child is near school age, the guardian should enquire as early as possible at their city, town or village office (board of education).

Cities, towns or villages → <http://www.pref.yamanashi.jp/link/ctv/ctv.htm>

***Procedure to enter school**

- ① Secure your living address in Japan.
- ② Register as a foreign national at your municipal office.
- ③ Receive your alien registration card.
- ④ Receive a Notice to Enter School (*Nyugaku Tsuchi-sho*) or Entrance Permit (*Nyugaku Kyoka-sho*) from your municipal board of education
- ⑤ Go to school with the Notice to Enter School



(2) Necessary documents for procedures at school

When going to the appointed school, if there are school-related documents (certificate of registration, transcript, etc.) received in the home country, please bring them.

In the school, you will discuss the following.

- Names of the child and family
- Date of birth
- Present address
- Family makeup
- Education received before admission in Japanese school
- Scheduled period of stay
- School year in home country (number of years of school attended)
- Japanese language environment of the child and family
- Contact information (emergency, work contact, interpreter, etc.)
- How to go to and from school
- Health of child (medical history, eyesight, hearing, chronic diseases, and eating habits)

3 Transfer

Transfer to an elementary or junior high school

- ① Persons who have not yet completed their alien registration should register at the Citizens Division (or Resident Division) in the city, town or village office.
- ② Inform the municipal board of education of the wish to transfer, and receive a "Notice to Transfer."
- ③ Go to the appointed school with the "Notice to Transfer" from the board of education.

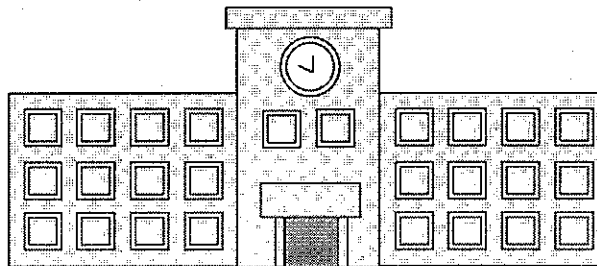
III. Elementary and Junior High Schools

Elementary school and junior high school are compulsory. Japanese customs, events, and rules are followed in school life. Please try to understand these customs and help your child have a happy and peaceful school life

1 School Age

School age is the age suitable for entering school. School age is 6 years old for elementary school, and 12 years old for junior high school.

In Japanese schools, the school year is decided depending on the age. For foreign nationals too, children are admitted into the school year corresponding to their age.



2 School Expenses

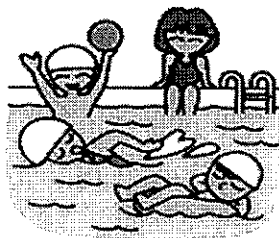
National / Public Schools	Entrance fee, tuition fees and textbooks are free of charge at public elementary and junior high schools. Each person needs to pay for study materials, school meals, school trips, uniforms, and teaching materials other than textbooks.
Private Schools	Each person needs to pay entrance and tuition fees, as well.

3 Elementary Schools

Schools begin in April every year, and end in March. In many schools, one year is divided into three terms. In some schools, one year is divided into two semesters. Various events are held in the school. Among them, there are events that require guardians to come to school, and ones that cost special fees. Detailed information should be sent from the school. Names and contents of school events vary depending on the district, school, or school year. Some common events are as follows.

(1) 1st Term

- ① Opening ceremony
This event is held on the first day of the term for students of all school years.
- ② Entrance ceremony
This is an event to congratulate children who enter the first grade. Guardians of 1st year students also attend.
- ③ Health Check-up
The doctor checks the health condition of the child's body.
- ④ Body measurement
Height and weight etc. are measured.
- ⑤ Field trips (excursion)
Going out of school, students learn what they cannot study in the classroom, by coming in contact with nature, history, and culture.
- ⑥ Classroom visitations
Guardians visit classes to see how children pass everyday in school.
- ⑦ Parent Teacher Meetings
Homeroom teachers, guardians, and the student discuss life in school and at home together. It is held at the end of each term.
- ⑧ Home visits
Homeroom teachers visit each child's home and consult the guardians about the child's home life.
- ⑨ School excursion
All 6th year students go on an overnight trip. This is often held in the 1st term.
- ⑩ Closing ceremony
This event is held on the last day of the term. In many cases, students of all school years gather
- ⑪ Summer vacation (from the end of July to the end of August)
This is a vacation of about 30 days. During the vacation, students may need to go to school on some days for swimming or extracurricular activities.



(2) 2nd Term

① Sports day, Athletic meet

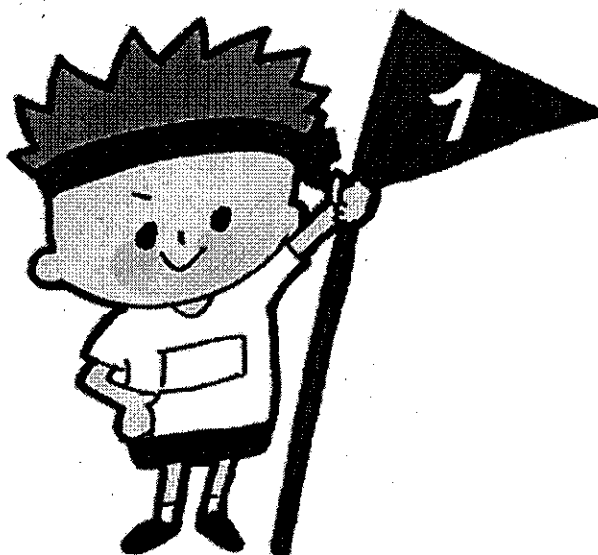
This is an event to enjoy sports through footraces, relay races, dance, or cheering classmates. Some schools have programs in which guardians and families can participate too. This is called “*Undokai*” in most elementary schools, and “*Taiiku Taikai*” in junior high schools.

