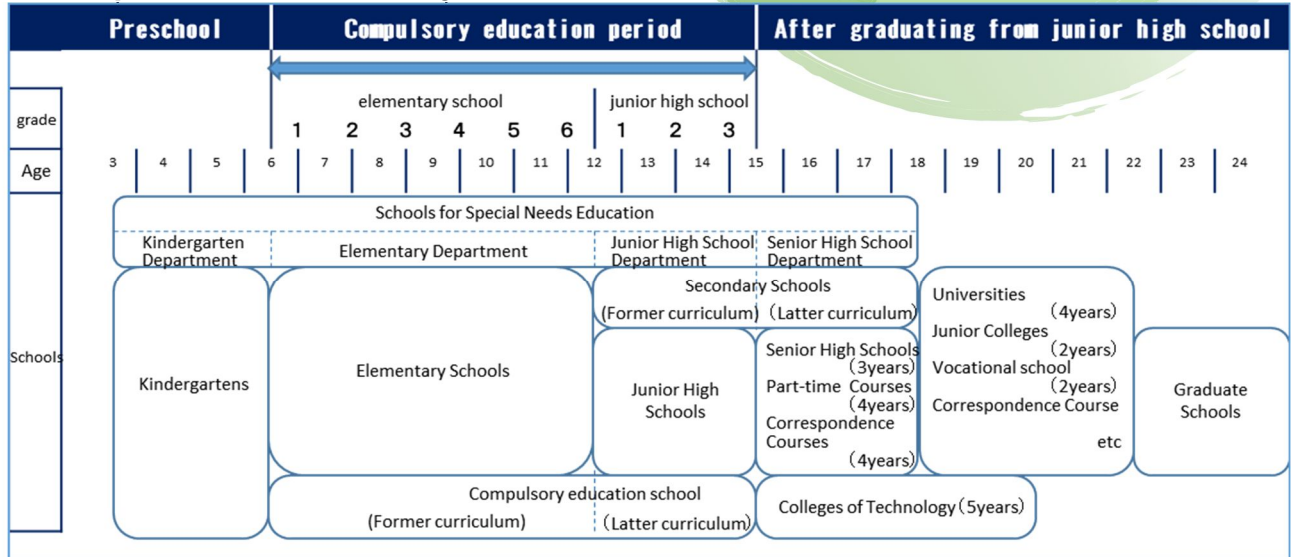


## 1 . Japanese School Education

### (1) School Educational System

The Japanese Educational System Chart



#### EDUCATION BEFORE STARTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Children starting from age three until the age of elementary can receive education in kindergarten.

Ask the Municipal Board of Education about the availability of pre-schools for children before entering elementary school. ( Preschool is a classroom where children from overseas learn about and prepare for Japanese school culture and study before they enter elementary school. )

#### COMPULSORY EDUCATION PERIOD

- Elementary school is for children with over six years old when school starts in April and receives six years of education.
- Junior high school is for children who graduated from elementary school and received additional education for three years.
- Compulsory education period consists of 6 years in elementary and three years in junior high school for nine years of education.

#### AFTER GRADUATING FROM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Carefully discuss and decide with your child about his career plan after he graduates from junior high school
- Those who want to study in senior high school or higher education must take the entrance examination.

### (2) Educational Content

#### CURRICULUM

The school decides the modules based on the curriculum implemented by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology. Classes are usually conducted in Japanese.

#### TEXTBOOK

Textbooks are free in elementary and junior high schools, compulsory education schools, secondary education (former curriculum), and the textbooks for special needs education in the elementary and junior departments. The government donates books to each student every school year. However, textbooks to Senior High Schools and secondary Education (Latter curriculum) are not free.

You will need to pay for the supplementary materials used at school.



