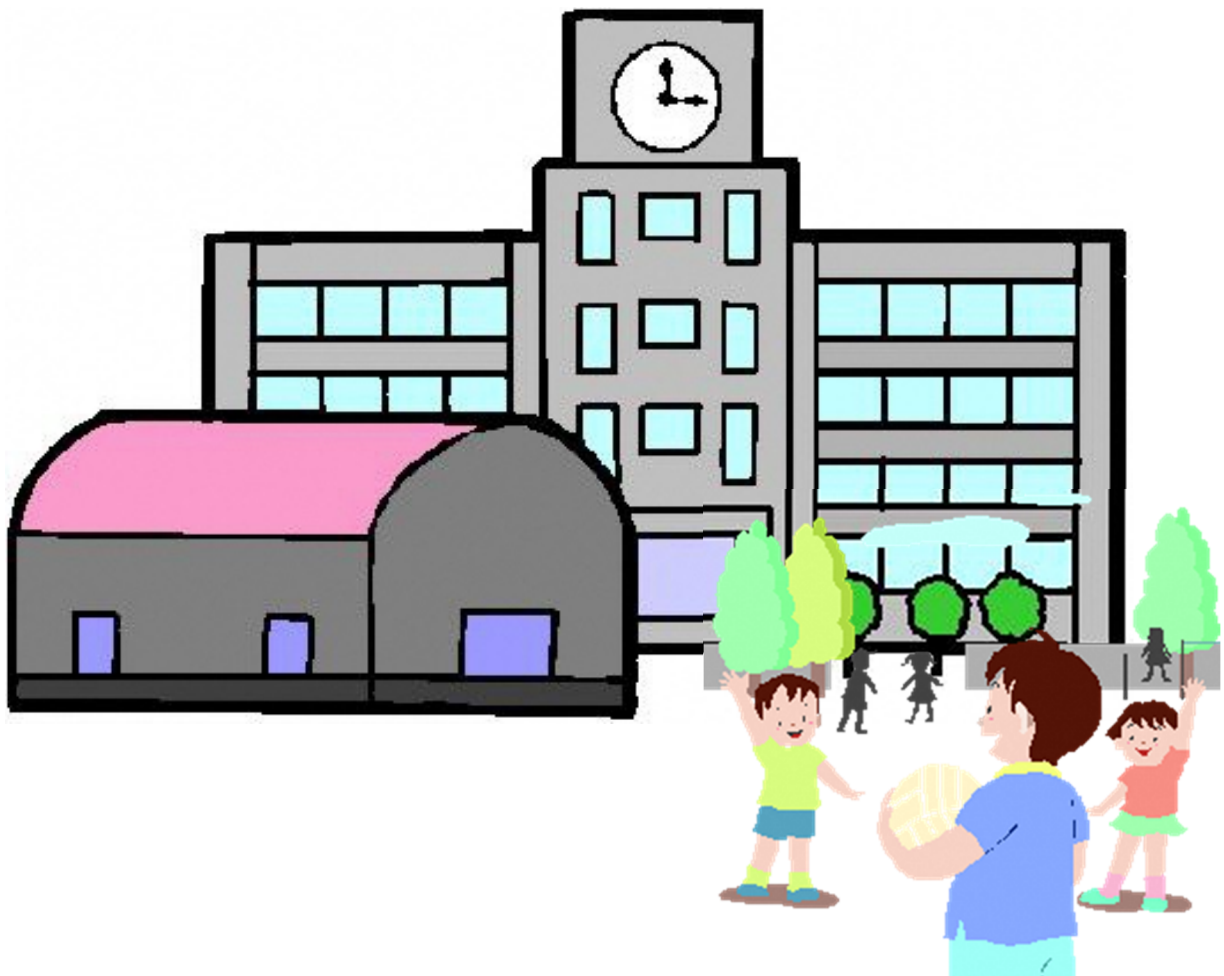


“Let’s Go to School” in Tsu City

**Guidance on Entering Schools for Foreign Children
and Their Guardians**

An Introduction to Entering Primary Schools



Tsu City Board of Education

《The School System》

About Compulsory Education

There are nine years of compulsory education, between the ages of six and fifteen.

A student enters elementary school in April when he/she is six years of age.