② Culture festival, Study symposium, School Play

These are events to exhibit student works from art class and homemaking class or study reports from social studies and science etc., or to present performances of musical instruments, chorus, drama etc., and to enjoy all those works. Usually, guardians can visit and enjoy them.

③ Winter vacation (from the end of December to the beginning of January)

This is a vacation of about 2 weeks.



(3) 3rd Term

① Graduation ceremony

This is an event to hand certificate to 6th year students, and to celebrate their graduation.

② Spring vacation (from the end of March to the beginning of April)

This is a vacation for about 2 weeks. When the closing ceremony of the 3rd term ends, a spring vacation begins. When this vacation ends, students advance to the next school year, and a new school year begins in April.

4 Elementary School Life

Public elementary schools have some rules such as the following. Since rules depend on schools, please ask teachers at your school.

(1) Going to school

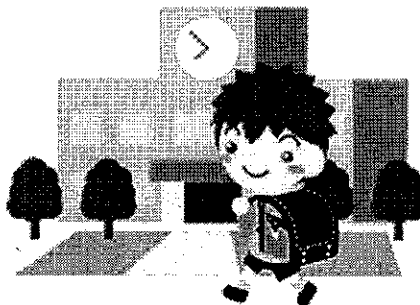
① School route

So that students can go to school and back safely, the road that students take when they go to and from school is specified. It is called “*Tsugakuro*.” Schools choose the roads with the least danger. Please pass those roads

② How to go to school

Going to school in group (*Shudan Toko*)

This is a method in which children that live nearby from one another form one group and go to school together. Many elementary schools adopt this method. It is advisable not to be late to get to the meeting place.



(2) **School start time (the time when school begins)**

Schools begin at around 8:30 am. It is advisable to arrive at school about 10 minutes earlier. If a student does not arrive at school by the school start time, it is considered “tardy.” When a child is late for school or absent from school because of illness etc., guardians must contact the school.

(3) **Daily schedule**

The number of classes and the time to leave school depend on the day of the week and the school year. In the 6th year, school begins at about 8:30 am, and there are 4 periods in the morning (45 minutes for 1 period). After lunch (school lunch or box lunch), there are 2 more periods, so in general there are 5 to 6 periods per day. Classes are given mainly by homeroom teachers.

(4) **School lunch (provided by school), Box lunch (brought from home)**

Most elementary schools provide school lunch (lunch provided by the school). For school lunch, children serve out food and clear the table by themselves by turns. This is called “*Kyushoku Toban* (*Kyushoku-gakari*).

There might be no school lunch at the beginning of the term and for special events. The box lunch (lunch brought from home) might be necessary occasionally. In such cases, there will be a notice from school.

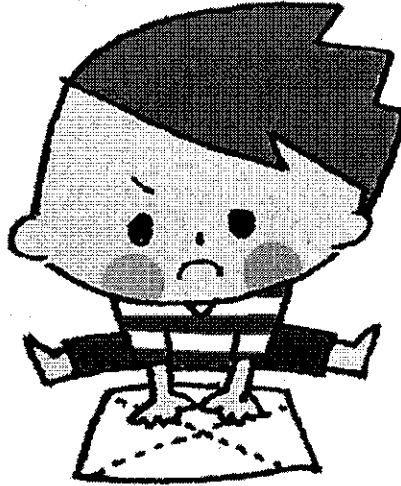
If the child cannot eat some food because of religious reasons or allergies, guardians need to consult with the homeroom teacher.

Guardians pay the cost of the ingredients of school lunch. It costs about 3500 yen to 4500 yen per month.



(5) Cleaning time

There is cleaning time after lunch in elementary schools, and before leaving school in junior high schools. Children clean the classrooms, the stairs, the passages, and the rest room, etc. with teachers. Let's clean by ourselves the place where we study.



(6) Leaving school

In the same way as going to school, children take "*Tsugakuro* (road for going to school)" to go home. The leaving time depends on the school year and the day of the week. The leaving time is also changed when there is a school event etc. In case of change in leaving time, there will be a notice from school.

(7) Clothes

Though students can go to school wearing the clothes they like in most elementary schools, some schools have “uniforms” or “standard clothes” designated by the school.

For “physical education,” students change into “gym clothes” in which they can move easily. In a gymnasium, some schools require a pair of shoes used only in the gym, besides indoor shoes.

When students serve out lunch as “*Kyushoku Toban*,” they need to wear an apron, mask, and cap. Children should use their own masks.

For (pool) swimming classes in the summer, students need to bring their swimwear and swimming cap by themselves. Students are expected to write their names on their belongings.

Please ask at the school for details.

5 Elementary Schools Specifics

(1) About classes

One class consists of up to 40 children and a homeroom teacher. Though classes are given mainly by homeroom teachers, other teachers might teach art, music, homemaking class etc. depending on the school year and school. Additionally, some classes might be given by several teachers.

*For the most part, each class has its own subjects of study, morning and leaving classroom activities, and school events. If there is anything you don't understand or any trouble, please consult the homeroom teacher.

