

Welcome to the Yokohama School System

英語

Yokohama Edition

III For Parents and Guardians

~ School Life in Yokohama ~



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Yokohama Board of Education

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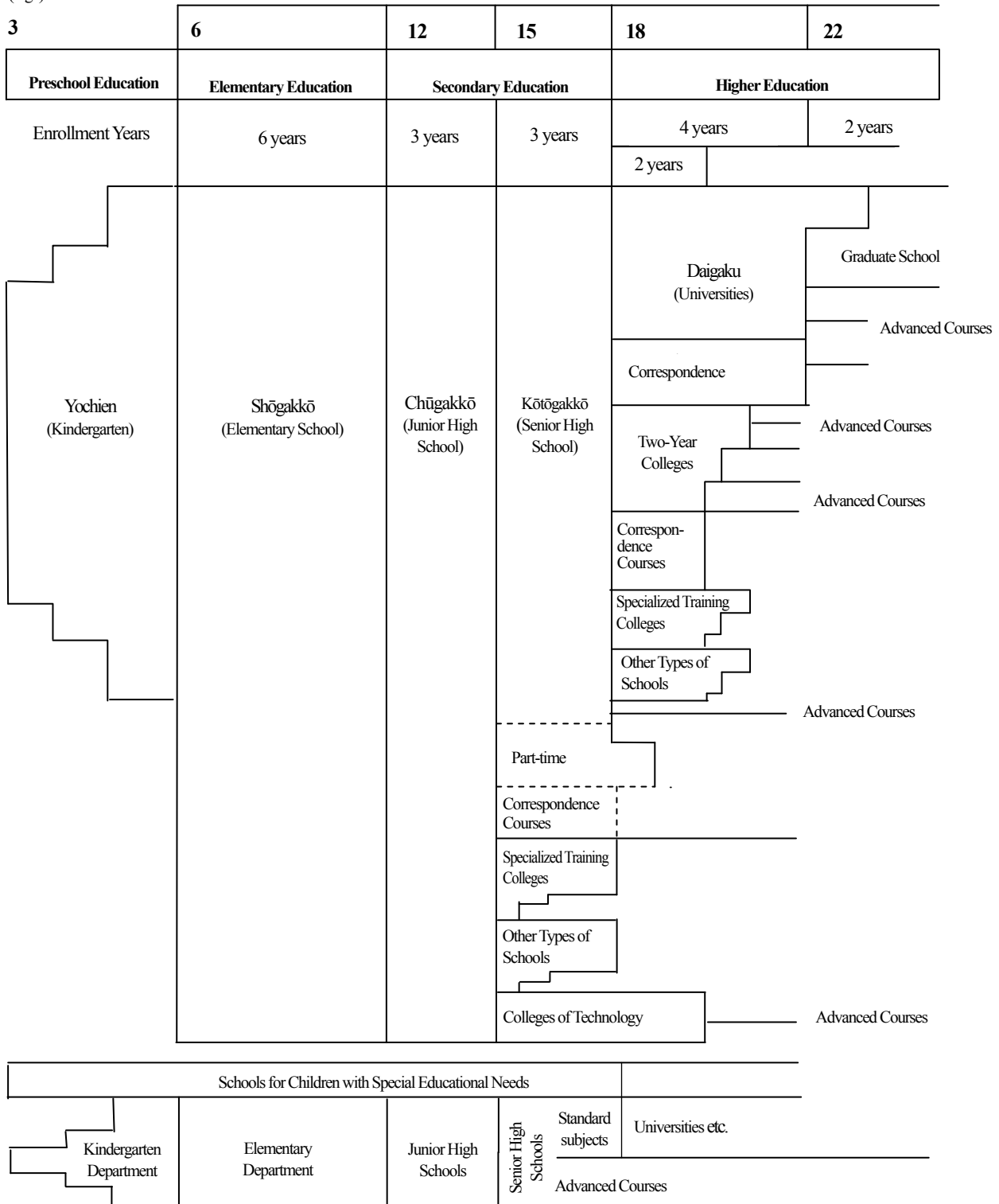
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I. School System

Japanese School System Chart

(Age)



I-1 Types of Schools

Japan has kindergartens (nursery schools), elementary schools, junior and senior high schools, universities, etc. In addition, while there are differences between national, public and private schools, the basic educational content is nearly identical.

I-2 Compulsory Education

Compulsory education includes six years of elementary school (age 6 to 12) and three years of junior high school (age 12 to 15). All children age 6 to 15 are required to attend school.

Children enter elementary school in the April following their 6th birthday and receive six years of education. After graduating from elementary school, they enter junior high school and receive education there for three years.

Children are referred to as *jidō* (schoolchildren) in elementary school and *seito* (students) in junior high school.

Tuition is free in public elementary and junior high schools. In addition, there are special schools as well as special classes in most public elementary and junior high schools to support children with disabilities and other children with special educational needs.

I-3 Education for Foreign Students

Foreign residents living in Japan who are of a corresponding school age may enroll in Japanese schools.

In Japanese schools, a student's school year (grade) is determined by their age (children born between April 2 and April 1 of the following year will be in the same grade). Foreign students will generally enter a grade according to their age. However, because Japanese school years begin in April, the grade may be different than that in the foreign student's home country.

I-4 Transfer Admission Procedures for Elementary and Junior High Schools in Yokohama

The parent or guardian first goes to the ward office, where they will complete resident registration based on their resident card*. There they must tell the ward office staff that their child wishes to enroll in a school.

A. For foreign residents from countries other than South Korea and North Korea:

- You will be given a “*Gaikokujin Shūgaku Shinseisho*” (Foreign Resident School Admission Application Form) or “*Shūgaku Annai*” (Enrollment Guide, only given to new applicants and not transfer students). Fill in the required information and visit the specified elementary or junior high school to have it signed by the principal.
- Submit the signed “*Gaikokujin Shūgaku Shinseisho*” (Foreign Resident School Admission Application Form) at the ward office.

B. For foreign residents from South Korea or North Korea:

- You will be given a “*Gaikokujin Shūgaku Shinseisho*” (Foreign Resident School Admission Application Form) or “*Shūgaku Annai*” (Enrollment Guide). Fill in the required information and submit it at the ward office.

For both A and B, when you receive the “*Gaikokujin Jidō-seito Nyūgaku Kyokashō*” (School Entrance Permission Form for Foreign Students) in the mail several days later, confirm the school name and location written therein. (In some cases, the “*Gaikokujin Jidō-seito Nyūgaku Kyokashō*” (School Entrance Permission Form for Foreign Students) will be issued immediately upon submission of the application form.)

A parent or guardian then takes the “*Gaikokujin Jidō-seito Nyūgaku Kyokashō*” (School Entrance Permission Form for Foreign Students) with them and goes to the specified school with their child. At the school, parents / guardians are asked to discuss future school-related activities with the teacher(s).

* Individuals without resident cards may also enroll in schools. Please inquire at the ward office for more information.

I-5 Required Items for Procedures at the School

When you go to the specified school to carry out required procedures, please bring any school-related documents you have from your home country with you (certificate of enrollment, transcripts, etc.).

The following topics will be discussed for the sake of the student's upcoming school life. If the parent or guardian cannot understand Japanese well, they should make sure to bring along a person who can interpret (if this is impossible, please inform the school in advance of the date and time of your visit, and they will arrange for an interpreter).

