

Fukuoka School Life



Guidebook

English Version

April 2019

Fukuoka City Board of Education

Welcome to your Fukuoka Municipal School

For parents or guardians who have enrolled or transferred their children into a Fukuoka municipal school

This guidebook introduces Japanese school life for parents or guardians who have come to Fukuoka from overseas and have enrolled or transferred their children into a Fukuoka municipal school. In Fukuoka City, we also provide a substantial Japanese language support system to support non-Japanese students as part of the Japanese Support for Children Project.

We hope that the children who have entered Fukuoka municipal schools and the parents and guardians that support them can smoothly adjust to their new environment and enjoy school life with a smile on their face.

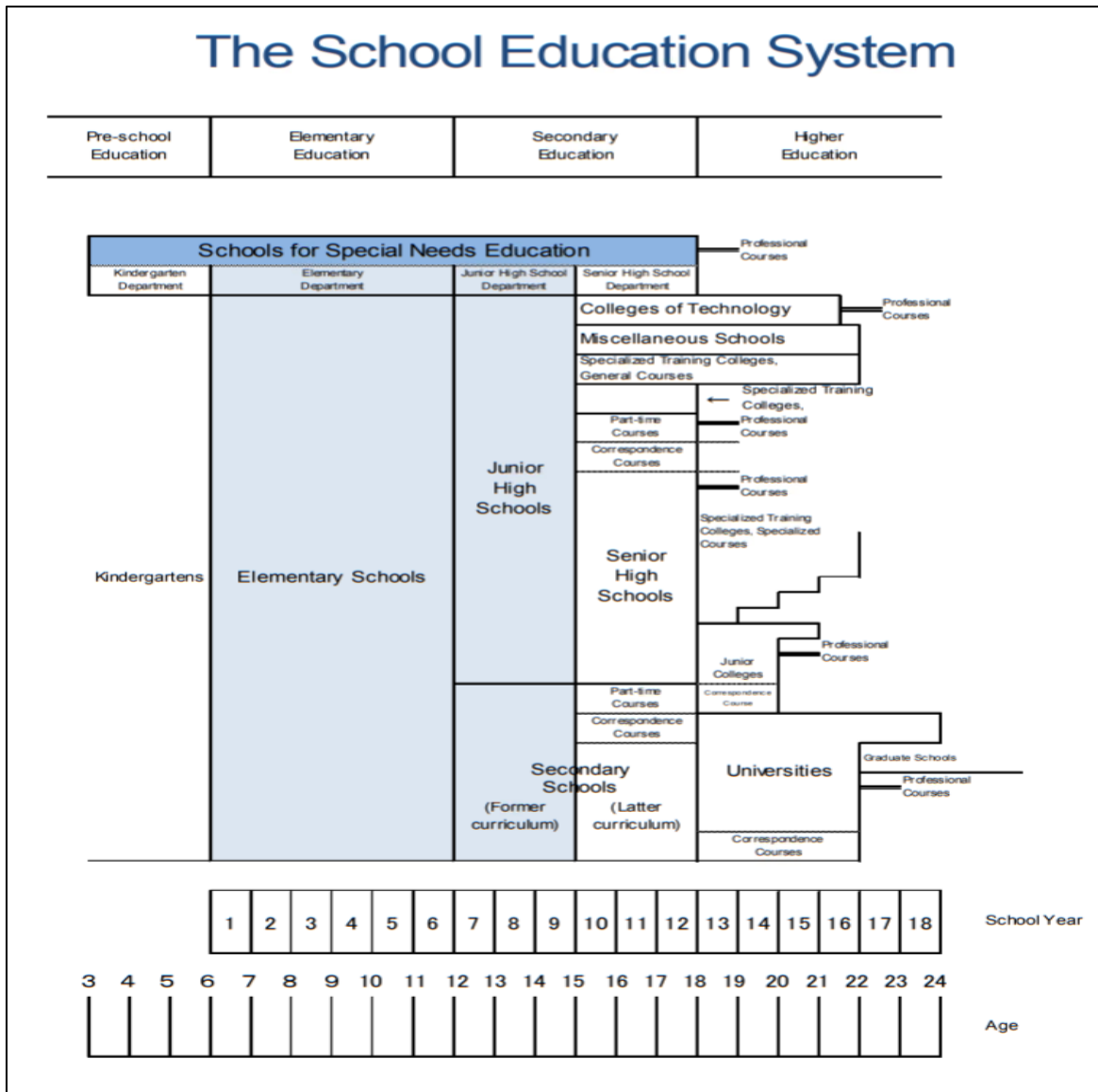
Fukuoka City Board of Education

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1) School Education in Japan