(2) Subjects of study

In school, students study the following subjects

1st & 2nd year of elementary school

Japanese Language (*Kokugo*), Arithmetic (*Sansuu*), Life Studies (*Seikatsu*), Music (*Ongaku*), Art (*Zuga Kosaku*), Physical Education (*Taiiku*)

3rd & 4th year of elementary school

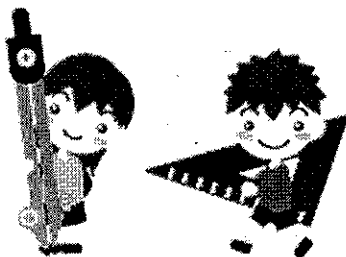
Japanese Language, Arithmetic, Social Studies (*Shakai*), Science (*Rika*), Music, Art, Physical Education

5th & 6th year of elementary school

Japanese Language, Arithmetic, Social Studies, Science, Music, Art, Physical Education, Homemaking (*Katei*)

*Additionally, there is time for comprehensive learning, such as moral education, and special activities (classroom activities, child association activities, club activities, school events):

• In special activities, students do independent activities to make the child association activities and the school life better.



(3) Study supplies

Textbooks for study are free. Other necessary materials must be provided by each family.

Some subjects require supplies for individual use.

Japanese language → writing brush, Indian ink etc.

Music → keyboard harmonica (*Pianica*), recorder etc.

Art → watercolor, crayons, crayon pastels etc.

Homemaking → sewing set etc.

(4) Health Check-up

In Japanese schools, health check-ups are done if necessary. There are various kinds of checkups.

- Health investigation (to examine the medical history and present health condition)
 - *Shincho* (height), *Taiju* (weight of body), *Zako* (height when sitting), *Naika* (internal medicine - condition in stomach), *Ganka* (ophthalmology - whether eyes are healthy or not), *Jibika* (otolaryngology - whether the ear and the nose are healthy or not), *Shika* (dentistry - whether teeth are healthy or not), *Shiryoku* (eyesight - how far is seen), *Shikikaku* (color vision - testing for color blindness, only 4th year students), *Chouryoku* (hearing - whether sound is heard or not)
- Tuberculosis medical examination (the tuberculin reaction inspection)
 - All 1st school year students take the examination.
- Physical examination of heart (electrocardiogram inspection)
 - All 1st school year students take the examination.
- Urine test (inspection of urine)
- Parasite inspection (whether there are worms in the stomach or not)
 - All 1st, 2nd and 3rd school year students take the examination.

Additionally, check-ups might be done before swimming classes, before running races or mountain climbing, and before school excursion etc.



(5) Report cards

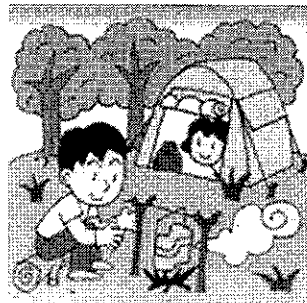
Result of the child's school study (grades) and situation of various activities of child's school life are written in a report card. Students receive their report card on the day of closing ceremony, and after showing it to guardians, they hand it to classroom teacher.

6 Junior High Schools

The school begins in April every year, and ends in March. In many schools, the year is divided into three terms. In some schools, one year is divided into two semesters. Various events are held in the school. Among them, there are events that require guardians to come to school, and ones that cost special fees. Detailed information should be sent from the school. Names and contents of school events vary depending on the district, school, or school year. Some of the common events are as follows.

(1) 1st Term

- ① Opening ceremony
This event is held on the first day of the term for students of all school years.
- ② Entrance ceremony
This is an event to congratulate children who enter the first grade. Guardians of 1st school year students also attend.
- ③ Health Check-up
The doctor checks the health conditions of the child's body.
- ④ Body measurement
Height and weight etc. are measured.
- ⑤ Field trips (excursion)
Going out of school, students learn what they cannot study in the classroom, by coming in contact with nature, history, and culture.
- ⑥ Classroom visitations
Guardians visit classes to see how children pass everyday in school.
- ⑦ Parent Teacher Meetings
In each term, the homeroom teacher and guardians discuss the school study and home life of the child. It is held at the end of each term.
- ⑧ Homeroom meeting
The homeroom teacher and guardians discuss about the children in each class.
- ⑨ Parent Teacher Student Meeting
The homeroom teacher, guardians, and student discuss about the student's life in school and at home. It is generally held at the end of each term.
- ⑩ Home visits
The homeroom teacher visit each child's home and discuss with the guardian about the child's home life
- ⑪ School excursion
In junior high schools, all 3rd year students go on an overnight trip. This is often held in the 1st term.
- ⑫ Closing ceremony
This event is held on the last day of the term. In many cases, students of all school years gather.
- ⑬ Summer vacation (from the end of July to the end of August)
This is a long vacation of about 30 to 40 days. During the vacation, students may need to go to school on some days for swimming or extracurricular activities



(2) 2nd Term

① Athletic meet

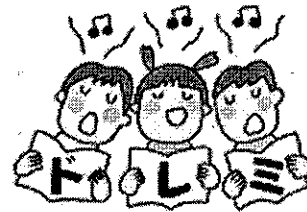
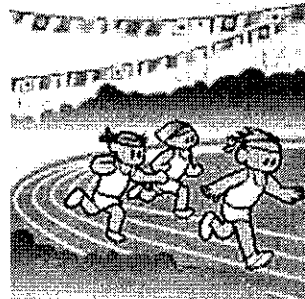
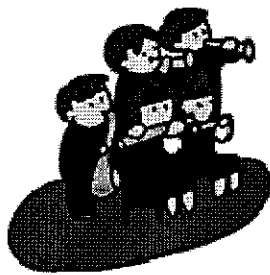
This is an event to enjoy sports through short-distance races, relay races, dance, or cheering classmates. Some schools have programs in which guardians and families can participate too.

② Cultural festival, Study symposium, School Play

These are events to exhibit student works from art class and technical skills and homemaking class, or study reports from social studies and science etc. or to present performances of musical instruments, chorus, drama etc., and to enjoy all those works. Usually, guardians can visit and enjoy them.