- Education received before entering the school
- Intended period of stay
- Grade in home country (number of years of schooling)
- Amount of Japanese usage by student and student's family
- Names of student and their family members
- Birthday
- Current place of residence
- Family make-up
- Method of contact (emergency contact, work contact, interpreter contact, etc.)
- Method of going to and from school
- Condition of health (past illnesses, eyesight, hearing, chronic diseases, dietary needs, allergies, etc.)

I-6 Procedures for Transferring within Yokohama Public Schools

In general during the compulsory education period at public schools, students attend the school in their school district (schools are decided based on the student's place of residence).

However, if the period until the student's sixth-year graduation from elementary school or third-year graduation from junior high school is short, or in other applicable cases, attendance at a certain school may be approved before a moving date, so please consult with the relevant school(s) in advance. You can obtain a "Permission to Attend a School Outside of the School District" form (*Gakku-gai Tsūgaku Kyōkashō*) after receiving approval from the school principal: bring this form to the ward office where you completed resident registration to obtain permission.

In cases where a student must change schools due to a change of residence within Japan, the parent or guardian should submit a "*Tenshutsu Todoke*" form (Moving-Out Notification, available at the ward office) to the ward office of their current place of residence and receive a "*Tenshutsu Shōmeisho*" form (Moving-Out Certification), and also submit a "*Tengaku Todoke*" form (Transfer Notification, available at the school) to the current school and receive a "*Zaigaku Shōmeisho*" (Certificate of Enrollment) and *Kyōka-yō Toshō Kyūyo Shōmeisho* form showing proof that the student has received textbooks. School records and other documents related to the child will be sent from the previous school to the new school.

When moving to a different municipality, submit the "*Tenshutsu Shōmeisho*" form Moving-Out Certification form to the local municipal government office and complete a "*Ten'nyū Todoke*" form (Moving-In Notification, available at the ward office). A "*Ten'nyūgaku Tsūchisho*" form (Transfer Notification) or "*Nyūgaku Kyōkashō*" form (Entrance Permission) for the school to be transferred to will also be issued. Please go the appointed school and submit the "*Zaigaku Shōmeisho*" (Certificate of Enrollment) and *Kyōka-yō Toshō Kyūyo Shōmeisho* from the previous school.

Japanese government offices and schools make prompt, precise contact with other municipalities, so please contact the proper ward office or school in advance before transferring schools.

Please avoid withdrawing from one school and then enrolling in another municipality's school separately. In most cases, transfer procedures can be simplified by working with the school.

II. Admission of Students Requiring Assistance with Japanese Language

II-1 *Nihongo Kyōshitsu* (Japanese Classes)

Yokohamashi Nihongo Kyōshitsu (Yokohama Public Japanese language classes) are conducted for students in Yokohama Public elementary and junior high schools who require assistance with beginner-level Japanese.

- ◆ Instruction through special classes: Students attend one of four special combined classes throughout the city (mostly oriented toward junior high school students).
- ◆ Instructor dispatch: Instructors visit schools that students are attending and provide assistance (mostly oriented toward elementary school students).

II-2 *Kokusai Kyōshitsu* (International Classes)

When entering a public elementary or junior high school in Yokohama, instruction for children is carried out primarily at the school they have enrolled in. In schools with five or more foreign-national students who require instruction in Japanese language, *Kokusai Kyōshitsu* (international classes) are established and an assigned teaching staff member provides guidance for such students regarding Japanese language, school courses and student life.

II-3 Native-Language Volunteer Support

Volunteers who speak the child's native language can provide in-school assistance during the initial period of adaptation for children who have recently arrived in Japan. The native-language supporter stays by the child's side and supports them as they become accustomed to school life. If you require such a supporter, please consult with the school. (In special learning support and promotion schools, native-language supporters can provide learning support services including interpretation of classroom content.)

II-4 Support for Parents and Guardians

Volunteer school interpreters can be requested for the sake of students' parents or guardians for municipal elementary and junior high school transfer explanations, individual consultations, enrollment informational meetings, home visits and other such situations. If you require such a volunteer, make sure to consult with the school in advance.



III. Student Life in Yokohama

III-1 School Year and Holidays

The school year starts in April and ends in March of the following year. At many of the schools in Yokohama, the year is divided into two semesters: the period from April 1 to the second Monday in October comprises the first semester, and the period from the day following the second Monday in October to March 31 comprises the second semester. Some schools divide the school year into three terms separated by summer break and winter break.

School holidays include Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, the day commemorating the opening of Yokohama's port (June 2), spring break (March 26 to April 4), summer break (July 21 to August 27) and winter break (December 26 to January 6). Spring, summer and winter breaks may be shorter depending on the school.

III-2 Times for Arriving and Leaving School

Although starting times vary slightly by school, students are directed to be in the classroom 10 – 30 minutes before the start of classes. Students who are not in class by the starting time are considered late. If your child will be late, cannot come to school because of illness, or will be absent for some other reason, make sure to contact the school via telephone or the correspondence notebook (*Renraku-chō*). The end of the school day differs depending on the day. As you will see when you look at the schedule, times differ on days when school events are held; the school will inform you of such cases in advance.

If you are worried because your child has not come home on time, please contact the school.

III-3 Routes to School and Traveling to School as a Group (Elementary School Only)

In Japanese schools, elementary school students must travel to school along a specified street route. This is known as the *Tsūgaku-ro* (route for children going to school), and it is the safest possible route specified by the school.

Please instruct your children to travel to school using this route.

In addition, certain schools have students to school together as a group (*Shūdan Tōkō*).

This practice, known as *Shūdan Tōkō*, is when students from each area gather together and travel to school as a group for the sake of safety. Please confirm the meeting place, time and other details, and make sure your child arrives at the group meeting place on time.



III-4 Lunch (*Kyūshoku* (School Meals) and *Bentō* (Packed Lunches))

Kyūshoku (School meals) are provided at elementary schools in Yokohama from Monday to Friday. However, school lunches may not be available on days near the start and end of the semester/term, on days when special events are held, and on certain other days. The school will inform you of such exceptions in advance. Preparation of lunches and clean-up are carried out in alternating shifts by students.

If your child cannot eat certain foods for religious, health-related or other reasons, please consult with the school.

After students enter junior high school, they bring *Bentō* (packed lunches) from home (certain schools also sell lunch sets). School lunches are not available. Please prepare nutritional meals for your child to bring to school.

III-5 *Seisō* (Cleaning)

Students and their teachers carry out cleaning of classrooms, stairways, hallways, toilets and so forth together on a daily basis.

This is done as part of students' educational activities so that they will learn to take responsibility for cleaning their own educational spaces.

III-6 Example of a Yokohama Public Elementary / Junior High School's Daily Schedule (Times May Vary Slightly by School)

The number of classes students have, the time they leave school each day and other such details vary according to the day of the week, the grade, etc. In the 6th year of elementary school and during junior high school, one school day usually consists of five or six periods (one period is usually 45 minutes in elementary schools and 50 minutes in junior high schools).

In elementary school, the class teacher is in charge of most regular education subjects.

In junior high school, different teachers are assigned to different subjects.