① Japanese School System Chart (Source: MEXT Guidebook for Starting School)



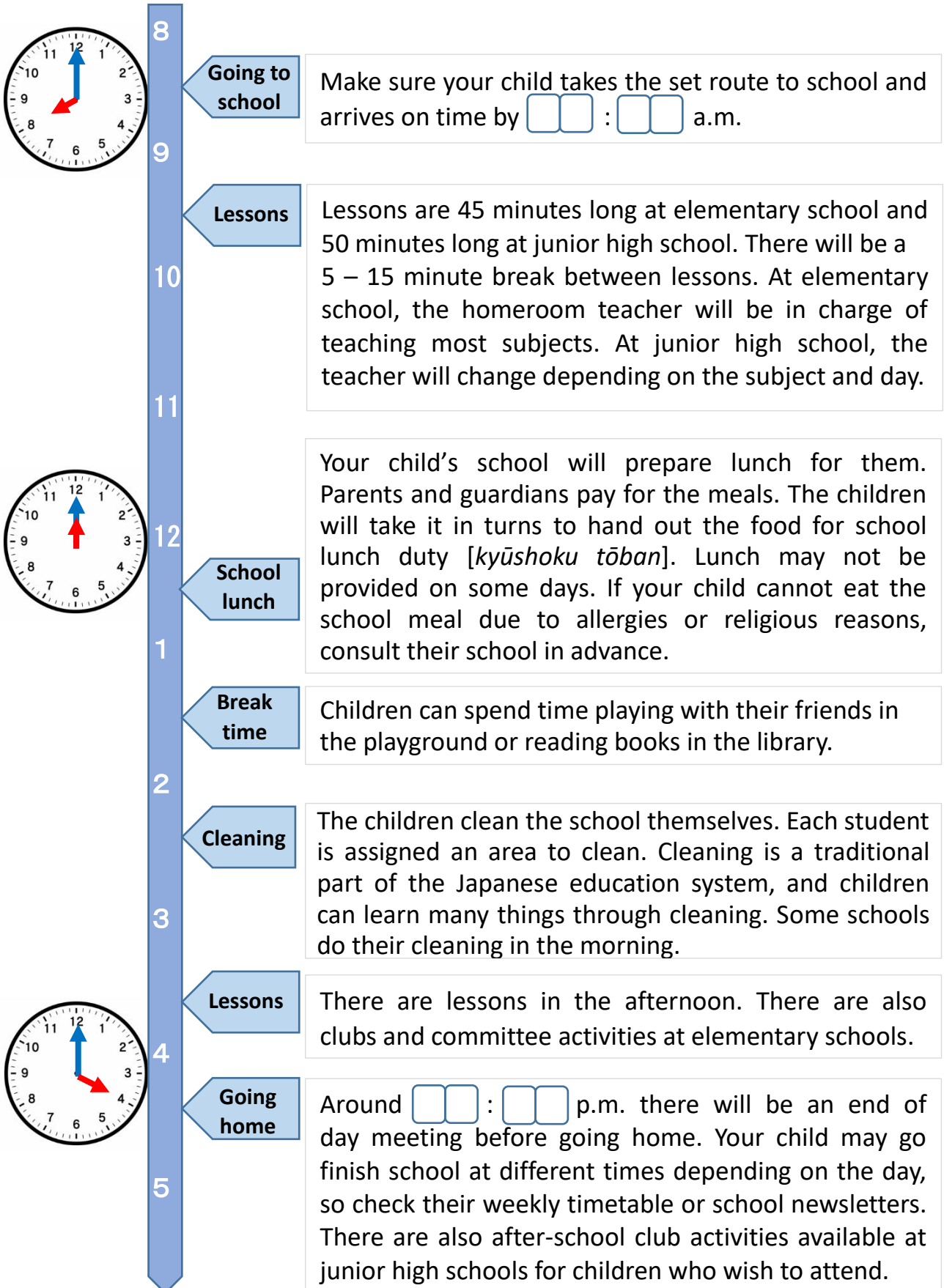
② Types of Schools

Japanese schools are separated into elementary, junior high, senior high schools and universities. However, compulsory education in Japan takes place over 9 years from age 6 – 15 at elementary school, junior high school, secondary school (lower secondary school) and special education elementary and junior high schools.