③ Winter vacation (from the end of December to the beginning of January)

This is a vacation of about 2 weeks.



(3) 3rd Term

① Graduation ceremony

This is an event to hand certificates to students who are admitted to graduate, and to celebrate their graduation.

② Spring vacation (from the end of March to the beginning of April)

This is a vacation of about 2 weeks. When the closing ceremony of 3rd term ends, a spring vacation begins. When this vacation ends, students advance to the next school year, and a new school year begins in April.

7 Junior High School Life

Public junior high schools have some rules such as the following. Since rules depend on schools, please ask teachers of your school.

(1) Going to school

【School route】

So that students can go to school and back safely, the road that students take when they go to and from school is specified. It is called "Tsugakuro." Schools choose the roads with the least danger. Please use those roads.

(2) School start time (the time when the school begins)

Schools begin at around 8:30 am. It is advisable to arrive at school about 10 minutes earlier. If a student does not arrive at school by the school start time, it is considered “tardy (*Chikoku*).” When a child is late for school or absent from school because of illness etc., guardians must contact the school.

(3) Daily schedule

The number of classes and the time to leave school are almost the same for 1st to 3rd school year. School begins at about 8:30 am, and there are 4 periods in the morning (50 minutes for 1 period). After lunch (school lunch or box lunch), there are 2 more periods, so in general there are 5 to 6 periods per day. Classes are given by different teachers for each subject.

(4) School lunch (provided by school)

Most of junior high schools provide school lunch (lunch provided by school). For school lunch, students serve out food and clear the table by themselves by turns. This is called “*Kyushoku Toban*” (*Kyushoku-gakari*).

There might be no school lunch at the beginning of the term and for special events. The box lunch (lunch brought from home) might be necessary occasionally. In that case, there will be a notice from the school.

If the child cannot eat some food because of religious reasons or allergies, guardians need to consult with the homeroom teacher.

The guardians pay the cost of ingredients of the school lunch. It costs about 3500 yen to 4500 yen per month.

(5) Cleaning time

There is cleaning time before leaving school in junior high schools. Children clean the classrooms, the stairs, the passageways, the rest room, etc. with teachers. Let's clean by ourselves the place where we study.

(6) Extracurricular activities

After school, students can do sports or cultural activities that they are good at. Participation in extracurricular activities is voluntary.



(7) Leaving school

In the same way as going to school, children take “*Tsugakuro* (road for going to school)” to go home. The leaving time depends on the school year and the day of the week. The leaving time is also changed when there is a school event etc. In case of change in leaving time, there will be a notice from the school.

(8) Clothes

In most junior high schools, students go to school wearing clothes called “*Seifuku* (uniform)” which is designated by school. They go to school in uniforms (there are summer clothes and winter clothes etc.) designated by each school.

For “physical education,” students change into sweat suits in which they can move easily. In a gymnasium, some schools require a pair of shoes used only in the gym, besides indoor shoes.

For pool (swimming class) in summer, students need to bring their swimwear and swimming cap by themselves. Students are expected to write their names on their belonging. Please ask at the school for details.

8 Junior High School Specifics

(1) About classes

One class consists of up to 40 students and a homeroom teacher. As for the class, the teacher in charge is different in each subject.

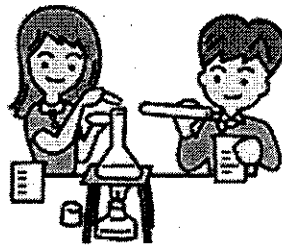
*For the most part, each class has its own subjects of study, beginning and ending classroom activities, and school events. If there is anything you don't understand or any trouble, please consult the homeroom teacher.

(2) Subjects of Study

○Subjects in junior high school

Junior high school is based on the foundations of elementary school. Junior high subjects include: Japanese Language (*Kokugo*), Mathematics (*Suugaku*), Social Studies (*Shakai*), Science (*Rika*), Music (*Ongaku*), Art (*Bijutsu*), Health and Physical Education (*Hoken Taiiku*), Technical Skills and Homemaking (*Gijutsu Katei*), Foreign Language (*Gaikokugo*)(English).

*Additionally, there is time for comprehensive learning and selective subjects, such as moral education, special activities (classroom activities, student association activities, club activities, school events).



(3) Study supplies

Textbooks for study are free. Other necessary materials must be provided by each family. Some subjects may require supplies for individual use, such as:

Japanese language →writing brush, Indian ink etc.

Homemaking →sewing set etc.

(4) Health Check-up

In Japanese schools, health check-ups are done if necessary. There are various kinds of check-ups.

- Health investigation (to examine the medical history and present health condition)

• *Shincho* (height), *Taiju* (weight of body), *Zako* (height when sitting), *Naika* (internal medicine - condition in stomach), *Ganka* (ophthalmology - whether eyes are healthy or not), *Jibika* (otolaryngology - whether the ear and the nose are healthy or not), *Shika* (dentistry - whether teeth are healthy or not), *Shiryoku* (eyesight - how far is seen), *Shikikaku* (color vision - testing for color blindness), *Chouryoku* (hearing - whether sound is heard or not)

• Tuberculosis medical examination (the tuberculin reaction inspection)

All 1st year students take the examination.

• Physical examination of heart (electrocardiogram inspection)

All 1st year students take the examination.

• Urine test (inspection of urine)

• Parasite inspection (whether there are worms in the stomach or not)

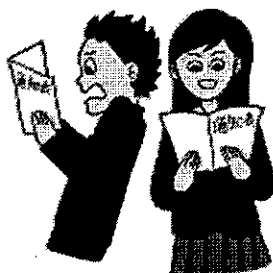
*Additionally, check-ups might be done before swimming classes, before running races or mountain climbing, and before school excursion etc.