[Elementary School Example]

Students arrive at school	8:10 ~ 8:30
Morning meeting	8:30 ~ 8:45
1st period	8:50 ~ 9:35
2nd period	9:40 ~ 10:25
Break	10:25 ~ 10:45
3rd period	10:45 ~ 11:30
4th period	11:35 ~ 12:20
School meals	12:20 ~ 13:05
Afternoon break	13:05 ~ 13:20
Cleaning	13:25 ~ 13:40
5th period	13:45 ~ 14:30
6th period	14:35 ~ 15:20
Wrap-up meeting	15:20 ~ 15:30
Return home	15:30

[Junior High School Example]

Pre-class bell	8:35
Start of classes	8:40
Class activities	8:40 ~ 8:50
1st period	8:50 ~ 9:40
2nd period	9:50 ~ 10:40
3rd period	10:50 ~ 11:40
4th period	11:50 ~ 12:40
Lunch / afternoon break	12:45 ~ 13:25
Pre-class bell	13:25
5th period	13:30 ~ 14:20
6th period	14:30 ~ 15:20
Short homeroom period	15:20 ~ 15:30
Cleaning	15:30 ~ 15:50
Club activities, student council activities	15:50 ~
Return home	17:00 ~ 18:30



III-7 Health and Safety

The school takes every precaution to protect children's health and safety. In addition, students are checked yearly by school physicians as stipulated by law.

◆ Health Center (*Hoken Shitsu*)

If a student becomes sick or injured, the school nurse, the teacher in charge or another relevant staff member administers first-aid in the health center (*hoken shitsu*) and contacts the student's parent or guardian. If the student needs to be examined at a hospital, the staff member contacts the student's home and takes them to the hospital. In addition, the school nurse monitors students' health, provides counseling and carries out other such tasks.

◆ Regular Health Checks (*Teiki Kenkō Shindan*)

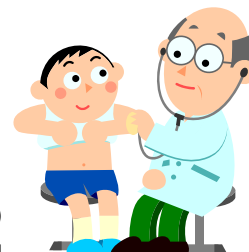
Various health checks are carried out to monitor the condition of students' health. Based on the results, treatment recommendations, health guidance and so forth are provided for parents or guardians.

- Examinations at school:

Height, weight, sitting height, eyesight, hearing, electro-cardiogram, tuberculosis, urinalysis, parasites, etc. (depending on student grade level, certain examinations may not be carried out)

- Examinations by school physicians:

Internal-medicine-related examinations, eyesight examinations, ear / nose / throat examinations, dental examinations



◆ Japan Sport Council Mutual Aid Accident / Injury Insurance (*Saigai Kyōsai Kyūfu*)

In case of accident or injury at school, the Japan Sport Council provides a mutual aid accident/injury insurance (*saigai kyōsai kyūfu*) system. Parents or guardians pay part of the premium.

◆ Warnings, Disasters and Other Emergency Responses

If an official storm warning (*Bōfū Kēhō* (strong winds) or *Ōyuki Kēhō* (heavy snow)) has been issued for Kanagawa Prefecture or eastern Kanagawa Prefecture by 7:00 a.m., **school closures** will be implemented. Schools will not contact students' families.

If a strong wind or heavy snow warning is issued while students are at school, the principal will make a decision to take one of the following measures based on the current situation, and each student's family will be contacted.

- **Return home in groups**..... Students will divide into groups based on their return routes, and staff members will accompany them home.
- **Early dismissal**..... Students will return home earlier than usual.
- **Parent/guardian pick-up at school**..... Students' parents / guardians will come to the school to pick up their child.

If an earthquake rated as “Strong 5” (*5-kyō*) or greater on the Japanese seismic intensity scale occurs, **parents / guardians must come and pick up their children at school.**

◆ Emergency Drills

These drills help students memorize escape routes, procedures and other measures to enable them to calmly escape or take refuge together in class units in the case of a sudden earthquake, fire, suspicious intruder or any other such situation while they are at school. Many schools also carry out **child pick-up drills** following emergency drills, during which parents and guardians come to the school to pick up their children.

IV. School Activities and Events

Various school activities and events are held throughout the year, including activities and events where parents / guardians are asked to attend, activities and events that require additional costs, etc. Parents / guardians will be notified of details by the school in advance. The activities and events held at each school and for each grade may differ, but in general they include those listed in the following section.



IV-1 Elementary School Activities and Events

[Elementary school (example)] Timing and details of activities / events may vary by school.

Apr.	Entrance ceremony Field trip Class observation / class parent–teacher conferences	Oct.	Sports day Drama and music appreciation Field trip
May	Home visits		School trips
June	Overnight-stay learning experience	Nov.	Local visit
July	Class parent–teacher conferences Open swimming pool use (during summer break)	Dec.	Individual meetings
		Jan.	Ball sport competitions
		Feb.	Class observation
Sep.	Class observation / class parent–teacher conferences	Mar.	Graduation ceremony

Graduation ceremony



Explanations

<i>Ensoku</i> (Field trips):	Day trips away from the school so students can learn about nature, visit historical and famous sites, etc.
<i>Shakai Kengaku</i> (Local visits):	Tours of local facilities so students can obtain knowledge relevant to society. Time spent varies by grade.
<i>Kojin Mendan</i> (Individual meetings):	Teachers in charge of each student talk with the children’s parents or guardians individually regarding the status of the child’s studies, activities and so forth. This takes place at the school.
<i>Gakkyū Kondankai</i> (Class parent-teacher Conferences):	Teachers in charge talk with students’ parents and guardians about educational guidance, student life and other factors concerning their children.
<i>Katei Hōmon</i> (Home visits):	The student’s teacher visits the child’s home and discusses the student’s life at home.
<i>Jugyō Sankan</i> (Class observation):	Children’s parents / guardians come to observe their children in a classroom setting.
<i>Shukuhaku Taiken Gakushū</i> (Overnight-stay learning Experiences):	Students stay overnight with their schoolmates and learn about local nature, culture and other aspects they cannot experience at school, while deepening ties with friends through cooperative activities.
<i>Kyūgi Taikai</i> (Ball sport competitions):	Students take part in soccer, volleyball, basketball and other ball sport competitions.
<i>Engeki Kanshō,</i> <i>Ongaku Kanshō</i> (Drama and music Appreciation):	Students enrich their minds by viewing stage dramas, listening to music, etc.
<i>Undō Kai</i> (Sports day):	Children compete and perform in groups to learn the joy of exercise. Parents and guardians come to watch and cheer for their children.
<i>Shūgaku Ryokō</i> (School trips):	Students go on overnight or two-night trips once they have reached the 6th grade. Along with learning about the culture and feel of the local region they visit, students learn about rules and manners through group activities and deepen exchanges with their teachers and friends.

IV-2 Junior High School Activities and Events

[Junior high school (example)] Timing and details of activities / events may vary by school.

Apr.	Entrance ceremony Class observation / class parent-teacher conferences	Sep.	Class observation / class parent-teacher conferences
May	Home visits Overnight-stay learning experience (outdoor education)	Oct.	Athletics festival (sports competitions) Field trip
June	Ball sport competitions School trip Class observation	Nov.	Cultural festival Class observation
July	Three-person meetings Open swimming pool use (during summer break)	Dec.	Individual meetings
		Jan.	<i>Hyakunin-isshu</i> competition
		Feb.	Ball sport competitions
		Mar.	Class observation / class parent-teacher conferences Graduation ceremony

Athletic Festival



Ensoku

(Field trips):

Day trips away from the school so students can learn about nature, visit historical and famous sites, etc.