- Elementary school— Children can attend elementary schools from the first April after they turn 6 years old. Children receive 6 years of education here.
- Junior high school— Children can enter Junior high schools after turning 12 years old and completing elementary school. Children receive 3 years of education.
- Special education school— Special education schools provide special support for children with impairments and have elementary and junior high sections.

2) About School Life

An Average School Day



An Average School Year

Month	Term
April	Term 1 From April <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> until July <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
May	
June	
July	
August	Term 2 From August <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> until December <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
September	
October	
November	
December	
January	Term 3 From January <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> until March <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
February	
March	

Spring Holiday
 From March until April .

Start of Term Ceremony
 This ceremony signifies the start of the term. Terms 2 and 3 also have opening ceremonies.

Entrance Ceremony
 This ceremony is to celebrate first year students beginning their school life.

Sports Day & Sports Festival
 These are events where the children can enjoy exercise by working with their classmates in short races, relays and dancing.

Summer Holiday
 From July until August .

Art events
 Students can enjoy music, plays and art exhibitions.



School Trips
 Every 6th year student in elementary school and 2nd year in junior high school go on a trip with overnight stays and can enjoy visiting various facilities and workshops.

Winter Holiday
 From December until January .

Graduation Ceremony
 This is a ceremony to celebrate the oldest students' graduation.

End of Term Ceremony
 This is a ceremony that signifies the end of term 3 and bring the year to an end.

※Some schools split their school years into only 2 terms.

Subjects

Elementary School

1 st & 2 nd year subjects	Japanese • Arithmetic • Life Studies • Music • Arts & Crafts • P.E. • Moral Studies • Special Activities
3 rd & 4 th year subjects	Japanese • Social Studies • Arithmetic • Science • Music • Arts & Craft • PE • Moral Studies • Time for General Studies • Foreign Language Activities • Special Activities
5 th & 6 th year subjects	Japanese • Social Studies • Arithmetic • Science • Music • Arts & Craft • PE • Moral Studies • Foreign Language • Time for General Studies • Special Activities

Junior High School

1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd year subjects	Japanese • Social Studies • Mathematics • Science • Music • Art • PE • DT • English • Moral Studies • Time for General Studies • Special Activities
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☆ Evaluating Students

Your child's school will let you know about your child's life at school and their performance at school through end-of-term reports.

Counselling on Education

Japanese schools provide opportunities for parents or guardians to talk about their child with teachers.

◇ Home Visits

Home room teachers visit their student's homes to talk about school life and life at home with the student's parent or guardian. Some schools don't provide this service.

◇ Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parents or guardians go to their child's school to listen to the head teacher, talk to their child's homeroom teacher and discuss things with other parents and guardians.

◇ Individual Counselling

Individual counselling is available for students who wish to talk to their homeroom teacher, or for parents or guardians wishing to talk to their child's homeroom teacher.

School Rules

There are rules at school to ensure each and every student can go about their school life safely and healthily.

- ① Your child must take the set route to and from school.
- ② Your child must not be late. Arrive at school by : a.m.
- ③ You must contact the school if your child will be absent.
- ④ Your child can't leave the school without permission after they have arrived
- ⑤ Your child must not come to school by bicycle.
- ⑥ Dyed hair, piercings or other accessories are not allowed at school.
- ⑦ Your child must not take money, food, snacks, toys, cellphones or games to school.

If your child will be late, absent or needs to go home early, you must contact the school by : a.m.

School telephone number: 092— —



_____ *nen* _____ *kumi no* _____ *desu.*
[I'm calling about (*child's name*) from class (XXX) in year (XXX).]

netsu ga aru node, kyō wa gakkō o yasumasemasu.
[They have a fever, so won't be coming to school today.]

Wakarimashita.
[I understand.]

Dōzo odaji ni nasatte kudasai.
[I hope your child feels better soon.]



Health and Safety

Your child's school pay special attention to ensure your child can go about their school life safely and healthily. If your child falls ill or is injured at school they will be treated at the school nurses office, or if necessary, contact you and take your child to hospital.

Your child will also receive regular health checkups to check as set out by Japanese law. You will be informed of the results of these checkups, and if necessary, recommended to take your child to a doctor.