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## LEARNING MODULES

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1st grader 2nd grader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese (Kokugo)</li> <li>• Math (Sansuu)</li> <li>• Life studies (Seikatsu)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music (Ongaku)</li> <li>• Art and Handicraft (Zuko)</li> <li>• Physical Education (Taiiku)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moral Education (Doutoku)</li> <li>• Special Activities</li> </ul>
3rd grader 4th grader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Social Studies (Shakai)</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science (rika)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Art and Handicraft</li> <li>• Physical Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moral education</li> <li>• Foreign Language Activity</li> <li>• Integrated Study Time</li> <li>• Special Activities</li> </ul>
5th grader 6th grader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Art and Handicraft</li> <li>• Home Economics</li> <li>• Physical Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moral education</li> <li>• Foreign Language Activity</li> <li>• Integrated Study Time</li> <li>• Special Activities</li> </ul>

### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1st grader 2nd grader 3rd grader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Health and PE</li> <li>• Home Economics &amp; Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Moral Education</li> <li>• Integrated Study Time</li> <li>• Special Activities</li> </ul>
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### SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Geography and History</li> <li>• Civics ( Koumin )</li> <li>• Math</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Health &amp; PE</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• English</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information</li> <li>• Home Economics</li> <li>• Integrated Study Time</li> <li>• Special Activities</li> </ul>	<p>Some high schools also offer advanced learning for a major subject.</p>
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### SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

Special needs education provides education corresponding to that of kindergarten, elementary, junior, and senior high schools, together with a special guidance course called 「self-reliance activity」 to help improve and overcome learning difficulties. Also, a flexible educational curriculum can be organized according to the disability of the child.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Tuition fees are free for public elementary, junior high schools, special needs education (elementary and junior high school departments), and secondary education (former curriculum).

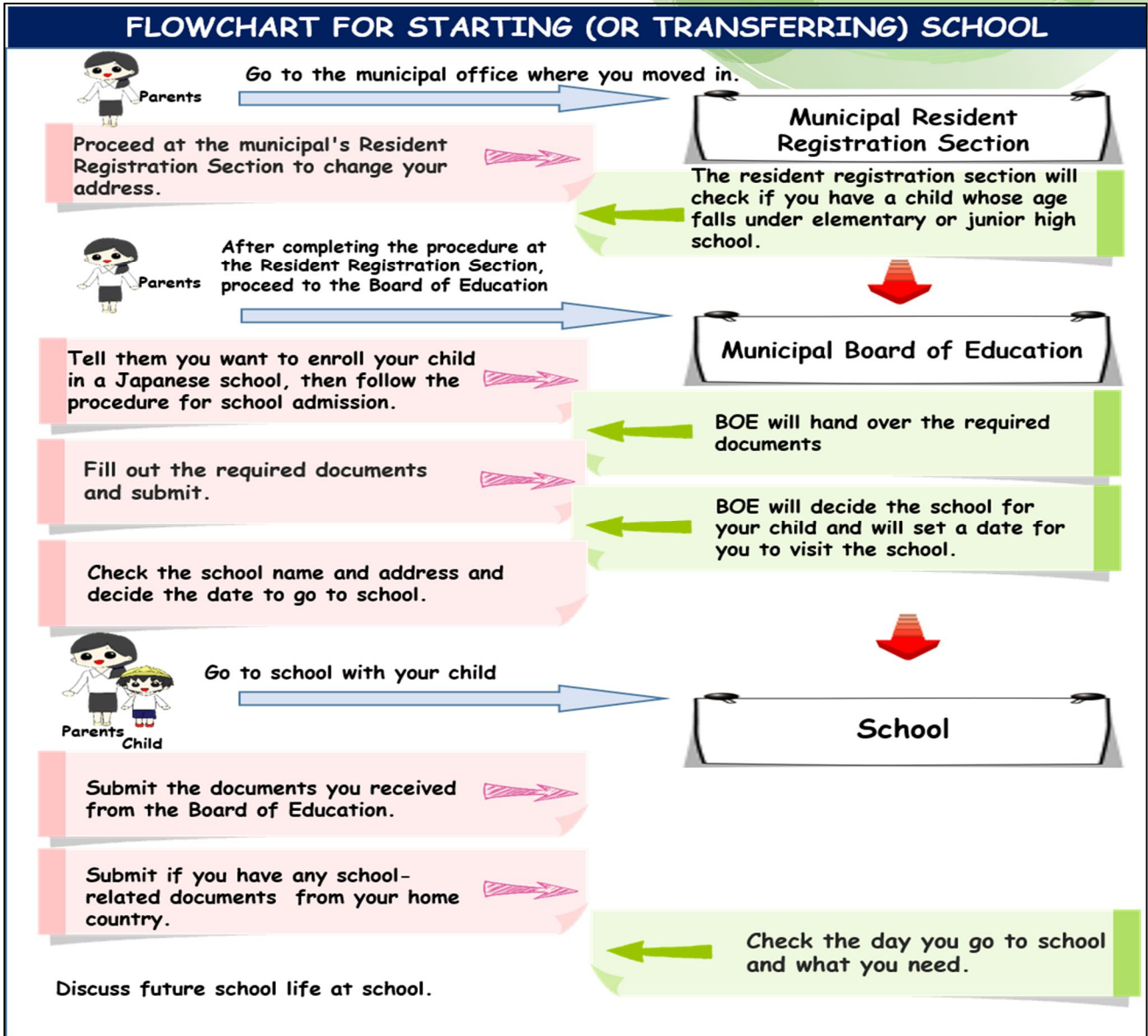
In case it's difficult to enter public elementary or junior high school due to financial reasons, upon the approval of the Board of Education, it is possible to receive educational support for school supplies and school lunch fees.