Sansha Mendan

(Three-person meetings):

Teachers in charge of each student meet individually with the student and their parent or guardian to discuss the status of the child's studies, activities and so forth. This takes place at the school.

Gakkyū Kondankai

(Class parent-teacher conferences):

Teachers in charge talk with students' parents and guardians about educational guidance, student life and other factors concerning their children.

Katei Hōmon

(Home visits):

The student's teacher visits the child's home and discusses the student's life at home.

Jugyō Sankan

(Class observation):

Children's parents / guardians come to observe their children in a classroom setting.

Shukuhaku Taiken Gakushū

**(Overnight-stay learning experience)
(Shizen Kyōshitsu (outdoor education)):**

Students spend the night in a natural setting and learn to work with each other (they usually stay for two to three nights).

Kyūgi Taikai

(Ball sport competitions):

Students take part in soccer, volleyball, basketball and other ball sport competitions.

Taiiku Sai (Athletics festival)

(Taiiku Taikai (sports competitions)):

Students compete and perform in athletics for a day to learn the joy of exercise.

Shūgaku Ryokō

(School trips):

A trip taken by 3rd-year students to deepen exchanges with their teachers and friends through group activities (many students visit places such as Nara and Kyoto).

Bunka Sai

(Cultural festival):

Various events are held by students, during which they present the results of their clubs' activities and so forth.

Hyakunin-isshu Taikai

(Hyakunin-isshu competition):

A traditional Japanese competition involving one hundred famous poems.

Shokugyō Taiken Gakushū

(Job shadowing):

Students gain hands-on work experience in companies and shops, discuss jobs with the staff, etc. (may last one day or several days).

V. Educational Content

V-1 Items to Bring to School

1. Items Required Initially



School bag



School backpack



Indoor slippers



Bag for indoor slippers



Red/white reversible cap



P.E. clothes



Bag for P.E. clothes



Disaster hood



Correspondence notebook(*renraku-cho*)



Correspondence notebook case



Notebooks



Pencil case



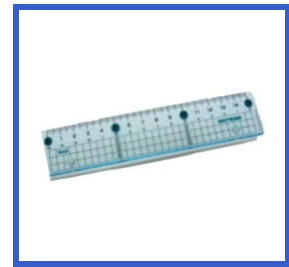
Pencils



Eraser



Red pencils



Ruler



Scissors



Paste (glue)



Dust cloths



Mask

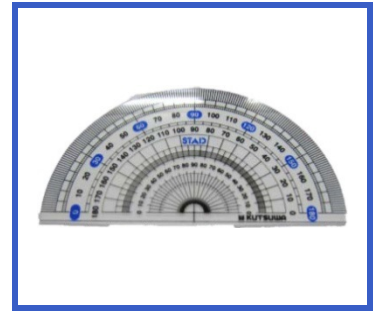
2. Items That are Needed in Certain Cases



Stapler



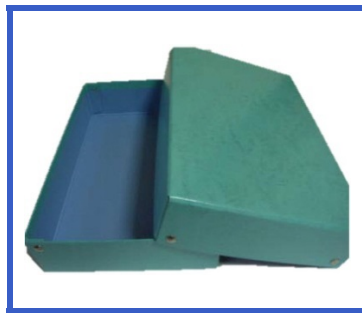
Compass (drawing tool)



Protractor



Shitajiki sheet to place
under paper



Toolbox



Crayons



Colored pencils



Handkerchief /
small towel



Tissues



Lunchbox set



Lunchbox bag



Jūdō uniform (*jūdōgi*)

3. Items Needed for Specific School Subjects



Melodica air tube



Recorder



Alto recorder



Paint set



Calligraphy tools



Sewing set



Swimwear



Swimming cap



Bath towel



Goggles



Apron



Bandanna

4. Items to Bring on Field Trips and Overnight-Stay Learning Experiences



Backpack



Knapsack



Canteen / thermos



Change(s) of clothing



Sneakers



Ground sheet



Winter clothing



Rain gear



Cotton work gloves



Toothbrush and toothpaste set



Bath towel



Towel

V-2 Elementary School Subjects

1st- and 2nd-year students: Japanese, math, life studies, music, drawing and crafts, P.E.

3rd- and 4th-year students: Japanese, social studies, math, science, music, drawing and crafts, P.E.

5th- and 6th-year students: Japanese, social studies, math, science, music, drawing and crafts, home economics, P.E.

Additional subjects / activities include moral education, integrated studies, YICA (foreign language activities), class activities, student council, club activities (4th-year students and older), and school activities and events.

<i>Kokugo</i> (Japanese)	Cultivates a comprehension of Japanese and the ability to express oneself, as well as thinking and imaginative capabilities and a feel for the language.
<i>Shakai</i> (Social Studies)	Students study social norms needed for living in society and obtain an understanding of Japan and its history.
<i>Sansū</i> (Math)	Teaches students basic knowledge and skills pertaining to quantities and shapes, and enables them to apply these in their daily lives.
<i>Rika</i> (Science)	In addition to cultivating a fondness of and a love for nature, observation and experimentation provide students with a foundation for looking at and thinking about things scientifically.
<i>Seikatsu</i> (Life Studies)	Students think about society and nature around them and acquire the habits and skills necessary for their lives.
<i>Ongaku</i> (Music)	Students learn the basics of music by singing songs, playing musical instruments, listening to music, etc.
<i>Zuga Kōsaku</i> (Drawing and Crafts)	Cultivates the ability to engage in creative activities through drawing pictures, creating artwork, viewing art, etc.
<i>Katei</i> (Home Economics)	Students acquire fundamental knowledge and skills needed for daily life at home through activities related to the basics of food, clothing and shelter.
<i>Taiiku</i> (Physical Education (P.E.))	Aims to promote good health by familiarizing students with track-and-field competition, swimming, ball sports, gymnastics and other forms of exercise.
<i>YICA (Gaikokugo Katsudō</i> (Foreign Language Activities))	Helps students become more used to the English language and encourages them to take a proactive stance regarding communication in English.
<i>Kokusai Rikai Kyōshitsu</i> (International Understanding)	Hands on instruction about foreign cultures and customs, taught in English.
<i>Sōgōteki na Gakushū no Jikan</i> (Integrated Studies)	Students choose their own challenges, learn and think on their own and make independent decisions to enhance their problem-solving capabilities.
<i>Dōtoku</i> (Moral Education)	Based on a mindset of respect toward other people, cultivates self-awareness of the way one lives as well as the power to take action based on that mindset.
<i>Gakkyū Katsudō</i> (Class Activities)	Students learn to think of themselves as members of the class and take responsibility for their actions.
<i>Jidōkai Katsudō</i> (Student Council)	Students carry out activities independently to improve student life.
<i>Club Katsudō</i> (Club Activities)	Schoolchildren with similar hobbies and interests gather together and independently engage in activities (athletic and cultural clubs).

V-3 Junior High School Subjects

Junior high school subjects and activities include Japanese, social studies, math, science, music, art, health and physical education, domestic science, foreign language (English) and integrated studies.

Additional subjects / activities include moral education, class activities, club activities, etc.