(5) Term tests

In junior high schools, there are 4 to 5 term tests (mid term exams, final exam) per year. In some subjects, evaluation is made by judging from children's work and attitude in class, without tests. The testing period continues for 2 to 3 days. Besides term tests, homework is also given. Please ask teachers at school for details

(6) Report cards

Result of the child's school study (grades) and situation of various activities of the child's school life are written in a report card. Students receive their report card on the day of the closing ceremony, and after showing it to guardians, they hand it to the classroom teacher.



9 After Graduation from Junior High School

There are many ways to continue studying after graduating junior high school, such as to continue studying in high school or technical college, to enter special school or vocational school, and to study in part-time or correspondence high schools while having a job.

IV. High Schools

High school is generally called "*Koko*." About 90% of junior high school students go on to high school. Just like elementary and junior high schools, there are three types of high school: national schools managed by the state; public schools managed by prefectures, cities, wards, town and villages; and private schools managed by school foundations.

Schools begin in April every year, and end in March. There are two types of systems: the school year system (if neither the attendance nor grades meet criteria in each school year, students cannot continue to the

next school year) and unit system (If for a period of three or more years the attendance and the results meet criteria, students can graduate). One year is divided into three terms in some schools, and into two semesters in others. There are some occasions for guardians to come to school and to speak with the homeroom teacher, and there are also events that cost special fees besides tuition (school excursion). In high schools, students take the initiative in various events. The names and content of school events vary depending on the school. Some common events are as follows.

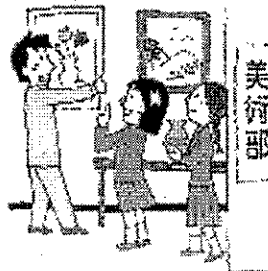
1 Terms

(1) 1st Term

- ① Opening ceremony
This event is held on the first day of the term for students of all school years.
- ② Entrance ceremony
This is an event to congratulate students who enter the first school year. Guardians can attend too.
- ③ Health Check-up
The doctor checks the health condition of the child's body.
- ④ Body measurement
Height and weight etc. are measured.
- ⑤ Field trips (excursion)
Going out of school, students learn what they cannot study in the classroom, by coming in contact with nature, history, and culture.
- ⑥ Parent Teacher Student Meeting
The homeroom teacher, guardians, and student discuss about the student's life in school and home together.
- ⑦ Closing ceremony
This event is held on the last day of the term. In many cases, students of all school years gather.

(2) 2nd Term

- ① Summer vacation (from the end of July to the end of August)
This is a long vacation of about 30 to 40 days.
During the vacation, students may need to go to school on some days for extracurricular activities.
- ② Athletic meet
This is an event to enjoy sports through short-distance and long-distance race, relay, dance, or cheering classmates.
- ③ Culture festival, Study symposium
These are events to present performances of musical instruments, chorus, drama etc., and to enjoy them. Usually, guardians can visit and enjoy them.
- ④ Winter vacation (from the end of December to the beginning of January)
This is a vacation of about 2 weeks.



(3) 3rd Term

- ① School excursion
In public high schools, all 2nd year students go on an overnight trip.
This is often held in the 2nd or 3rd term.
- ② Graduation ceremony
This is an event to hand diplomas to students who are admitted to graduate, and to celebrate their graduation.
*To graduate, students must get required credits.
- ③ Spring vacation (from the end of March to the beginning of April)
When the closing ceremony of the 3rd term ends, spring vacation begins.

2 Entrance, Qualification

It is necessary to pass the entrance exam of each school to enter the high school. Each school has different methods or types of entrance exams. Besides, some high schools have special systems for foreigners, too. It is advisable to inquire at the school of your choice. Entrance fee and tuition are also necessary for entering high school.

3 Transfer

For entrance into full-time Yamanashi prefectural high schools, both guardians and the student must live in Yamanashi Prefecture. For part-time prefectural high schools, only the student has to live or work in Yamanashi Prefecture. The transcript of the school the applicant attended in foreign country is also required.

- ① The applicant informs the board of education of Yamanashi Prefecture that the applicant wants to transfer to a high school.
- ② The board of education confirms the applicant's qualifications for transfer, and helps to decide the school of transfer taking into account the applicant's Japanese language ability.
- ③ The transfer examination is held just before each term starts. Though the content of the transfer examination differs somewhat in each school, scholastic attainments are usually examined.
- ④ When the applicant passes the transfer examination, transfer to the high school is permitted.



4 Types of High Schools

To decide which high school or course of study to go to, it is advisable to consult with your junior high school teacher, taking the goals of the student into consideration.

(1) Courses

There are general courses, specialized courses (industrial course, commercial course, and science and mathematics course etc.), and integrated courses.

(2) Full-time, Part-time, Correspondence High School

There is also a difference in the form of school hours.

Full-time	Students attend school in daytime. The period of attendance is 3 years.
Part-time	Students have jobs, and attend school at nighttime (or daytime).
Correspondence	Students study at home. (There are schoolings about twice per month.)

5 High School Life

Public high schools have some rules such as the following. Since rules depend on schools, please ask the teachers of your school.

(1) School year

There are two types of high school systems: the school year system and the credit hour system. In school-year-system high schools, subjects of study are assigned each year. (Some subjects can be chosen by students). It is not possible to move up to the following school year when there are a lot of absences (*"Kekka"*: being absent from a class), assignments are not submitted, or exam results are bad (*"Genkyu Ryuchi"* - staying at the present school year - also called *"Ryunen"*). In the case of *"Genkyu Ryuchi,"* students have to redo their present school year.

