



## To Make Higashimachi a Better Place

Principal Tetsuro Kawahara

A samurai helmet ornament for May Doll Display is currently displayed at the entrance of Higashimachi. Time has passed quickly, and it has been nearly a month since the children entered school and advanced to their new grades. Grade one students are becoming accustomed to school life, working hard in their studies and playing energetically during recess. Children in other grades are also showing a fresh determination to do their best and are settling into school life calmly.

I would like to share two points that I spoke to the children about during the opening ceremony, entrance ceremony, and school assembly in April.

The first is: "Let each of us think about what we can do to make Higashimachi a better place and take action." Grade six children play a central role in this effort. From the day of preparations on April 3, they have been highly motivated, actively participating in their responsibilities and committee activities. Their enthusiasm is clear, and I have high expectations that these grade six children, as leaders, will help create an even better Higashimachi.

The second point concerns three "A's" that I want the children to practice naturally, and three "I's" that they must never do. The three "A's" are: "aisatsu" (greetings), "arigatō" (thank you), and "atokatazuke" (cleaning up after oneself). The three "I's" are: "ijime" (bullying), "ijiwaru" (being mean), and "iyagarase" (harassment). These ideas are all connected to thinking about others and form an essential foundation for building positive relationships and living in society. Creating good relationships leads to a sense of security for the children and helps build a better school.

In order for the children to take initiative in making Higashimachi a better place, we will continue to recognize and encourage their efforts and hard work. We also ask that you praise your children often at home.

Additionally, we hope you will take opportunities to talk with your children about the three "A's" and the three "I's."

## May's Goal

**Let's be Careful of the Words We Use!**

※Please see the Higashimachi website for the school newsletter, grade newsletter, and lunch menu. Paper versions are available upon request to your child's classroom teacher.

Date	Day	Events
1	F	G1 Fixed classes start, Fire Truck Drawing (substitute day), Safety lesson
2	Sa	
3	Su	Constitution Day
4	M	Greenery Day
5	Tu	Children's Day
6	W	Greenery Day observed
7	Th	B schedule 5 periods
8	F	
9	Sa	
10	Su	Minato City Rugby Class
11	M	Morning Assembly, Clubs②
12	Tu	Make up urine test collection, Hakone trip health check (G6)
13	W	B schedule 4 periods, Hakone Trip (G6)
14	Th	Hakone Trip (G6), Ear nose throat exam (G1, G4, G5)
15	F	Hakone Trip (G6), Dragonfly rescue (G3)
16	Sa	
17	Su	
18	M	Morning Assembly, Vision test (G6)
19	Tu	Make up urine test collection
20	W	B schedule 5 periods, Vision test (G5)
21	Th	Physical exam (G1)
22	F	B schedule 5 periods (G1-G3) 6 periods (G4-G6), Open school, Safety class, Insect class (G3 in Biotope),
23	Sa	B schedule 5 periods, Open school, Evac. drill② (pick-up, 5th period), Disaster Prevention Class (G2, G4), Dragonfly rescue (G3)
24	Su	
25	M	Substitute holiday
26	Tu	Bouldering Week begins, Vision test G4, Family Asobi①
27	W	B schedule 5 periods, Vision test (G3)
28	Th	Monday schedule①, P.E. Assembly①, Vision test (G2)
29	F	G3 6 periods①, Japanese culture① (G5, G6), Vision test (G1)
30	Sa	
31		

※ Please check your grade newsletters for dismissal times.

## Notices

### ○Open School

Open school will be held on Friday, May 22, and Saturday, May 23. We invite you to come and observe your child's learning and daily life in the classroom. Please check the schedule for each day in the notice that will be distributed later. Please bring your name tag with you when visiting the school.

### ○Emergency Evacuation Drill

This month, pick-up drill will be conducted on Saturday, May 23. Please refer to the grade newsletter for details.

### ○Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day is Friday, May 29. The lunch for that day will be jambalaya and chicken noodle soup from the U.S.A.

### ○School Newsletter, Grade Newsletters, Lunch Menu

The school newsletter, grade newsletters, and lunch menu will be available online at the school's website from May. The newsletters and menu will also be available for download from the website. Paper versions are available upon request to your child's classroom teacher.

The password to view the newsletters for grades 2 through 6 is the same as last year's. As for the password to view the newsletters for grades 1 through 6, it has been announced via *Sughoon* at the end of April, so please take a look.

### ○ Use of the Smile Room (special needs class) from Term 2 of 2026-27, and application for a Special Needs Assistant (formerly Learning Support Staff)

Smile Rooms are classrooms designed to provide guidance in overcoming learning and daily life difficulties and improving children's learning at school. If you wish to use this service, please consult with your child's homeroom teacher **by Tuesday, May 12 (Tue)**.

In addition, Special Needs Assistants (formerly Learning Support Staff) provide individual support during group instruction in the classroom. Parents who wish to request this support in the future should consult with the homeroom teacher at any time.