<i>Kokugo</i> (Japanese)	Cultivates in students a comprehension of Japanese and the ability to express themselves, as well as thinking and imaginative capabilities and a feel for the language.
<i>Shakai</i> (Social Studies)	Students study social norms needed for living in society and obtain an understanding of Japanese and world geography, history, etc.
<i>Sūgaku</i> (Math)	Students deepen their understanding of the fundamental principles and rules behind quantities and shapes and learn to apply them.
<i>Rika</i> (Science)	Students deepen their interest in nature and cultivate the ability to look at and think about things scientifically through observation and experimentation.
<i>Ongaku</i> (Music)	Enhances student musicianship through singing of songs, playing of musical instruments, listening to music, etc.
<i>Bijutsu</i> (Art)	Cultivates the ability to engage in creative activities through drawing pictures, creating artwork, viewing art, etc.
<i>Sōgōteki na Gakushū no Jikan</i> (Integrated Studies)	Students choose their own challenges, learn and think on their own and make independent decisions to enhance their problem-solving capabilities.
<i>Hoken Taiiku</i> (Health and Physical Education)	Aims to promote good health by familiarizing students with track-and-field competition, swimming, ball sports, gymnastics and other forms of exercise.
<i>Gijutsu Katei</i> (Domestic Science)	Students acquire knowledge and skills necessary for their lives and learn about the relationship between technology (including computers, etc.) and factors such as life at home and life in society. Students also acquire fundamental knowledge and skills needed for daily life at home through activities related to the basics of food, clothing and shelter.
<i>Gaikokugo</i> (Foreign Language) (Eigo (English))	Cultivates fundamental foreign-language comprehension and expressive capabilities.
<i>Dōtoku</i> (Moral Education)	Based on a mindset of respect toward other people, cultivates self-awareness of the way one lives as well as the power to take action based on that mindset.
<i>Gakkyū Katsudō</i> (Class Activities)	Students learn to think of themselves as members of the class and take responsibility for their actions.
<i>Seitokai Katsudō</i> (Student Council)	Students carry out activities independently to improve student life.

V-4 *Ayumi / Renraku-hyō* (Student Evaluations)

Although the results of students' studies, various school activities and other topics are explained by students' teachers at individual and three-person meetings, *Ayumi / Renraku-hyō* (student evaluations) are also sent by the students' teachers at the end of the each semester / term. Although the name of the *Ayumi / Renraku-hyō* as well as its specific format and items included therein may vary by school, it will contain personal assessments of the student in each subject, the actual state of their learning activities, the participation in school activities and various other activities, etc.

VI. Bukatsudō (Club Activities)

Bukatsudō (Club activities) are a unique aspect of student life at junior high school.

Students involved in club activities become members of groups engaged in athletic or cultural activities, which take place after school or on school holidays under the supervision of a coach or adviser. Many students decide on their own to join club activities. Transportation costs apply when students must travel to other schools for games / matches.

In some cases, students who join clubs will participate in morning practice, games / matches, overnight stays, etc. In some cases, equipment, uniforms and other required items must be purchased individually. Some clubs collect dues from members.

The following types of clubs are available. These may vary depending on the school, so please ask a teacher for details.

☆ Athletic Clubs

Baseball, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis, Handball, Badminton,
Softball, Track and field, Swimming, Table tennis, Gymnastics, Jūdō, Kendō

☆ Cultural Clubs

Drama, Concert band, Choir, Fine arts, Science, Social studies,
Calligraphy and flower arrangement, Tea ceremony, Book club, Gardening, *Go* (game)
Shōgi (Japanese chess), English, Computer, Guitar, Illustration

VII. Things That Parents and Guardians Should Understand About School

VII-1 Various School Expenses that Must Be Paid by Parents and Guardians

During the elementary and junior high school compulsory education period, admission fees, tuition and book costs are free at public schools. Aside from textbooks, other educational and supplementary educational materials, school supplies, standard school clothing, P.E. clothes, field trip costs, school lunches (elementary school only), school trip costs and other expenses must be paid for by parents / guardians.

Although methods and amounts of payment differ somewhat by school, be sure to pay by the designated day.

A financial aid system is in place for households that have a low level of income and thus have trouble paying the child's education fees; please consult with the school if you wish to utilize this system.

VII-2 Contact and Discussions with School Staff

Japanese schools provide opportunities for educational counseling in which parents / guardians and teachers talk about children's issues. Because topics such as bullying, failure to attend school and academic career guidance can be discussed, we encourage all parents and guardians to take advantage of these opportunities. When necessary, it may be useful to utilize an interpreter. The following such opportunities for educational counseling are available.

1. *Katei Hōmon* (Home Visits)

The teacher visits the child's home and discusses the child's life at school and at home. This is not available at all schools.

2. Parents / Guardians Meetings

Parents / guardians go to school to listen to the principal and / or talk with the class teacher. Topics often relate to issues common to all the children as a group rather than those of individual children.

3. *Kojin Mendan* (Individual Meetings) (*Sansha Mendan* (Three-Person Meetings))

These meetings normally take place between the class teacher, the child and the parent / guardian. (They are called Three-Person Meetings when they include the child, parent and teacher.) They provide good opportunities to talk about personal problems and concerns. The date for each individual meeting is arranged and communicated by the class teacher in advance. In addition, some schools may schedule such meetings to meet the parent's or guardian's schedule, and may arrange an interpreter for the parent or guardian.

VII-3 Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

A Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is an organization composed of students' parents / guardians and school staff which aims to support children's education, and provide a venue for exchange between PTA members, etc. Parents and guardians become members of the PTA when their child is enrolled in school, and they pay membership dues through the school. Under the leadership of a director chosen by the association's members, various committees are established and education-related activities, cultural and sports activities, and other such activities are held. Information is sent through the school regarding the various events and activities hosted by the PTA; we encourage all parents and guardians to actively participate in order to strengthen ties with other parents and guardians.

VII-4 Learning Japanese

Children will most likely be quick to learn how to carry on conversations in Japanese, but reading and writing (particularly pertaining to *kanji* characters) requires an immense amount of effort. It is also possible that, when children eventually become more skilled in Japanese, they may forget how to use their native language(s) well.

We ask all parents and guardians to make an effort at home so that children will not forget how to carry out conversations in their native language while they are learning Japanese.

VII-5 Things to Take Note of Regarding School Life

There are bound to be differences between Japanese schools and schools in your home country. Please provide guidance to your child / children regarding the following points so that they can enjoy their school life in Japan.

- Make sure to send your children off from home to school every day in high spirits so that they will come to school on time.
- Make sure your children do not bring food and drinks (juice, gum, candy and other sweets) and items not necessary for learning (toys, money, etc.) to school with them.
- Make sure your child knows not to leave school without permission once they have arrived.
- Make sure your child adheres to the school's rules regarding clothing, items to bring to school, etc.

- Although elementary schools normally don't have regulations for dress and items to be brought to school, students must change into exercise clothes during P.E. class.
- Many junior high schools designate their own standard school clothing (school uniforms) for students. Students in Japan use shoes that are easy to walk around, exercise and perform other physical activities in. Most schools require that students have separate outdoor and indoor shoes.
- Students are prohibited from entering the school without permission before or after school hours or on school holidays.

VIII. After-School Activities in Elementary Schools

Yokohama Public elementary schools provide places for children to spend time safely and comfortably after the school day has ended. Names, operating times, costs and other such details vary by operating person/group, school, area, etc. Activities are divided into three main types.

VIII-1 *Hōkago Kids Club*

This system enables children to play and spend time at their schools until 7:00 p.m. after school, on Saturdays, during long school breaks, etc.