Please contact the Municipal Board of Education for details.



## 2 . Procedures for Starting School

### (1) Elementary and Junior High Schools



The school will talk to the parents or guardians about the following matters below to ensure the child's productive school life.

#### ABOUT THE CHILDREN (example)

Child's name ( spelling · Nickname )	Birthdate	Country of Citizenship
Date of arrival in Japan	The length of stay	
Educational History	Grade level in home country	Japanese ability
Health situation ( Medical history Allergies, etc. )	How to go to school	Things to consider

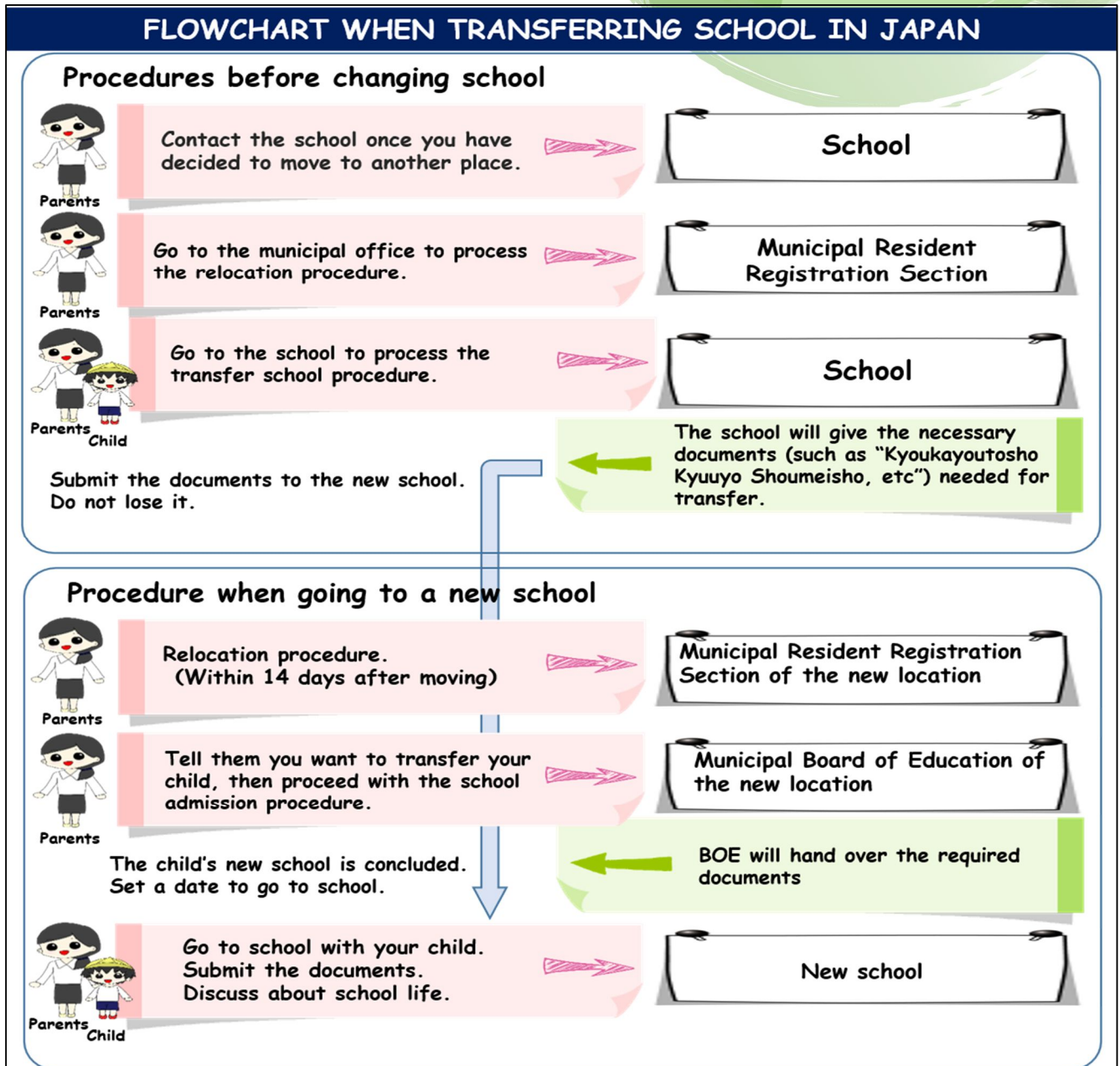
#### ABOUT HOME ( example )

Family structure ( name )	Present address
Contact numbers ( Emergency contact and company's contact number )	
Japanese ability of family	The need for an interpreter
Thoughts on education for children	
Requests to schools and career paths for children	



## (2) Procedures for changing schools within Japan

In cases there is a need to change schools due to a change of residence within Japan or other reasons, the following procedures are necessary.



The municipal board of education and the school cooperate with other municipalities to process the transfer of schools.

When planning to transfer schools, please consult with the current school or the municipal board of education beforehand.

In case of returning to home country, etc.

If you plan to leave the country to return to your home country, please consult the school or the municipal board of education beforehand.



### 3 . About School Life (Elementary and Junior High Schools)

#### (1) A Day in School

The number of classes vary depending on the day of the week and the student's grade level. There are usually no classes on Saturdays and Sundays.