In credit hour system high schools, there is neither a school year nor *"Genkyu Ryuchi"* system. The number of subjects required to graduate is fixed, and when students pass those subjects and take a fixed number of credits (reference to the item below), they can graduate

(2) Credit hours

Formally, 1 credit hour is the amount of study which equals 35 weeks (35 times) of 50 minutes class. For instance, if students study mathematics 4 hours per week, they can take "4 credits." In high schools, the number of credits to take before graduation is fixed. This fixed number depends on the school, but 74 credits hours or more are required in many schools.

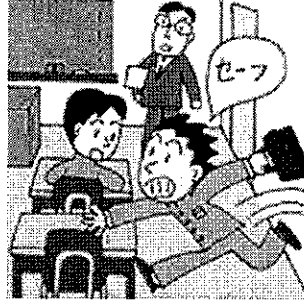
(3) School start time (the time when the school begins)

In full-time high schools, school begins at around 8:30 am. In part-time high schools, school usually begins at 6:00 pm.

(4) **Tardiness (*Chikoku*)**

If a student does not arrive at school before the school start time or the class start time, it is considered “tardy (*Chikoku*)”

Frequent tardiness might be considered as absence, and might make it impossible to get credits. When a student is late for school or absent from school because of illness etc., it must be reported to the school.



(5) **Daily schedule**

Schools begin at about 8:30 am in high schools, and there are generally 4 periods in the morning (50 minutes for 1 period). After lunch, there are 2 more periods in the afternoon. Classes are given by different teachers for each subject.

(6) **Box lunch (brought from home)**

High schools in Yamanashi Prefecture don't provide school lunch (lunch provided by school). Students need to bring lunch to school by themselves, or pay and eat in the cafeteria. (Most high schools have a cafeteria.)

(7) **Cleaning time**

There is cleaning time after classes in high schools. Students clean the classrooms, the stairs, the passageways, the rest room, etc. Let's clean by ourselves the place where we study.

(8) **Extracurricular activities**

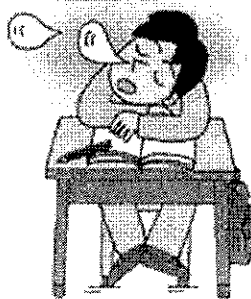
After school, students can do sports or cultural activities that they are good at. Activities of sports club or cultural club are called “*Bukatsudo*,” and participation is voluntary.

(9) **Clothes**

Most high schools have “*Seifuku* (uniforms)” which are designated by the school. Students go to school in uniforms (there are summer clothes and winter clothes etc.) designated by each school.

For “physical education,” students change into “gym clothes” in which they can move easily. In a gymnasium, some schools require a pair of shoes used only in the gym, besides indoor shoes.

For pool (swimming class) in the summer, students need to bring their swimwear and swimming cap by themselves. Students are expected to write their names on their belonging. Please ask at the school for details.



6 High School Specifics

(1) About classes

One class consists of up to 40 students and a homeroom teacher, and also a sub-homeroom teacher. As for the class, the teacher in charge is different in each subject.

*For the most part, each class has its own subjects of study, classroom/homeroom activities at beginning and ending of the day, and various school events. If there is anything you don't understand or any trouble, please consult the homeroom teacher.

(2) Subjects of study

In high schools, students study Japanese Language (contemporary, classics etc.), Social Studies (geography, history, etc.), Civics (contemporary society etc.), Mathematics, Science (physics, biology, chemistry, etc.), Health and Physical Education, Art (art, calligraphy, music, etc.), Foreign Language (English, Chinese, etc.), Home Information, etc. In schools with specialized subjects, students study other specialized fields.

*Additionally, there is time for comprehensive learning, special activities (homeroom activities, student association activities, school events) etc.

(3) Study supplies

Textbooks and supplementary readers (material collections and problem collections) for study are charged. All necessary materials must be provided by each family. Some subjects, such as art, may require tools for individual use.



(4) Health Check-up

In Japanese schools, health check-ups are done in the school. There are various kinds of checkups.

- Health investigation (to examine the medical history and present health condition)
 - *Shincho* (height), *Taiju* (weight of body), *Zako* (height when sitting), *Naika* (internal medicine - condition in stomach), *Ganka* (ophthalmology - whether eyes are healthy or not), *Jibika* (otolaryngology - whether the ear and the nose are healthy or not), *Shika* (dentistry - whether teeth are healthy or not), *Shiryoku* (eyesight - how far is seen), *Chouryoku* (hearing - whether sound is heard or not)
- Tuberculosis medical examination (the tuberculin reaction inspection)

For students who did not take this examination in elementary or junior high school.
- Physical examination of heart (electrocardiogram inspection)

This is to check whether the function of heart is normal.

• **Urine test (inspection of urine)**

This is to check whether there is an abnormality in the urine. It examines whether there is blood sugar or protein in the urine.

*Additionally, check-ups might be done before swimming classes, before running races or mountain climbing, and before school excursions etc. Also, parasite inspection might be done before setting up stalls at cultural festivals etc.

(5) Term tests

In high schools, there are about 5 term tests (mid term exams, final exam) per year. In some subjects, there are only 1 or 2 tests per term, or evaluation is made by judging from students' participation in class, without tests. The testing period continues for 3 to 5 days. Besides term tests, homework test and proficiency test are held in some schools. Please ask teachers at school for details.