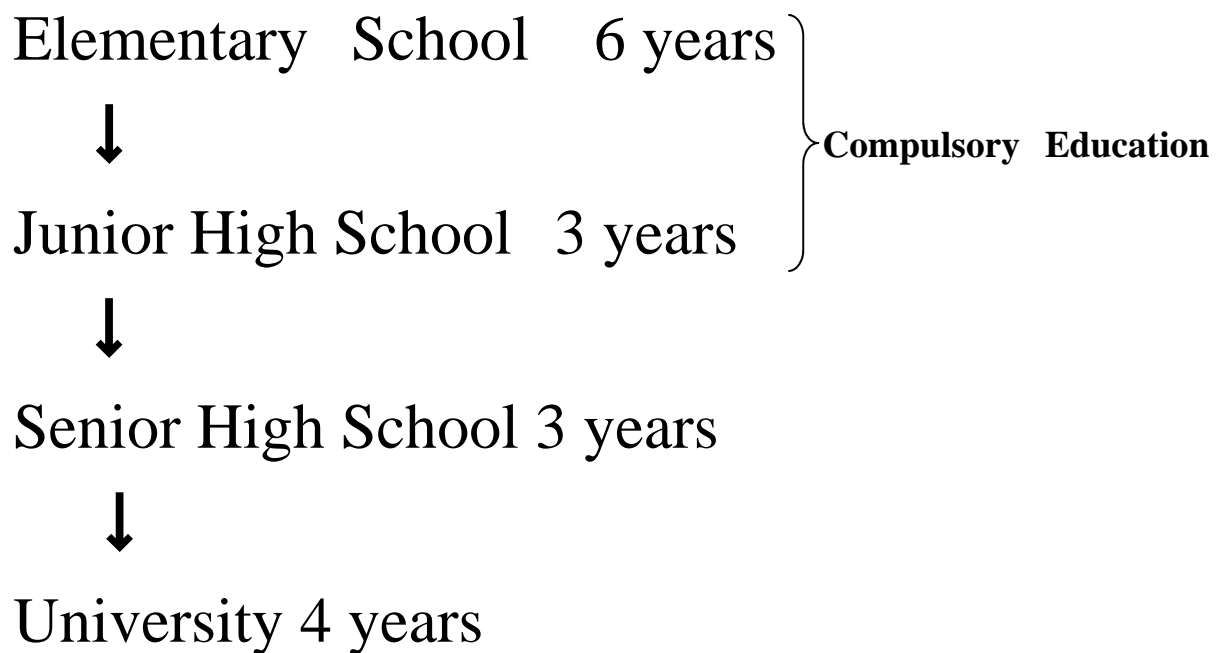
There are 6 years of elementary school education.

Upon graduation from elementary school, he/she can enter junior high school.

There are no tuition fees required for public elementary schools and junior high schools.
Japanese School



Japanese School



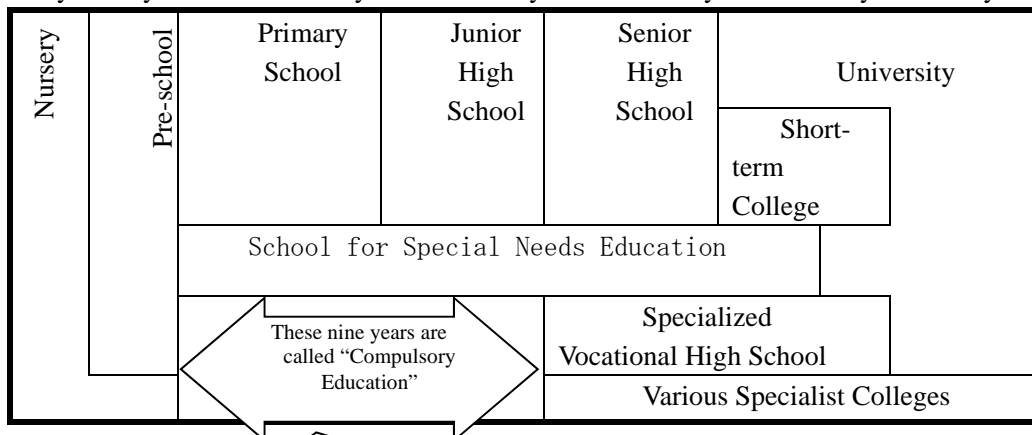
※Application forms must be submitted to the Board of Education for enrollment.