### ○Saturday Classes

This year, there will be Saturday classes five times. There are classes in the afternoon for all Saturday classes. Therefore, the Monday following each Saturday classes will be a substitute holiday. Please bring your name tag with you when visiting the school.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **\*Minna to Joispo (formerly Open Schoolyard)**

May 16 (Sat) 12:00-15:00

May 30 (Sat) 12:00-15:00

## About the ESC Program

EST

Currently, ten students from four countries are studying in the ESC (English Support Course). ESC students study math and English in separate classrooms with an EST (English Support Teacher), and for other subjects, they study with their classmates in the classroom while the EST interprets the lessons given by the homeroom teacher or specialist as needed.

Students learn math according to the Japanese curriculum using translated textbooks. During *kokugo* time, students study English. In English classes, students learn language skills similar to those studied in *kokugo* in order to maintain English proficiency appropriate for their grade. In addition, we provide approximately 30 hours of beginner Japanese lessons for new first-grade students and transfer students.

Our school provides an environment where students can develop the mindset and attitudes necessary for the global world of the future. We hope that all students will be proud of their own cultures as well as be able to understand, accept, and respect others and different cultures.



## School Fees and Lunch Fees

Office Administrator

Starting from the 2025 school year, Minato City has made supplementary teaching materials and learning resources used uniformly by all students free of charge, with no income restrictions. In addition, starting from the 2026 school year, costs that were previously borne by parents—such as those for field trips, summer camps, and off-campus learning activities—will also be made free. For details, please check the Minato City website.

Regarding school lunch fees, these will also be covered by Minato City, so there will be no cost to parents. However, from the perspective of reducing food waste, families who expect their child to be absent for an extended period are asked to inform the school of the absence period and submit a meal cancellation notice.

Since meal orders and preparation quantities are adjusted accordingly, please be sure to notify the school of any changes to the planned absence period.

## ***Thank you for everything!***

### **Messages from transferred or retired teachers**

I am grateful that although it was only a short period of one year, I was able to gain many valuable experiences. This is a wonderful school, with a beautiful tea room and an impressive biotope. I also love Higashimachi's school song. Please continue to take pride in being students of Higashimachi, and cherish your school and your friends.

Vice Principal Koichi Wakebe

Thank you very much for all your support over the past six years. The children at Higashimachi were honest, straightforward, and hardworking. I was able to spend my time happily, receiving so much energy from all of you. Please continue to value your friends and stay healthy and cheerful. Thank you very much.

4-1 Junichi Takagi

I experienced a great deal of learning and joy at Higashimachi. It was the most meaningful experience of my teaching career, and it has become a source of confidence and pride for me. I am truly grateful that I was able to spend time with all of you. I will continue to support you from afar.

6-2 Norihiko Saito

I loved seeing how deeply focused you all were as you engaged with your artwork. Please continue to trust your own sensibilities, and express your "I want to do this!" through shapes and colors, creating wonderful works and meaningful time with your friends. Thank you very much for these six years.

Art Yurie Suzuki

Although it was a short time, thank you very much for all your support. I am grateful that I was able to spend time with everyone at Higashimachi. I will continue to support you all from the bottom of my heart. Thank you very much.

2-2 Nao Iguchi

I am so happy to have spent every day with such bright and cheerful children for 12 years. No matter where your dreams take you, you always have my support. Thank you very much! See you next time!

EST Poe Mauldin

Thank you very much for your support over the past seven years. I began working as a custodian when I joined Higashimachi. Before that, I spent 36 years preparing school lunches. Both roles were challenging, but I was able to enjoy each day seeing the children's faces. Thank you very much.

Custodian Masashi Miyabe





## Nice to meet you!



I have come to Higashimachi, where the cheerful greetings of the children and the lively voices of learning and playing together can be heard. I will do my best to support each and every child so that they can learn with a sense of safety and grow together with their friends.

Vice Principal Mika Moriguchi

I have transferred here from Adachi City's Adachiiriya Elementary. I was surprised to find that Higashimachi has many teachers and children who can speak English. I will also do my best to improve my English listening and speaking skills!

Grade 1 Teacher Yayaka Ishihara

I have been transferred from Chuo City's Kyobashi Tsukiji Elementary. I look forward to engaging with the children in a fun and supportive way, sharing in their smiles and the small, everyday moments of growth. I appreciate your kind support.

4-3 Tatsuya Arai

I am energized by the many bright greetings from students in grades 1 through 6. I will continue to support the children's growth, sharing in their experiences and enjoying each day together. I look forward to working with you all.

5-2 Yuuki Ochiai

I look forward not only to classes, but also to talking and playing with you during break time. I will do my best to stay bright and energetic, so I can keep up with your lively voices and smiles. I appreciate your support.

2-2 Yu Kato

I have come from Yamagata Prefecture. I was deeply moved by how beautifully everyone sings in assemblies! I would also be happy to have many conversations with students in grades other than fourth grade. I look forward to working with you!

4-2 Junko Masuda

I have transferred from Adachi City's Umejima No.2 Elementary. I am happy that some students quickly learned my name and started talking to me! I will work with you to create safe and enjoyable Art classes. I look forward to working with you all.

Art Nami Yamanaka

I have come from the Minato City's Onarimon Elementary Hanamizuki Room. I am excited about meeting new children. I look forward to working with you all.

Smile Room Yukiko Takasaki

I have come from Odaiba Gakuen Koyo Elementary. I will work to keep the school environment clean and pleasant so that the children can enjoy their school life comfortably. I look forward to working with you.

Custodian Suguru Fukushima