Costs: [1] ¥500 annual fee (to be used for emergencies)

[2] Free before 5:00 p.m.

A participation fee will be charged after 5:00 p.m.

Application to join: apply directly at your school's *Hōkago Kids Club*

VIII-2 *Hamakko Fureai School*

Through this program, children can spend time playing at their school after school hours until 6:00 p.m. (until 7:00 p.m. at some schools). Dedicated staff play with the children.

Costs: [1] ¥500 annual fee (to be used for emergencies)

[2] No participation fee (except after 5:00 p.m. for certain schools' programs)

Application to join: apply directly at your school's *Hamakko Fureai School*

VIII-3 *Hōkago Jidō Club / Gakudō Hoiku (Children's After-School Club)*

Hōkago Jidō Clubs have been established in various places throughout the city for children (elementary school grades 1–3) whose parents are not home after school. These clubs enable children to pass their after-school hours safely and enjoyably.

After-school club fees vary by club.

Application to join: apply directly at the *Hōkago Jidō Club*

☆ **Contact Information:** Schoolchildren's After-School Education Section, Children and Youth Department
TEL: 671-4152 FAX: 663-1926

IX. Academic Paths

IX-1 Continuing from Elementary School to Junior High School

No special procedures are required for students scheduled to graduate from a Yokohama Public elementary school, as a “Notification of Junior High School to be Attended” (*Chūgakkō Shūgaku Tsūchi*)* will be mailed to you by the ward office in January. In addition, a “new student orientation” (*shin nyūsei setsumeikai*) will be held from January to March at the junior high school your child plans to enter. This orientation will inform you about the junior high school itself, preparations to make before enrollment, and other such details, so we ask that you attend. Information about new student orientations will be provided by the elementary school.

* The “Notification of Junior High School to be Attended” will not be sent to you if you do not have an official status of residence (*zairyū shikaku*). In this case, please inquire at the ward office if you wish to enroll your child in junior high school.

IX-2 Academic Options Following Junior High School

Students can seek employment or continue on to higher education after they have completed their period of compulsory education (after graduation from junior high school). As shown in the box below, there are various schools of higher education to choose from. It is important for teachers, parents/guardians and others involved to thoroughly discuss the paths that make the most of the student’s unique qualities so that the student can decide his or her own path.

1. The Following Kinds of Paths are Available

After Graduation from Junior High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Seek employment(2) Senior high school (full-time: 3 years; part-time: 3 ~ 4 years; correspondence: 3 years or more)(3) Specialized training college (term of study: 1 ~ 3 years) or other type of school(4) Technical college (term of study: 5 years)
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* In Kanagawa Prefecture, more than 97% of junior high school graduates continue on to higher education each year (data current as of the 2012 academic year).

* Most students choose one of the options shown in the box above, although other paths are also available.

* Limitations apply for certain options due to admission requirements, specific conditions and other such factors. Please confirm details with each individual institution.

2. About the Various Paths

(1) Seeking Employment

In Japan, individuals who have completed their compulsory education may seek employment. There are two main ways of searching for a job.

- A Applying at Hello Work (government employment offices) through the junior high school
 - Research work conditions and other details from companies that are currently hiring and consult with parents / guardians, classroom teachers, etc.
 - Go to visit workplaces that look interesting, decide on which job(s) to apply for, and take the employment test(s).
- B Finding work through an acquaintance
 - There are various situations in which an acquaintance will provide work, etc.

It is also possible to work while simultaneously completing a high school equivalency degree through a part-time school, correspondence school or other type of schooling. (However, be sure to thoroughly discuss this arrangement in advance with your employer to ensure that work will be finished at a time that permits school attendance.)

Hello Work staff will individually interview individuals who wish to pursue this type of path; inquire about that person's unique qualities, desires, etc.; and search for a workplace to meet their individual needs. However, the harsh reality is that not many companies are looking to hire junior high school graduates.

(2) Senior High School

[1] Types of High Schools

(a) School type by operator

Public (national, prefectural, municipal)	Private
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(b) School type by curriculum

(i) *Zennichisei* (Full-time) (grade-based / credit-based)

Just as in junior high school, students attend classes from morning until afternoon. Graduation requires three years of study.

(ii) *Teijisei* (Part-time) (grade-based / credit-based)

Classes are conducted from late afternoon / early evening to nighttime, with some schools offering afternoon classes. In general, graduation requires four years of study, but some schools operate based on a three-year system.

(iii) *Tsūshinsei* (Correspondence) (credit-based)

Correspondence school education is based around self-study using textbooks and other such learning materials. During their studies, students turn in reports and receive corrections back. Students attend school about twice per month to receive face-to-face education (schooling) at a school from a teacher, at which time they are taught about study methods, content, etc. Graduation requires three years or more of study. In addition, students of the prefectural Yokohama Shūyūkan High School attend on weekdays, where they receive detailed guidance and utilize IT as part of the learning process.

* Difference between grade-based and credit-based education systems:

In a grade-based system, students advance one grade (school year) at a time just as in junior high school.

In a credit-based system, students are not divided into grades (school years), but instead graduate once they have earned the required number of academic credits.

(c) School type by academic subjects studied (differences in areas studied)

(i) *Futsūka* (Standard subjects):

This is the most standard type of education, in which study revolves around common subjects including Japanese, social studies, science, English language, etc.

- *Futsūka Senmon Course* (Specialized study of standard subjects):

Standard subjects are studied with a special focus on sports, the arts, welfare, or another specific field(s).

(ii) *Senmon Gakka* (Specialized subjects):

Study revolves around acquisition of basic knowledge and skills related to agriculture, construction, commerce, marine products, home economics, nursing, welfare, math, P.E., international studies, international relations, international information studies, the arts, sports, or integrated industry.

(iii) *Sōgō Gakka* (Integrated course):

An academic course in which both standard and specialized subjects are studied in an integrated fashion.

[2] Continuing on to High School

(a) Selection of school entrants

At private high schools there are entrance examinations for selected candidates and standard entrance examinations. Private high schools conduct educational activities based on the spirit of the school's founder, the school's unique principles, etc. It is important to choose a school(s) after reading through school pamphlets, visiting schools, taking part in trial enrollments and taking other such measures to understand the unique character of each school, its classes and courses, etc.

Public schools carry out screening common to all schools (*Kyōtsū Senbatsu*), while part-time night schools and correspondence schools implement a second screening each year (*Teitsū Bunkatsu Senbatsu*). Screenings are based on evaluation reports (*chōsasho*) made by the junior high school, as well as on scholastic tests (*gakuryoku kensa*), interviews, and other specialized tests and measures carried out on the test date.

Although each school places emphasis on different factors, you must read the offering circular (*boshū annai*); entrance requirements (*boshū yōkō*), which is known as the Kanagawa Prefecture Public High School Entrance Screening Enrollment Application Guide (*Kanagawa-ken Kōritsu Kōtōgakkō Nyūgakusha Senbatsu Shigan no Tebiki*); and other materials for the school you wish to enroll in.

*** [Information for Non-native Speakers of Japanese Residing in Kanagawa Prefecture (*Public High School Enrollment Guidebook*)]**

This guidebook provides information about public high school entrance examinations in Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao, Korean (South Korea / North Korea), Tagalog, Thai, English, Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese for students and parents/guardians whose native language is not Japanese. It was created by the High School Education Planning Section of the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education and the incorporated NPO Multicultural Education Network (ME-net).