After turning six, school is entered from the next April, and education is received in an age- appropriate grade.

In senior high school education, there are full-time, part-time and correspondence courses; an entrance exam must be taken and passed to enter each course.



0yrs 3yrs 6yrs 12yrs 15yrs 18yrs 20yrs 22yrs



Compulsory education lessons are free of charge; however fees apply for school lunches and lesson materials.

School lunch costs about 4000 yen per month and materials cost about 2000 yen.

Elementary school

- Language(Japanese) Morality
- Arithmetic • Extracurricular activities
- Living science Social studies
- Music Science
- Drawing and manual arts Home economics
- Gymnastics

English activities

Comprehensive learning

One day of an elementary school

Going to school	8 : 0 0 ~
Meeting of the morning	8 : 3 0 ~
The first lesson	8 : 4 5 ~
The second hour	9 : 3 5 ~
Time for recess	1 0 : 2 5 ~
the 3th hour	1 0 : 4 5 ~
the 4th hour	1 1 : 3 5 ~
<u>school meals</u>	1 2 : 2 0 ~
Time for recess	1 3 : 0 0 ~
Cleaning	1 3 : 2 0 ~
the 5th hour	1 3 : 4 5 ~
Meeting of the return	1 4 : 3 0 ~
Coming back from school	1 4 : 5 0 ~



[A School Day in Primary School]

Going to School	8:00 -	A designated route (school route) is used to travel to and from school. Children who live nearby may travel together and register as a group.
Morning Meeting	8:30 -	Teacher in charge talks about necessities for the very day and checks pupils' health conditions.
First Lesson	8:45 -	【Lessons】 Timetables differ according to the day and school grade. Study time for one subject is 45 minutes for primary school, and 50 minutes for junior and senior high school. Pupils take a little longer rest time between the second lesson and the third lesson.
Second Lesson	9:35 -	
Rest Time	10:25 -	
Third Lesson	10:45 -	
Forth Lesson	11:35 -	
School Meals/ Lunch	12:20 -	Pupils have lunch together as a group.
Noon Recess	13:00 -	
Cleaning Time	13:20 -	Pupils clean their classroom and other facilities of the school, together as a group.
Fifth Lesson	13:45 -	
Meeting to Leave	14:30 -	Teacher in charge notifies pupils of what they must bring the next day, events, etc.
Leaving School	14:30 -	Pupils leave school together as a group.

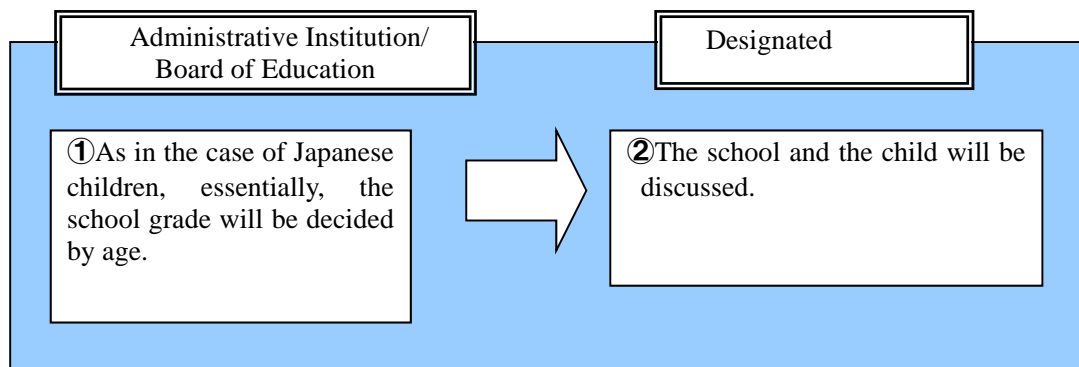
(The timetables above are different among schools)

- ※The numbers of lessons and the time of leaving school vary according to the day of the week and grade level. Usually the first grade pupils take only the forth lesson or the fifth lesson. Saturdays and Sundays are holidays.
- ※Holidays・・・Saturdays and Sundays are in principle holidays, however events like sports carnivals and class visits are sometimes held on these days. In this case, a weekday will be set as a holiday instead.

Procedures for Entering (Transferring to) Primary or Junior High School

(1)Procedures at an Administrative Institution

If your child is of primary or junior high school age, you will be directed to the municipal board of education and may complete school entry procedures there.



