



Drafting the Academic Plan for 2017

Principal Yōji Hatano

In the morning, I went to greet the students and noticed white petals already on the plum tree by the entrance. I kept thinking how cold it was, but the plum flowers signal the arrival of spring, and I found myself amazed again by the magic of nature.

At Higashimachi Elementary, as we look back on the current academic year, we are drafting an academic plan for the next year. Based on the results from questionnaires given to parents and guardians in January, and from school evaluation results given to faculty members, we can examine our school from a broader perspective, think about how to improve our school, and reflect on a new academic plan for next year.

When reviewing and drafting academic plans, for the most part, there are times when some ideas conflict with each other and each idea has its own advantages and disadvantages. If an idea has only advantages, there is no place for someone to interpose an objection; but because most ideas have both advantages and disadvantages, it becomes necessary to consider those points and decide which ones can be utilized. For example, idea A and idea B are conflicting. We know idea A has both advantages and disadvantages, and idea B has its own advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, choosing A or choose B also includes their respective disadvantages, choosing A shows consideration for B's issues, and choosing B shows consideration for A's issues.

In any case, there is no point in constantly pointing out each other's issues, so we must draft an academic plan that utilizes and integrates ideas from students, parents and guardians, faculty members, and community members.

Because of the increased number of students and classes, even applying the same heavily reviewed academic plan as last year is not feasible. We cannot just review the academic plans from the previous year. Instead we must force ourselves to think of a brand new plan. In order to create such a plan, we ask for the understanding, cooperation, and support of parents and guardians, and members of our community.

February

date	day	event	after-school
1	W	Safety Lesson	X
2	Th	P.E. Assembly ①	4 - 6
3	F	P.E. Assembly ②	2 - 6
4	Sa	Japanese Culture	X
5	Su		
6	M	Committee	4 - 6
7	Tu	International Assembly (Periods 3,4)	3 - 6
8	W		X
9	Th	Student Assembly, Visit From Manabi No Mori (G1)	4 - 6
10	F	Kanji Aptitude Test (<i>Kanji Kentei</i>)	X
11	Sa	National Foundation Day	
12	Su		
13	M		4 - 6
14	Tu		3 - 6
15	W	Open School	X
16	Th	Open School, Open Morals Lesson	4 - 6
17	F		2 - 6
18	Sa	Japanese Culture	X
19	Su		
20	M	Club (G3 Observe), School Family Meeting (G5 only, morning recess)	4 - 6
21	Tu	Jump Rope Competition	3 - 6
22	W		X
23	Th	Music Assembly, Emergency Evacuation Drill, New G1 Parent-Teacher Conference	4 - 6
24	F	Club Presentations (Ensemble, Art, Sports)	2 - 6
25	Sa		
26	Su		
27	M	Committee	4 - 6
28	Tu	Understanding Paraspots (G5, pr. 3,4)	3 - 6

February's Goal

Life Counselor Hiroki Mine

Exercise and Don't Let the Cold Beat You

Why do we sit up and straight and not slouch? In order to keep a good posture, developing a strong core and cerebellum is necessary.

The cerebellum helps regulate body functions, learn body movements, and copy new information from the brain. Riding a bike, writing kanji, making quick decisions – the more you take these challenges on, the more you fail, the more you unconsciously improve.

Playing outside in the sun is a good way to train your body's core and cerebellum. Your body and mind will receive a lot of stimuli from the bright sun and cold wind. I hope to train our bodies and minds by exercising outside and not letting the cold beat us.