



## Character and Skills to Develop in the Students of the International Classes Program

Principal Yōji Hatano

Last month on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 38 graduates left Higashimachi ES with their memories close to their hearts. Those graduate students entered elementary school one year prior to the start of the International Classes Program (ICP).

Today, 76 cute and energetic first graders entered school, and all students from grades 1 to 6 have been involved with the ICP since entering Higashimachi. As it was explained in Parent-Teacher Conferences and the School Explanatory Meeting, we have reviewed how the ICP is implemented. Because these revisions are to prolong the program, we appreciate everyone's understanding.

This 2017-18 academic year has started with 476 students in 14 classes (2 classes for grades 1, 3, 4, and 6, and 3 classes for grades 2 and 5). Congratulations to those students entering elementary school and to those advancing to the next grade.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the revision to the government curriculum implemented on 2020 was announced and underwent public comment for one month. Revisions in the curriculum are based on changes in time, children's circumstances, and the demands from society, and carried out around every 10 years.

While it is said that after they graduate, 65% of today's children will work in a job that does not exist now, the question of what characteristics and skills must we develop in our children was highlighted in this revision, and three points were established.

- 1) "What do you know? What can you do?"  
(individual knowledge and skills)
- 2) "How can you use what you know/can do?"  
(thinking, judgement, expression)
- 3) "How does this improve life in regards to society and the world?"  
(learning, humanity)

This year we will explore how we can develop their character and skills in our daily lessons as we prepare for 2019's pre-implementation period (elementary schools have a pre-implementation period before full implementation of the revised curriculum).

There are many changes taking place, but with the cooperation and support parents, guardians, and community members, the faculty members will work together to conduct classes and school activities to our best abilities. We appreciate everyone's cooperation this academic year.

## April

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	Sa		
2	Su		
3	M		
4	Tu		
5	W	Last day of spring break, G6 only 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	
6	Th	Opening Ceremony, Entrance Ceremony (G6 attends, 10:00 a.m.)	X
7	F	4-pr. day, Safety lesson, Cleaning, ,	X
8	Sa		
9	Su		
10	M	School lunch begins (G1 only milk), Committee, Regular health checks begin, Health information card out	5 - 6
11	Tu	Safety lesson (G1), Measurements (G6), G1 school lunch (bread and milk), Urine test out	3 - 6
12	W	Measurements (G5), Parent-teacher conference (6 <sup>th</sup> period), Urine test in	X
13	Th	Music assembly, Measurements (G4)	4 - 6
14	F	Measurements (G3), End of G1 short schedule	2 - 6
15	Sa	Measurements (G2), Emergency Evacuation (with local disaster prevention committee), Health information card deadline	X
16	Su		
17	M	Welcome Ceremony, Club, Measurements (G1)	4 - 6
18	Tu	National aptitude test (G6), Physical examination (G2,5)	3 - 6
19	W	Hear Examination (absent G1 students only)	X
20	Th	Physical examination (G1, 4) School Family Meet and Greet	4 - 6
21	F	Hearing examination (G2)	2 - 6
22	Sa		
23	Su		
24	M	Ear nose and throat examination (G2, 5), PTA general meeting (pr. 6)	4 - 6
25	Tu	4-pr. day, Hearing examination (G3)	3 - 6
26	W	School district exploration (G3), Hearing examination (G5)	X
27	Th	Minato aptitude test (G2-6)	4 - 6
28	F	Minato aptitude test (G4,5,6), Farewell Ceremony (pr. 5)	2 - 6
29	Sa	Showa Day	
30	Su		

### April's Goal

School Guidance Counselor Hiroki Mine  
**Let's Follow the School Rules**

The reason there are rules in school and society is to ensure that people can live together and not lose anything of value. Even if the person breaking the rules does not think it is a big deal, it is important to know that it can cause a great hindrance to other persons.