(2)Procedures for Entering Primary and Junior High School

To improve school life, information similar to the following will be discussed.

①	Confirmation of the spelling and pronunciation of the child's name, date of birth etc.
②	Family structure(family names)
③	Current address
④	Contact methods (for emergency, workplace, interpretations etc.)
⑤	Education received before school transfer (including before and after coming to Japan) and study conditions
⑥	Guardian's intended period of residence
⑦	Japanese ability (child and family)
⑧	Child's personality and future aspirations
⑨	Health condition (specific illnesses, eyesight, hearing, food allergies etc.)
⑩	Child and guardian's thoughts about education
⑪	Particular requests for the school, points you would like taken into consideration

Subjects

In primary school, pupils learn the following subjects: (standard subjects) Japanese, social studies, arithmetic, science, living science, music, drawing and handicraft, domestic science, physical education and morality; (additional subjects) special activities, comprehensive learning and English activities.

* The subjects for the first grade are Japanese, arithmetic, living science; music, drawing and handicraft, physical education, moral education, special activities and English activities.

Textbooks

The textbooks used in lessons are provided free of charge for every pupil of primary and junior high school by the national government at the beginning of each school year.

However, reference books called supplemental teaching materials, other than the textbooks mentioned above, are occasionally used in some schools. In such cases, you are requested to pay the purchase expenses.

Lessons

In primary school, the learning time of one lesson is 45 minutes.

The rest time before next lesson is about 10 minutes.

The teacher in charge of a class takes a leading part to teach most lessons.

The lessons are carried out according to a timetable.

When the time for each lesson comes, pupils take their seats and receive the lesson.

Subsidies for Going to School

If the municipal board of education admits that it is difficult for a guardian to have his child enter a public primary or junior high school, due to economic reasons, the guardian can receive some subsidies necessary to purchase school supplies and to pay for school meals and so on.

Going to School

The pupils walk to school through a predetermined school route.

In some districts, “Going to school as a group” system is adopted. In this case, nearby pupils gather every day at a same place and go to school together as a group. The members, the meeting place and the meeting time are determined.

Some schools have school bus.

(In Case of Absence, Coming Late and Leaving Early)

Absence and Coming Late

If a pupil comes late or is absent, his guardian must notify the school of it by a telephone directly, or by such procedures as writing it in the connecting note and asking a friend to deliver the note to the school.

Without a notice, the teacher in charge may become concerned about the pupil and needs to call his guardian.

Leaving Early

Once pupils have gone to school, they need to get the teacher’s permission if they go outside the school before the leaving time.

If a pupil needs to leave the school due to bad health or special circumstances, the teacher will make contact with his guardian and ask the guardian to come to the school and take the pupil home.

School Meals

In primary school, school meals are provided Monday through Friday. At the time of school meals, pupils set meals on the tables and clear the tables themselves. They have school meals together with their classmates and their teacher. The menu changes day to day. A dietitian arranges the menu, considering their good health and growth.

Please talk with the teacher, if your child needs special attention, e.g. allergies.

Guardians are requested to bear the cost of foodstuff and all expenses for school meals. The burden is about ¥ 4,000/ month.

Cleaning

In schools of Japan, pupils usually share the responsibility of cleaning their classrooms, school grounds, and so on.

At the end of each term, they often do a general cleaning, taking longer time than usual.

At the beginning of school year, some schools collect dust cloth to use for cleaning.

Afternoon Lessons

According to a timetable, lessons are carried out in the afternoon.

Leaving School

When pupils leave school, they group together with nearby pupils to go home.

The time of leaving school is different among schools.

School rules

In Japan schools have several rules. Generally pupils needn't prepare uniform, but some schools have their own uniform. Pupils should not bring things they don't use for study.

[Events Concerning Guardians]

Schools in Japan provide opportunities for educational consultation between guardians and teachers regarding pupils' affairs. This is a good opportunity for guardians to discuss with teachers problems in their pupil's lessons and school life, for example, bullying, truancy, career guidance, etc.

These opportunities for educational consultation regarding school life are mostly as follows:

1. Home Visits

The teacher in charge visits the pupil's home to discuss the pupil's life in school and at home.