If school events such as sports festivals and class visits occur on Saturday or Sunday, substitute holiday may be set on a weekday.

( Example )

<b>Morning meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health observations and announcements from the teacher.</li> </ul>
<b>1st hour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One class period is usually 45 minutes in elementary schools and 50 minutes in junior high schools.</li> <li>• In elementary schools, the class teacher teaches most of the regular subjects.</li> <li>• In junior high schools, teacher changes according to subject.</li> </ul>
<b>2nd hour</b>	
<b>3rd hour</b>	
<b>4th hour</b>	<p>Most of elementary and junior high schools provide school lunch as part of the school's educational activities. Normally, the students set and clear the table afterwards.</p> <p>The parents or guardians pay for the cost of the lunch.</p> <p>※ For health or religious reasons, please consult the school if there are any ingredients or foodstuff that should not be taken.</p>
<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>5th hour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are also afternoon classes. Daily schedule changes depending on the year level and days of the week.</li> </ul>
<b>6th hour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Japanese schools, students share the responsibilities of cleaning the classrooms, school grounds, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Cleaning</b>	
<b>Last meeting of the day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection of the day and confirmation of schedules the next day.</li> </ul>

○ **Club Activities (Bu katsudou)**  
Junior and senior high schools conduct sports and cultural activities after class.