This guide can be downloaded from the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education's website:

[\[http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/cnt/fl60600/p447657.html\]](http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/cnt/fl60600/p447657.html)

- * Procedures must be taken to approve enrollment eligibility for students who have finished a nine-year school education course outside of Japan. Please contact the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education (045-210-8084).
- * To enroll in a full-time public high school, both the student and their parents / guardians must live in Kanagawa Prefecture or plan to move to Kanagawa Prefecture by the start of the school year on April 1.

(b) Special admission for students returning from abroad and for foreign students

(i) Students who have returned to Japan (available at six full-time public high schools)

The definition of a student who can apply for this special admission is “a person eligible for application to a Kanagawa Prefecture public high school who has lived outside of Japan for two years or more—generally for reasons relating to the jobs of their parents or guardians—and who has been in Japan for less than three years since returning.” A scholastic test (three subjects: English, Japanese and math), a written essay and an interview are required.

(ii) Foreign students living in Kanagawa Prefecture (available at nine full-time schools and one part-time school)

Eligible applicants are foreign nationals, as well as Japanese nationals who have taken citizenship within the last three years, who are eligible to enroll in a Kanagawa Prefecture public high school and whose period of stay following entry to Japan up until February 1 of the year they took the entrance examination is a sum total of three years or less. A scholastic test covering Japanese, math and English, and an interview, are required.

(c) Special examination methods for general admission

The following types of measures are taken in consideration for students taking public high school scholastic tests who, as of February 1, have been in Japan for six years or less following relocation from a foreign country. The principal of the child’s junior high school requests such measures from the relevant high school’s principal. Please begin the process by asking the child’s classroom teacher about putting in a request for such measures.

[Test-taking styles that can be requested]

- (1) Inclusion of *kanji* character readings (*furigana*) for written problems and scholarly tests, etc.
- (2) Longer test-taking times for scholastic tests (up to 1.5 times longer)
- (3) Slow speech using easy-to-understand words during the interview

High School Contact Information

Yokohama Municipal High Schools

High School Education Section, Yokohama City Board of Education

TEL: 671-3272

Kanagawa Prefectural High Schools

High School Education Planning Section, Kanagawa Prefecture Educational Guidance Department

TEL: 210-1111

Private High Schools

School Promotion Section, Lifestyle and Culture Department, Kanagawa Prefectural Citizens Bureau

TEL: 210-1111

(3) *Senshū Gakkō* (Specialized Training Colleges) and *Kakushu Gakkō* (Other Types of Schools)

[1] *Senshū Gakkō*:

Among schools that cultivate specialized skills and take measures to further students' education, these training colleges meet specific conditions regarding goals, years of study until graduation, etc. Both high school courses and specialized courses are available—the high school courses are geared toward junior high school graduates. Fields of study include industry, medicine, sanitation, business practices, fashion and domestic science, cultural education and others. Many schools begin recruiting students in October, so it is necessary to research certifications and qualifications that can be obtained, costs and other factors well in advance.

[2] *Kakushu Gakkō*:

Just like specialized training colleges, these schools strive to cultivate specialized knowledge, provide general education and achieve other such goals, but they are referred to as “other types of schools” because they differ slightly in terms of conditions, standards and other factors when compared with specialized training colleges.

Educational content, costs and other factors vary from school to school, and some change greatly from year to year. Therefore, it is important to consult with the student's junior high school teacher if you want to research a school so the teacher can advise you using the latest reference materials available from each school.

[3] *Shokugyō Gijutsukō*:

Various courses in industrial technology, construction techniques and social services are available to help students acquire job-related techniques and skills. In addition, this type of school can introduce students to potential employer companies, and the students will be prepared through interview training and cultivation of other skills necessary to get a job. Concerning training time, new junior high school graduates can apply for six-month courses as well as certain one-year courses. Please consult with the student's junior high school teacher for further details.

Contact Information for *Senshū Gakkō* and *Kakushu Gakkō*

School Promotion Section, Lifestyle and Culture Department, Kanagawa Prefectural Citizens Bureau
TEL: 210-1111 (representative)
Kanagawa Prefecture Association of Specialized Training Colleges and Other Types of Schools
TEL: 312-2221

Contact Information for *Shokugyō Gijutsukō*

Industrial Personnel Section, Labor Department, Kanagawa Prefecture Bureau of Commerce and Industry
TEL: 210-5715 (representative)

(4) *Kōtō Senmon Gakkō* (Technical College)

These colleges cultivate specialized technicians in various fields and require five years to graduate. Although it is said that many graduates of this type of school become active members of society directly after completing their education, some choose to continue their studies by transferring into a university program.

There are 55 national technical colleges throughout Japan. All of them are fully equipped with dormitories.

Contact Information for Technical Colleges

Institute of National Colleges of Technology, Japan
TEL: 042-662-3120 (representative)

X. Contact Points

X-1 Contact Points Regarding Provision of Information on Daily Life for Foreign Nationals, Consultations, and Yokohama Resident Volunteer Interpreter Dispatch (as of 2013)

- ☆ **YOKE Information Corner** TEL: 222-1209
Address: *Yokohama-shi, Nishi-ku, Minato-Mirai 1-1-1 Pacifico Yokohama Yokohama Kokusai Kyōryoku Center 5F*
Languages: Spanish, English, Chinese
Open: 10:00 ~ 11:30 / 12:30 ~ 16:30 (Mon. ~ Fri.), 10:00 ~ 12:30 (2nd and 4th Sat. of the month)
Closed on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays of the month, on Sundays and national holidays, and during the New Year holiday period
<http://www.yoke.or.jp>
- ☆ **Aoba International Lounge** TEL: 989-5266 FAX: 982-0701
Address: *Aoba-ku, Tana-chō 76, Aoba Kumin Kōryū Center Tana Station*
(1 min. from Tana Station on the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line)
Open: 9:00 ~ 21:00 (Mon. ~ Sat.), 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Sun. and national holidays)
Closed during the New Year holiday period and on the 4th Sunday of the month
<http://aoba-lounge.sakura.ne.jp/index.html>
- ☆ **Izumi Multicultural Union** TEL 800-2487 FAX 800-2518
Address: *Izumi-ku, Izumi-chō 4636-2 Izumi Ward Office 1F Izumi Ward Activities Center*
Open: 9:00 ~ 16:00 Mon, Tue & Thur. 9:00 ~ 12:00 2nd & 4th Sat.
<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/izumi/16press/25.02.04-shinkou.html>
- ☆ **Kanazawa International Lounge** TEL: 786-0531 FAX: 786-0532
Address: *Kanazawa-ku, Seto 22-2, Yokohama Shiritsu Daigaku Seagull Center 2F*
(10 min. from Kanazawa-hakkei Station on the Keikyu Main Line)
Open: 9:00 ~ 17:30 (Tue. ~ Sun.)
Closed on Mondays, national holidays, during the New Year holiday period, and on days of Yokohama City University events
<http://www.kanazawalounge.org/>
- ☆ **Konan International Lounge** TEL: 848-0990 FAX: 848-3669
Address: *Kōnan-ku, Kamiōoka-nishi 1-6-1 Yumeōoka Office Tower 13F*
(4 min. from Kamiooka Station on the Keikyu Main Line and Yokohama Municipal Subway)
Open: 9:00 ~ 21:00 (Mon. ~ Sat.), 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Sun. and national holidays)
Closed on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and during the New Year holiday period
<http://www.konanlounge.com/>

