

Learning in the 2nd Term

Principal Yoji Hatano

This academic year marks the full integration of the new national education curriculum. In order to achieve its goals of developing independent and active learners, the curriculum seeks to foster children who can acquire knowledge and skills necessary to function and thrive in our society, who can use critical thinking and judgement to adapt to unfamiliar situations, and who can utilize their experiences in their lives.

However, due to the school closure in April and March and the staggered attendance in June, we have discussed less about the basic philosophy of education and instead have focused on how we will catch up on missed topics or make up the remaining class hours.

In the second term, like in the first term, we expect to cover all of this year's lesson topics by the end of the academic year (except for PE's swimming lessons) and avoid carrying over any lessons to the next academic year. However, the reality of insufficient class hours has forced us to reevaluate the year's course of studies to determine how topics can be modified or reduced in order to teach what we can with the amount of class hours we have. During the first term, Grades 2 to 6 finished the topics not covered because of the school closure in March of the previous year. One to two lessons from the first term that were previously planned before the outbreak of the coronavirus will then be carried over to the second term.

Conversely, to realize the philosophy outlined in the new course of studies, we will dedicate class time to exercise the students' skills in thinking, judgement, and expression. To that extent, we ask that families observe their children's kanji and math drills assigned as homework and offer any guidance or advice to help them master these exercises.

Summer Project Exhibition

Shizuka Muramatsu
Educational Affairs

After the summer vacation, Higashimachi hosts a Summer Project Exhibition. When I was assigned to Higashimachi, there were fewer students then, so the projects could be displayed in the hallways in front of the classrooms; however, with an increase in the number of students came an increase in the number of projects to display, and the exhibition was expanded into the gym. During the exhibition, the hallways and gym are transformed into mini-exhibitions.

Every year, students in all grades come to school with their projects they thought of and made on their own. Various projects that include crafts, recipes and cooking, and travel journals are on display.

Going to the exhibition with the students is a good time for us teachers to see them enjoying the projects and works with their friends. Parents and guardians are also allowed to visit the exhibition. I am sure there are many who wonder what summer projects they can do with their children. Perhaps going to the exhibition will provide hints about what kind of projects and works there are or how the projects change as the students advance to the higher grades. We hope you can come and see.

◆Dates: August 1st (Tues.) – Aug. 4th (Fri.) 9:00 – 16:30
September 5th (Sat) 8:30 – 10:00

◆Locations: Hallways outside classrooms and gym



Learning in the ESC (English Support Course)

Yumiko Minowa
English Support Teacher

As of now, there are 41 students from 22 countries learning in the English Support Course (ESC). ESC students study math and language with their English Support Teacher (EST) and other subjects in their classrooms with their classmates (with the help of the EST).

In math class, ESCs use translated math textbooks and learn math based on Japan's national curriculum. During language classes (*kokugo*), they study Japanese and English. To preserve the students' English abilities and keep them at the same level as their counterparts in English-speaking countries, study topics and skills resemble those in the Japanese *kokugo* class. In Japanese class, students start studying greetings, hiragana, and katakana and learn phrases and expressions that are useful for their time at school. So that they can present their ideas in Japanese and understand their teachers and classmates, students focus on speaking, writing, reading, and listening to understand their classmates' ideas as well as ideas from books.

Higashimachi's global education philosophy provides all students with the skills and mindset to participate in the global society of the future. We hope all students will take pride in their own country's culture while recognizing and respecting the differences in other people's cultures.



Class Window

Swiftly Growing

2-1 Leo Okajima
2-2 Misa Nojima
2-3 Chisa Yoshimura
Tetsuro Fukushima

The eggplant and cucumber we have been growing in life studies have fruited. Because of the warm temperatures and abundant rain this year, the plants quickly bore lots of large fruit. The children, who are not used to growing vegetables, were surprised to see how high the cucumber fruit grows on the plant and how smooth the eggplant is. The homeroom teachers cooked the vegetables for everyone to eat during lunch. They seemed to distinguish the unique taste of the vegetables they grew themselves. Since they have also grown their own cherry tomato plants, I hope they can enjoy growing many more vegetables at home during the summer break.



During recess times, the 2nd Graders of all classes get together to play tag and dodgeball. We hope to see them continue the year cooperating, helping, and swiftly growing up.