You will need to fill out an emergency contact card and other documents so the school is aware of your child's state health and allergies, and also be able to contact you in an emergency



School Costs

① School books and lesson fees

- School books are free at elementary and junior high schools.
- Lessons are also free at elementary and junior high schools.

② School Lunch

- You must pay for school lunch.
- Parents or guardians are must create an account at the bank or post office specified by their child's school. The account will be charged for school lunch and other teaching materials.

③ Teaching materials

- You must also pay for teaching materials such as tests and study drills, and materials for arts and craft lessons.
- These fees will be withdrawn monthly from the account you opened at the specified bank or post office.

④ Other fees

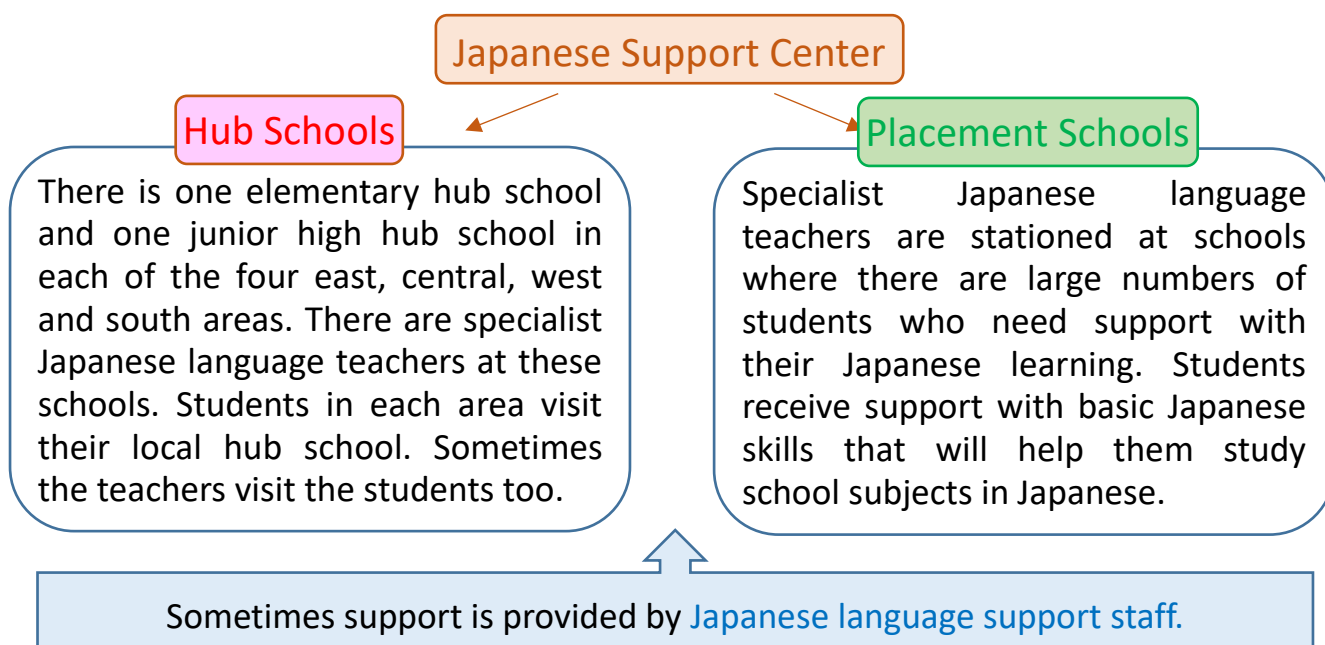
- Schools have a PTA group for parents and guardians and teachers to work together to make sure the school's education program runs smoothly. Some schools collect fees to support the PTA.
- Your child's school will provide a calendar with information on when and how much fees will be withdrawn. Please inquire at your child's school for information.

Japanese Language Support for Children Project

The Fukuoka City Board of Education provides special Japanese language learning support for students to be able to smoothly get used to school life and attend classes in Japanese. This service is provided for students who are struggling with attending classes in Japanese at elementary, junior high or special education schools.

1) Fukuoka City Japanese Language Support System

A Japanese language support coordinator will arrange a meeting and measure the student's ability.



1) Process to receive Japanese language support.

① Enter/transfer to a municipal elementary, junior high or special education school.



Meeting & counselling with head and deputy head teacher.

② Meet with a Japanese language support coordinator.



③ Receive Japanese language lessons from a Japanese language support teacher or staff.



※Support will be conducted according to a personal guidance plan.