- ☆ **Kohoku International Lounge** TEL: 430-5670 FAX: 430-5671
 Address: *Kōhoku-ku, Mamedo 316-1*
 (8 min. from the west exit of Kikuna Station on the JR Yokohama Line and Tokyu Toyoko Lines)
 Open: 9:00 ~ 21:00 (Mon. ~ Fri.), 9:00 ~ 18:00 (Sat.), 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Sun. and national holidays)
 Closed on the 3rd Monday of the month (closed the following day if that Monday is a national holiday)
 and during the New Year holiday period
<http://homepage2.nifty.com/kohokulounge>
- ☆ **Tsuzuki MY Plaza (Multicultural & Youth Plaza)** TEL: 914-7171 FAX: 914-7172
 Address: *Tsuzuki-ku, Nakagawa-chūō 1-25-1 Northport Mall 5F*
 Open: 10:00 ~ 21:00 (Mon. ~ Fri.), 10:00 ~ 18:00 (Sat., Sun. and national holidays)
 Closed on the 3rd Monday of the month (closed the following day if that Monday is a national holiday)
 and during the New Year holiday period
<http://tsuzuki-myplaza.net>
- ☆ **Naka International Lounge** TEL: 210-0667
 Address: *Naka-ku, Nihon-ōdōri 34* (next to the ward office)
 Open: 10:00 ~ 17:00 (Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri., Sun.), 10:00 ~ 20:00 (Tue. and Sat.)
 Closed on the 4th Monday of the month (closed the following day if that Monday is a national holiday)
 and during the New Year holiday period
<http://nakalounge.main.jp>
- ☆ **Hodogaya International Exchange Center** TEL: 337-0012 FAX: 337-0013
 Address: *Hodogaya-ku, Iwama-chō 1-7-15, Iwama Shimin Plaza*
 (3 min. from Tennocho Station on the Sōtetsu Railway Main Line)
 Open: 10:00 ~ 18:00 (Mon. ~ Sun.)
 Closed on the 2nd Monday of the month and specified days
<http://www.hodogaya-kokusai.com>
- ☆ **Minami Shimin Katsudo / Tabunka Kyosei Lounge** TEL: 232-9544 (Japanese)
 TEL: 242-0888 (foreign languages) FAX: 242-0897
 Address: *Minami-ku, Urafune-chō 3-46, Urafune Fukugō Fukushi Shisetsu 10F*
 (5 min. from Bandobashi Station on the Yokohama Municipal Subway)
 Open: 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Mon. ~ Sun., national holidays)
 Closed on the 3rd Monday of the month and during the New Year holiday period
<http://tabunka.minamilounge.com>
- ☆ **Tsurumi International Lounge** TEL: 511-5311 FAX: 511-5312
 Address: *Tsurumi-ku, Tsurumi-chūō 1-31-2, Sea-crane #214 (2F)*
 Open: 9:00 ~ 21:00 (Mon. ~ Sat.), 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Sun. and national holidays)
 Closed on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and from Dec. 29–Jan. 3
<http://www.tsurumilounge.com>

☆ **Earth Plaza Consultation Service for Foreign Residents**

Address: *Sakae-ku, Kosugaya 1-2-1, Kanagawa Kenritsu Chikyū Shimin Kanagawa Plaza*

- General and legal consultations TEL: 896-2895

Languages: English, Chinese, Korean (North Korea / South Korea), Spanish, Portuguese

- Education-related consultation languages:

Languages: Tagalog, Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish

TEL: 896-2970 (Japanese) TEL:896-2972 (foreign languages)

(Please visit the website for details concerning operating hours)

<http://www.earthplaza.jp>

☆ **Foreign-Language Consultations in Izumi Ward**

At the Izumi Ward Office, dedicated staff are available for Japanese orphans returning from China and Indochinese refugees who live in Izumi Ward (Izumi-ku). Free lifestyle consultations via interpreters are also available at the ward office for ward citizens.

- Settlement consultations (in Chinese) for Japanese orphans returning from China

Thursdays 10:00 ~ 16:00 TEL: 800-2334

- Consultations in Vietnamese Fridays 9:00 ~ 17:00 (interpreters available 10:00 ~ 16:00)

TEL: 801-3738

- Telephone interpretation is available for Cambodian and Lao speakers.

<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/izumi/02suishin/01kouhou/gaikokuseki.html>

X-2 Contact Points Regarding Transfer Admissions, School Transfers and School Enrollment

- ☆ Please contact the person in charge of registration at your ward office. Some ward offices can accommodate foreign languages.

X-3 Volunteer Japanese Classes and Educational Support Workshops

For details, please refer to the Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges' Japanese language class database:

<http://www.yoke.or.jp/jdatabase/search.html>

X-4 Foreign Schools

Yokohama has schools that provide education in English, Chinese, Korean, German and other languages.

- ☆ Contact: School Promotion Section, Lifestyle and Culture Department, Kanagawa Prefectural Citizens Bureau

TEL: 210-1111 (representative)

X-5 Yokohama Public Junior High School Night School Classes

Night classes are available at Yokohama Public junior high schools for students who have not completed their junior high school studies but have surpassed the age for such grade levels. The purpose of these classes is not to help students learn Japanese, so Japanese guidance alone will not be sufficient, but those interested can study Japanese at the Japanese as Foreign Language Classroom (*Nihongo Kyōshitsu*). Students with foreign citizenship who have completed compulsory education in their home country cannot enroll; only students who fulfill the following three conditions may enroll in night school classes.

[1] The student has not completed their junior high school education

[2] The student lives or works in the city of Yokohama

[3] The student has surpassed the age for their school year (grade)

Classes are generally held from 17:30 to 21:00 and are free of charge. However, small expenses must be paid, including a fee to cover the cost of learning materials, an insurance payment to cover costs in case of injury.

☆ Applicable Schools: Maita Junior High School (Minami Ward)

☆ Contact:

Guidance and Planning Section, Yokohama Board of Education

TEL: 671-4447

X-6 Financial Aid for School Expenses

If your child or children are attending elementary or junior high school but you lack adequate financial resources to support them, please contact the school.

Assistance can be provided for school supplies, school trips fees, school lunch costs, etc. A “Financial Aid for School Expenses” (*shūgaku enjo*) application form will be sent from the school. Informational materials, application forms and other documents can be provided in your native language, so please consult with the teacher for more information.

☆ Contact point (other than the student’s school): Board of Education, School Promotion Section

TEL: 671-3270

X-7 Scholarships

Scholarships are available for those who lack adequate financial resources to support their child’s schooling.

☆ Contact: High School Education Section, Yokohama Board of Education

TEL: 671-3272

X-8 Procedures for Returning to Your Home Country

If you wish to prove your graduation from or enrollment in a school in Japan, your school can issue a Certificate of Graduation (*Sotsugyō Shōmeisho*) or Certificate of Enrollment (*Zaigaku Shōmeisho*). Please consult with the school if you require such documentation.

Welcome to the Yokohama School System

III For Parents and Guardians



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Guidance Planning Division

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<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/kyoiku/sidou1/nihongoshido-tebiki/>