(6) Report card

Result of the student's school study (grades) and other factors in the student's school life (number of days of attendance and absence etc.) are written on a report card. Students receive their report card on the day of closing ceremony, and after showing it to their guardians, they hand it to the classroom teacher



V. Other Schools

Besides the high schools, there are technical colleges where students receive education to become specialized technical experts, special training colleges where students receive practical, vocational education and specialized technical education, and miscellaneous schools.

VI. Universities and Community Colleges

1 Universities and community colleges

(1) **What are universities and community colleges?**

“*Daigaku*” (universities) are schools for students who have graduated from senior high school. There are also “*Tanki Daigaku*” (community colleges).

There are three types of universities and community colleges: national schools managed by the state; public schools managed by prefectures and cities; and private schools managed by school foundations. Most universities and community colleges are private schools. The study period is 4 years in universities, 2 or 3 years in colleges. “*Tanki Daigaku*” (community colleges) are generally called “*Tandai*.”

(2) **How to enter**

Though it is necessary to take an entrance exam to enter a university or college, many universities have a recommendation system. Tuition and eligibility for entrance vary according to schools, so please inquire at the universities.

(3) **Entrance examination**

The entrance examination of national and public universities is divided into two times; the first “center examination” that all applicants must take, and a 2nd examination that is held by each school. For the entrance examination of private universities, subjects of examination and schedule vary according to schools.

2 Examinations for Privately-Financed International Students

(1) **Privately-financed international students**

“*Nihongo Noryoku Shiken*” (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) and “*Nihon Ryugaku Shiken*” (Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students) are examinations taken at private expense necessary for students from abroad to take university entrance examinations. Which examination is required depends on universities. Please inquire at each university.

(2) **Japanese Language Proficiency Test**

This is an examination conducted in Japan and abroad for measuring a person’s proficiency of the Japanese language and accrediting it. The examination is, in principle, for those whose native language is not Japanese. The examination is divided into 4 levels, level 1 (1 *kyu*—the highest) to level 4 (4 *kyu*). Many universities and colleges require the first or the second level as a reference of the admissions process for students from abroad at private expense.

(3) **Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students**

Though subjects of the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students are Japanese Language, Science (physics, science, biology), General Knowledge and Mathematics, applicants take the examination selecting subjects of examination specified by each university in Japan. The exam can be taken in either Japanese or English, and applicants can choose the language when applying. However, the Japanese Language subject exam is only in Japanese.

VII. International Schools

There are international schools in Japan where classes are offered in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese and other languages. Many international schools are classified as 'Miscellaneous Schools' (*Kakushu Gakko*) according to the Japanese School Education Law (*Gakko Kyoiku Ho*). Some Japanese universities do not allow students who have graduated from international schools to take their entrance examinations.



VIII. Support

In Japan, there are a schooling support systems and a scholarships for children of families with financial difficulties.

1 Schooling Support

There is a schooling support system for guardians of children attending elementary and junior high schools who have difficulty having their children attend school, which provide them with support for the necessary expenses to attend school. If you have difficulty paying for study materials, school trip expenses and school meals, you should consult the school or the board of education. However, there is an income limitation to receive the support.

For details, please enquire at your city, town or village office where you have made your alien registration.

2 Scholarships

(1) Scholarships for high school students

There is a prefectural scholarship loan system for students attending high school or special training school (advanced course) who have difficulties attending due to economical reasons, in spite of their desire for study. For specific content such as conditions to receive scholarship loans and amount of loan, please enquire at the school where you attend.

(2) Scholarship for students of community colleges, special training colleges, universities, etc.

The Japan Student Services Organization (*Nihon Gakusei Shien Kikou*) offers special scholarships for students of community colleges, special training colleges, or universities. The daily amount of loan depends on student's conditions. Also, there are 2 types of loan: interest-free, and low-interest.

For details, please enquire at the school where you attend.

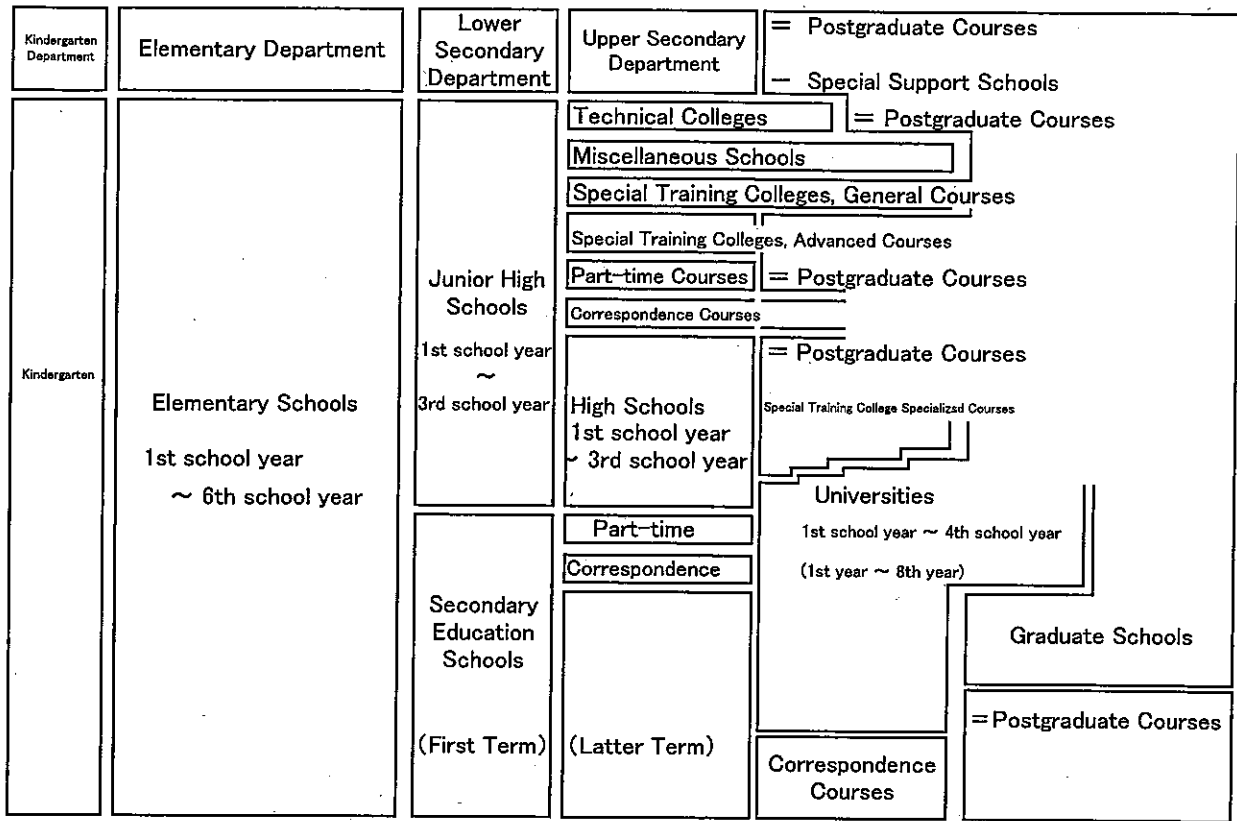
(3) Scholarship for international students

