

Reopening School Measures to Prevent Infection in June

Principal Yoji Hatano

After the Opening and Entrance Ceremonies on April 6th and the state of emergency was declared on April 7th, two months have passed since the children, the integral part of school, were last here. Including the temporary closure in March, it has been three months since I have heard their voices. Once the state of emergency was lifted on May 25th, it was decided that school will reopen in stages on June 1st.

Opening the school in stages involves implementing an attendance system in June called "staggered attendance," where each class will be divided into Group A and Group B and attend school on different days. (※For your own child's day of attendance, please refer to the back side of this newsletter or your child's class newsletter.) What's more, the number of students in each class will be halved and desks in the classroom separated, giving the children adequate space from each other.

In addition, to prevent infection, the main entrance and the service entrance will be opened when the students arrive to prevent crowding. When the students enter the school building, they will sanitize their shoes on the disinfecting door mats, and before entering their classroom, they will wash their hands and gargle. Also, if any student did not measure their temperature before coming to school, they will have their temperature taken in the nurse's office before entering their classroom. During class, doors and windows will remain open to provide air flow. For recess, 20 minutes will be added to the beginning and the number of students together will be reduced by dividing them into separate play places (the schoolyard and the gym), along with already splitting the classes in half. Lunch will initially be served in bentos prepared in the school kitchen, reducing the risk of infection when serving. During the second week of lunch, the faculty members will serve the meals and everyone will eat with their desks facing forward. In addition to disinfecting toilets, playground equipment, door knobs, and handles, classrooms will also be disinfected every day after dismissal.

Each faculty member will check their health and measure their temperature every morning and will not come to school if they have a fever or any cold-like symptoms. They will wear masks when they are with children, and a face shield when instructing the class or individual students.

Despite these measures, if parents/guardians choose to not have their child attend school as a preventative measure, it will not be treated as an unexcused absence.

During the last two weeks of May, we established time for students to show teachers their homework and receive advice if necessary. Because it was during the closure, the students and teachers only had a short amount of time together, but around 60% of the students in each grade visited the school. However, we could see that some students felt uneasy about coming to school, more so than we have ever seen at the end of summer holiday. Several of them, unable to move on their own, came to school with their parents and guardians. The impact that the past three months of restricted living had left on the students was unmistakable. Even so, seeing children brighten up as they met and chatted with their friends, I was overwhelmed by the significance of students spending time at school together.

With this opportunity to reopen the school, the faculty and staff will give their full support to help the students return soon to their normal selves amidst this new lifestyle.

June

Date	Day	Events	After-school
1	M	School reopens (staggered arrival times), Safety lesson	x
2	Tu	Staggered attendance begins, 4 periods, Emerg. evac. drill (Grades 4A, 6A)	x
3	W	4 periods, Emerg. evac. drill (G4B, 6B)	x
4	Th	4 periods, Emerg. evac. drill (G2A, 3A, 5A)	x
5	F	4 periods, Emerg. evac. drill (G2B, 3B, 5B)	x
6	Sa		
7	Su		
8	M	School lunch begins, Emerg. evac. Drill (G1A), Measurements (G3A)	x
9	Tu	Emerg. evac. drill (G1B), Measurements (G3B)	x
10	W	6 periods (G4B, 5A)	x
11	Th	Measurements (G1A)	x
12	F	Measurements (G1B)	x
13	Sa		
14	Su		
15	M		x
16	Tu	Measurements (G4A)	x
17	W	6 periods (G4B, 5A), Measurements (G4B)	x
18	Th	Measurements (G2A)	x
19	F	Measurements (G2B)	x
20	Sa		
21	Su		
22	M	Measurements (G6A)	x
23	Tu	Measurements (G6B) PTA meeting (in writing)	x
24	W	6 periods (G4B, 5A) Measurements (G5A) School trustees meeting (in writing)	x
25	Th	Traffic safety lesson (G1A)	x
26	F	Traffic safety lesson (G1B), Measurements (G5B)	x
27	Sa		
28	Su		
29	M	Human Rights Day	x
30	Tu	Staggered attendance ends, Human Rights Day	x

Notices

About Staggered Attendance

During June, each class will be divided into Group A and Group B and attend school in staggered schedules. The first week, the second to fourth weeks, and the final week have different attendance schedules, so please check the back page of this newsletter to see what days your child attends school.

During staggered attendance, Grades 1-3 will arrive from 8:10-8:20 and have five periods (dismissal: 14:10). Grades 4-6 will have six periods (including Wednesdays) (dismissal: 15:30).

Emergency Evacuation Drill

It is necessary for us to conduct an emergency evacuation drill soon after the students arrive at school. However, since conducting a school-wide drill like before will cause crowding and direct contact, Groups A and B will confirm the evacuation route from their new classrooms.

Lunch Menu

We are organizing a lunch menu so that all students will be served the same meal; however, please understand that during staggered attendance, there will be meals on the menu that some students will not be able to eat. Also, we will try to make sure that one student does not eat the same meal twice during June.

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day will be on the 29th (Mon.) and 30th (Tues.). The lunch for those days will be Italian pizza and minestrone. Group A will attend on the 29th and Group B will attend on the 30th, so they will both have the same lunch.

Educational Counseling

June's Goal
"Let's follow the school's rules!"

Junichi Takagi
Educational Counselor

At last, school has started. The rules that were usually explained in April will be explained in June this year once the school reopens.

The rule about washing your hands and gargling to stay healthy is different this year from previous years. Checking your temperature every morning and evening and wearing a mask when you come to school are new school rules. Please make sure to take care of your health at home as well.