

KAWARABAN

February, 2016

Education for Children of Foreign Nationalities:

Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High School

In this issue of Kawaraban, we will focus on education for children of foreign nationalities, in particular children of school age who have come to Japan. We will cover mainly elementary and junior high as well as senior high school levels.

● Education for Children of Foreign Nationalities

Under Japanese law, children of foreign nationalities are not required to undergo compulsory education. However, in 1994, Japan ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1989 in order to provide international protection of basic rights for children. Thus, children of foreign nationalities are guaranteed the same right to education at public elementary and junior high schools as Japanese children.

● Entrance (Admission) to Public Elementary and Junior High School

• Procedures:

In order to enroll your child in public elementary or junior high school, you must first consult with your local municipal board of education. For public schools, the school your child will attend is decided based on your address. Residence card and passport will be required for these procedures. The "Guidebook for Starting School" published by MEXT goes over the Japanese education system and procedures, school life in Japan, and other topics. Available for download in English, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish from the following link: http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shotou/clarinet/003/1320860.htm

• Which Grade Level Will My Child Enter?

In principle, the grade level your child will enter will depend on his/her age and school progress in your home country and/or outside of Japan. However, if the child cannot speak Japanese or the parent/guardian expresses concern over the child never having studied in Japan before, the child may be admitted 1 or 2 grade levels below his/her actual grade level. Additionally, if the child has already graduated junior high school outside of Japan, as a principle he/she cannot be admitted to junior high school in Japan.



• Support Within School Setting

Part-time teachers and MIA supporters provide assistance for children who are lacking in Japanese language ability. For more information, please consult with your local municipal board of education or school before enrollment.

• Support Outside School Setting

There are groups to help children of foreign nationalities learn Japanese and other school subjects after school and/or on weekends.

◆ Foreign Residents' Child Support Group

Ages: From preschool to senior high school

Meeting Time: Decided upon consultation

Location: L-Sola Sendai (AER building 28th floor)

Contact Information: Ms. Tadokoro, 090-2793-8899

◆ Japanese Language Class for Children – “SAT Nihongo Club”

Meeting Time: Every Saturday, 10:00 – 12:00

Location: Aoba-ku Chuo Shimin Center

Contact Information: 022-223-2516 (Aoba-ku Chuo Shimin Center)

● Advancement to Public Senior High School

Since senior high school education is not compulsory, children of foreign nationalities must take an academic exam just as Japanese students do. Make sure to consult with your child's current junior high school and/or the MIA Support Center for Foreign Children after researching the admissions policy and details regarding the specific senior high school you would like your child to attend.

• Miyagi Career Guidebook for Children & Parents Who Are Non-native Japanese Speakers

Contains information regarding types of schools, costs, entrance exams, etc. for children of foreign nationalities who would like to enter senior high school in Miyagi Prefecture and their parents. Available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Tagalog. Those who would like to pay to have a physical copy delivered may contact MIA at 022-275-3796. Also available for free download from the following website:

<http://shinro-miyagi.jimdo.com/進路ガイドブック/>

• Special Considerations for Exams

Children of foreign nationalities may receive special consideration for exams, such as extended time to take the exam as well as a reduced number of exam subjects. If your child is currently enrolled in junior high school, please consult with his/her current school. If he/she has already graduated from junior high school abroad, please consult with the senior high school in advance.

• Explanatory Meetings

Every summer, explanatory meetings are held in several locations throughout the prefecture to go over school life and advancement to high school. Parents and their children can consult directly with junior and senior high school teachers as well as have the opportunity to hear from students who are foreign nationals and currently attending senior high school in Japan (dates for 2016 to be decided).

Career Guidance for Children and Parents Who Are Non-Native Japanese Speakers:

<http://shinro-miyagi.jimdo.com/>

Additionally, the Upper Secondary School Education Division of the Miyagi Prefecture Board of Education holds explanatory meetings every year around November and December for those who reside outside Miyagi Prefecture but would like to enroll their children in senior high school in Miyagi. Foreigners with children who are not enrolled in junior high school in Miyagi may also participate, and there is also time after the meeting for one-on-one consultation.

● Private Senior High Schools and International Schools

Since admission of children of foreign nationalities to private senior high schools is decided entirely by the school, we recommend contacting the school directly.

When it comes to international schools, there are many institutions that are not run in accordance with the School Education Act, and thus, even if the child completes a level of education equivalent to junior high school, there may be cases in which he/she is not allowed to advance to a public senior high school.

● MIA Support Center for Foreign Children

MIA provides support for children of foreign nationalities in regards to school life and academic advancement. Those who are experiencing trouble with their children's education can reach MIA using the following contact information:

Tel.: 022-275-3796 E-mail: mail@mia-miyagi.jp



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● ※“Kawaraban” was created during Japan's Edo Period as a one sheet, printed material featuring different news.