

### (1) The Japanese education system

For Japanese nationals, six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school are compulsory.

It is mandatory for a parent(s) to let their child(children) attend school during this nine-year compulsory education.

There are various options to continue one's education after completing the period of compulsory education including high school (3 years), the National Institute of Technology (5 years), a Specialized Training College (at least 1 year), etc.

Thereafter, people can continue their education at a vocational college (at least 1 year), junior college (2 years), or university (4 years).

After graduating from university, some people go to graduate school (at least 2 years) for further study in their specialized area.

In Japan, the academic year starts in April and ends in March of the following year. Each year consists of three semesters and three long vacations.

#### [Semesters]

April to July	1st semester
August to December	2nd semester
January to March	3rd semester

#### [Long vacations]

End of July to end of August	Summer vacation
End of December to beginning of January	Winter vacation
End of March to beginning of April	Spring vacation

### ① Elementary school and Junior high school

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In Japan, six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school for three years are compulsory for all children.

Although foreign nationals are not subject to Japanese compulsory education, they can go to local elementary/junior high schools if they wish.

#### **School age**

Elementary school: A child who is 6 years old as of April 1 (i.e., A child whose 6th birthday is on between April 2, 2019 and April 1, 2020 starts elementary school in April 2020.)

Junior high school: A child who is 12 years old as of April 1 (i.e., A child whose 12th birthday is on between April 2, 2019 and April 1, 2020 starts junior high school in April 2020.)

#### **Costs**

There are no tuition or textbook fees to attend public elementary and junior high schools.

However, there are some costs, such as for school supplies, school lunches, school trips, and the like for which you will be responsible.

Izumisano city has a financial aid program that can help cover part of these costs.

#### **Admission procedures**

<A child who has already been registered as a resident of Izumisano city>

In around September of the year your child reaches elementary or junior high school age, you (the parent) will receive an enrollment guide from Izumisano city hall. Please read the details and follow the necessary procedures.

Please contact the School Affairs Division at Izumisano city hall if you have not received the enrollment guide by around October.

<Families who have moved to Izumisano city and have a child or children>

Please go to Izumisano city hall with the resident cards of each family member to submit a “moving-in notification” and register as residents at the Citizens’ Affairs Division.

After you do that, you will need to go to the School Affairs Division and complete the procedures for a school transfer.

★Where to make enquiries and follow procedures:

School Affairs Division

TEL: 072-463-1212 (extension: 2331 to 2335)

Citizens' Affairs Division

TEL: 072-463-1212 (extension: 2111 to 2118)

**If your child has difficulty communicating in Japanese**

Some schools offer support for children who have difficulty communicating in Japanese.

Please contact the School Affairs Division for more details.

★Where to make enquiries:

School Affairs Division

TEL: 072-463-1212 (extension: 2331 to 2335)

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### ② High school

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While most Japanese children go to high school after graduating from junior high school, high school is not compulsory. Students must pass an entrance examination to get into high school.

#### **School age**

A child who is 15 years old as of April 1 (i.e., A child whose 15th birthday is on between April 2, 2019 and April 1, 2020 starts high school in April 2020.)

#### **Costs**

The government and Osaka Prefecture offer tuition-support programs.

For a student going to a public high school, the tuition is essentially free if the parents' annual income is less than 9.1 million yen.

These programs allow even a private school student to go to school at no cost or a substantially reduced one.

Please see “4. Education (2) Financial aid programs” for further details.

#### **Subjects**

In Japan, there are several types of high schools including general academic high schools where students study a wide range of subjects and specialized high schools where they study specific areas, such as commercial high schools, industrial high schools, etc., and where they get technical training, such as the National Institute of Technology, a Specialized Training College, etc.

### ③ Vocational college, Junior college, University, and Graduate school

Regarding vocational college, period of school and whether it requires admission exam varies depending on a school.

Students who want to go to a national/public university are required to take two entrance exams: one is the “National Center Test for University Admissions,” which is an exam all students are required to take, and the other is each university’s individual exam. (As of January 2021, the “National Center Test for University Admissions” will be replaced by the “Common Test for University Admissions.”)

The subjects and schedules of the entrance exams of private universities and junior colleges vary depending on each school.

Students who want to further their studies in their area of specialization can go to graduate school after graduating from college.

☆ Useful website

Osaka Prefecture “Multilingual School Life Support Information”

<http://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/shochugakko/kikoku/index.html>