2. Guardians' Meeting

Guardians go to the school, listen to the principal's presentation, and talk with the teacher in charge. The topics discussed are problems common to all the pupils, rather than individual personal consultation.

3. Personal Consultation


Usually it refers to the discussion or the consultation among a pupil, his guardian and the teacher in charge. This is the best opportunity to discuss any personal worries and problems.

The personal consultation is held on a fixed date. The teacher in charge informs the guardian of the date in advance.

Occasionally some schools may arrange the consultation for a convenient date, or prepare an interpreter for the guardian, according to his/her request.

[A School Year in Primary School]

In Japan school starts in April and ends in next March.

First Term	April	Entrance Ceremony: An event to welcome and celebrate the first grade pupils entering the school. Their guardians attend the ceremony together. Opening Ceremony: An event to declare the beginning of the first term.
	May	Body Measurements and Periodic Health Examinations: A check of pupils' growth by taking measurements of their height, weight and height while seated. There is also an examination of their health condition by a doctor.
	June	Field Trip: An event to go outside school on foot or by bus and to learn something that pupils cannot experience in the classroom, while becoming familiar with nature, history and culture. (Box lunch is needed)
	July	School Trip: Usually all the sixth grade pupils make two day group trip. Lesson Observation and Class Informal Talks: An event where all guardians observe lessons in a classroom and exchange information with the teacher in charge, in order to know how the pupils learn in school and live at home everyday.  Closing Ceremony: An event to declare the end of the first term.
Summer Holidays	August	Long holidays of about 30 to 40 days. *Some schools have some days for study during the vacation.
Second Term	September	Opening Ceremony: An event to declare the beginning of the second term. Evacuation and Fire prevention Drill: Training for evacuating in case of earthquake or fire.
	October	Sports Day: An event promoting the enjoyment of exercise, while participating in short-distance races, relay races, dancing, etc., and cheering up their own class and friends.
	November	Arts, Science and Culture Festivals (Presentation or Performance): Events to exhibit the works made in subjects such as drawings and handcrafts, to show the reports learned in subjects such as social studies and science, to play musical instruments and sing in chorus, to present theatrical

	December	performances, and so on. Visitors enjoy observing them. Closing Ceremony: An event to declare the end of the second term.
Winter Holidays	December	Holiday of about two weeks
	January	
Third Term		Opening Ceremony: An event to declare the beginning of the third term. Graduation Ceremony: An event to celebrate the graduation of the highest grade pupils from the school. Finishing Ceremony: An event not only to declare the end of the third term, but also to celebrate the completion of the school year.
	February	
	March	
Spring Holidays		The spring holidays begin just after the closing ceremony. When the holidays are over, pupils are promoted to the next grade and do their lessons of the new school year from April.

(Some schools adopt a two semester system.)

(When you want to ask or talk about school,)

Tsu City Hall (weekday 8:30~17:15)

23-1 Nishi-Marunouchi, Tsu City, 514-8611

○International City Service Division (3F : TEL 059-229-3146)

- You can talk in Portuguese, Spanish and English.
- They give you information about system and procedure of enrollment of school in Tsu city.

○Childcare support division(3F:TEL059-229-3167)

- They tell you how to complete the entrance formalities to nursery schools.
- You can ask anything about nursery schools.

○Central Health Center(Region Plaza1F : TEL059-229-3164)

- They tell you about the medical checkup of babies and infants and vaccination for them.

Tsu City Board of Education

(weekday 8:30~17:15)

37-8 Nishi-Marunouchi, Tsu City, 514-0035

○School Division(2F : TEL 059-229-3245)

○Education of Human rights (3F:059-229-3249)

- They tell you which school your child will be admitted.
- They tell you about procedure of enrollment in kindergarten and school and financial support system.
- You can talk about your worries of your child's education.

MIEF(Mie International Exchange Foundation)

(weekday 9:00~17:00)

700 Hadokoro-cho Tsu city Tsu Station Building 3F

TEL 059-223-5006

- You can talk in English, Portuguese, Tagalog and Spanish (Monday to Friday)
- You can talk about your trouble and anything in your daily life.



[Inquiries]

37-8 Nishi-Marunouchi, Tsu-city, Mie Prefecture, 514-0035 JAPAN

Human Right and Education Section, Office of Tsu City Board of Education

Tel. No.: 059-229-3253 Fax. No.: 059-229-3017