#### (2) A Year at School

Japanese school starts in April and ends in March of the following year.

Most schools are divided into 2 or 3 terms.

#### SCHOOL EVENTS FOR ALL YEAR LEVEL

- **Class Observation/Parents-Teacher Class Meeting**

The parents or guardians visit the school to observe their child inside the classroom and the students' behavior in school. And the teachers and parents or guardians exchange information regarding the student's lifestyle at home or in school.

- **Sports Festival or Sports Tournament (Undoukai/Taiiku taikai)**

Undokai is a school event to enjoy exercising by doing short distance running, relays, ball games and dancing, and cheering-up their classmates.

- **Cultural Festival (Bunkasai)**

Bunkasai is a school event to view the students' works or reports displayed at the school exhibit. It is also an event to watch the students play musical instruments or sing in a choir or perform a play.



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## SCHOOL EVENTS ADMINISTERED ONLY IN ONE YEAR LEVEL

- School Trip (Shuugaku Ryoko)  
They are primarily attended by the highest year level and stay-over for an educational trip.
- School Excursions and Outdoor Study Trips (Ensoku/Kougai gakushuu)  
The students go outside to experience outdoor activities and observe.
- Work experience learning for junior high school students  
Mainly conducted for 2<sup>nd</sup>-year junior high school students. Students leave school and conduct various hands-on activities in local communities (such as stores, offices, etc.).

The school events each semester are as follows.

The content and timing of school events vary depending on the region and school.

( Example )

April	1st Term	1st period	○ <b>Entrance Ceremony (Nyuugaku shiki) April</b> An event to celebrate the entrance of 1st year students to the school. Parents or guardians of the 1st year students also attend the ceremony.
May			○ <b>Opening Ceremony (Shigyou shiki) April</b> This is a ceremony to start the term. It is also done for the 2nd term (September) and the 3rd term (January).
June			○ <b>Health Check (Shintai sokutei/Teiki kenkou shindan) April~June</b> The height, weight, etc. of the students are measured. Eye vision check and others are also conducted. There is also a check from the doctor.
July			○ <b>End-Term Closing Ceremony (Shuugyou shiki) July</b> A ceremony to declare the end of the term. It is also done at the end of the 2nd term (December).
August			○ <b>Summer Holiday (Natsu yasumi) End of July ~ End of August</b> Around 30~40 days vacation. (The number of days may vary depending on the region)
September	2nd Term	2nd period	○ <b>Opening Ceremony (Shigyou shiki) September</b>
October			○ <b>Sports Festival Day (Undou kai/Taiiku taikai)</b>
November			○ <b>Cultural Festival (Bunkasai)</b>
December			○ <b>End-term Closing Ceremony (Shuugyou shiki) December</b>
January			○ <b>Winter Holiday (Fuyu yasumi) End of December~Beginning of January</b> This is relatively a short holiday of about 2 weeks. (The number of days may vary depending on the region)
February	3rd Term	2nd period	○ <b>Opening Ceremony (Shigyou shiki) January</b>
January			○ <b>Graduation Ceremony (Sotsugyou shiki) March</b> An event to celebrate the graduation of the top grade level students.
February			○ <b>End of the Term Ceremony (Shuugyou shiki) March</b> This is a ceremony not only to declare the end of the 3rd term but also the end of the school year.
March			○ <b>Spring Holiday (Haru yasumi) End of March~Beginning of April)</b> After this holiday is over the students go up to the next grade or will enter the next stage of education.