Scholarship systems for students from abroad are offered by the Japanese government, the Japan Student Services Organization, local governments and international associations. The list of these systems can be found under "Scholarships for International Students in Japan Pamphlet" (*Nihon Ryugaku Shogakukin Pamfuretto*) yearly issued by the Japan Student Services Organization.

http://www.jasso.go.jp/study_j/scholarships_sfisij.html

The Japanese School System

Age 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 School year 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 4



Reference: The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology "Guidbook for Entering School April, 2005"

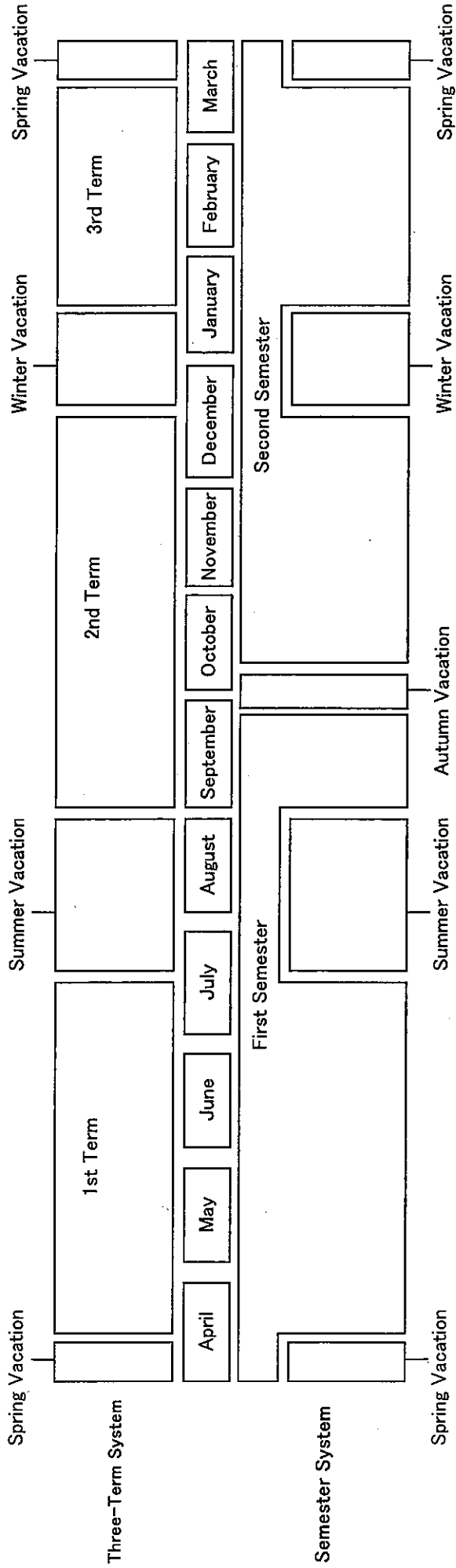
Yearly Educational Expenses per person for Kindergarten, Elementary School, Junior High School, and High School

(unit: yen)

Classification	Kindergarten		Elementary	Junior High School		High School (Full-time)	
	Public	Private	Public	Public	Private	Public	Private
Amount	238,176	509,419	314,161	468,773	1,274,766	516,331	1,034,689

Reference: The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology "Report about Children's Educational expenses 2004"

Term System (Example)



<References>

- Osaka Prefectural Board of Education, Cities, Towns, and Villages Education Room, Children and Students Support Division
(*Osaka-fu Kyoiku-iinkai Jimukyoku, Shi-cho-son Kyoiku-shitu, Jido Shien-ka*)
“Education Support Program for Returnees and Foreign Students”
<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kyoisityoson/jidoshien/shugaku/>

- Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)
(*Zaidan Hojin Jichitai Kokusaika Kyokai*)
“Multilingual Guide to Living in Japan” (*Tagengo Seikatu Joho*)
<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/index.html>

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
(*Monbu-kagaku-sho*)
“Guide to start school”
(*Shugaku Guidebook*)
http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shotou/clarinet/003/001.htm#a09

Guidebook for Entering School

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URL:http://www.pref.yamanashi.jp/global_net/index.jsp

URL:<http://www.pref.yamanashi.jp/barrier/html/kokusai/index.html>