## (3) Rules and Regulations

- In most cases, nail polish and accessories like pierced earrings are prohibited when going to school. Furthermore, students are not allowed to bring and eat snacks inside the school.
- Japanese society and schools give great importance to punctuality.
- In Japanese schools, the students shared the responsibility of cleaning the classroom and the school vicinity.



### (4) Assessment

The student's academic and behavioral record is given to the parents at the end of each term.

### (5) Health and Safety

#### **SCHOOL CLINIC (HOKEN SHITSU)**

In case a student becomes ill or got injured, first aid treatment is given at the school clinic, and if necessary, hospitals or families will be contacted. The school clinic is also available for a health check, health guidance, and counseling.

#### **REGULAR HEALTH CHECK (TEIKI KENKOU SHINDAN)**

The school conducts regular health checks to monitor the students' health condition, as required by the law. Treatment recommendations and health guidance are given based on the results of the check-up.

### (6) Collaboration between school and family

In school, there is a group of parents and teachers called PTA, and they collaborate to support the smooth progress of education.

Parents and teachers work together and conduct "Experience-based activity" participated both by parents and students and "Safety Guidance" when going to and from the school.

### (7) School expenses

No fees and textbook fees are required at public elementary and junior high schools. However, it is necessary to pay the following:

#### **EXAMPLE OF REQUIRED SCHOOL EXPENSES**

- School fee (Gakunenhi) : school materials used by the students
- School lunch fee (Kyuusyokuhi) : The cost of school lunch the student eat
- Installment fee (Tsumitatehi) : Save money for school trips and excursions.
- PTA fee (PTA Kaihi) : Expenses centered on teacher-parents' activities.

### (8) What you need to know

#### **NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE, TARDINESS, AND EARLY DEPARTURE**

- If your child is absent or will be late for school, make sure to contact your teacher.
- In the case of continuous absences, make sure to contact your teacher every day.
- If you want your child to go home early from school because of special reasons like going to the hospital, please contact your teacher.

#### **SUSPENSION**

- If your child has an infectious disease specified under the provision of School Health Law, your child will be suspended from going to school. Please contact the school as soon as you receive the diagnose from the doctor.

#### **HOW TO GET TO SCHOOL**

- In many elementary schools, children from the same district go to school together through a specific path specified by the school to ensure their safety.



## 4 . About Educational Counseling

### (1) Educational Counseling in School

In Japanese schools, there are educational counseling opportunities in which parents/guardians and teachers exchange information about the child. It is an opportunity to discuss topics concerning school problems such as bullying, refusal to go to school, career guidance, and others. If necessary, you can also consult with an interpreter.

#### **HOME VISIT (KATEI HOUMON)**

The teacher visits the child's home and discusses the child's situation at school and home with parents. Some schools do not conduct a home visit.

#### **PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS (HOGOSHA KAI)**

Parents/guardians go to school to listen to the principal and talk with the class teacher. Rather than personal consultation, the focus is on discussing issues related to the school's entire children.

#### **INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW (KOJIN MENDAN)**

It is usually a consultation between the student, the parents, and the teacher. It is an opportunity to talk about personal problems and concerns. The individual interview will be held at scheduled dates and times, but the teacher will notify the parent in advance.

### (2) Educational Counseling Facilities Outside of School

#### **CONSULTATIONS FOR FOREIGNERS**

- Educational consultation in Portuguese

Office: Mie Prefectural Board of Education

Elementary and Junior High School Division

Educational consultation by phone: 059-224-3150

Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 14:00 ( Except holidays )

- Mie Consultation Center for Foreign Residents ( MieCo )

Office: Mie International Exchange Foundation

Multilingual Consulting Office accepts consultation on immigration procedures,

employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, child-rearing, child care, and education. It

also provides appropriate information and, if necessary, offers referrals to relevant organizations.

Telephone: 080-3300-8077

Monday to Friday (except holidays) 9:00~17:00

**Some municipal offices offer general consultations, including educational consultations, for foreigners, and you may consult in your native language.**

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