



もうすぐ一年生

I'm going to be an *Ichi-nen-sei*.

こどもの なまえを にほんの もじで かいて みましょう。

Write your child's name in Japanese.

Preparation of the Enrollment Ceremony (*Nyūgaku-shiki*)

Preparing Mentally for the Enrollment Ceremony

1. Relax and do not panic in the run-up to the Enrollment Ceremony.
2. Staying healthy is the most important thing.
3. Basic lifestyle habits are the first step in school life.
4. Do not rush to help all the time. Try to foster independence.
5. Children's lives start with play.
6. Find time to spend with your child.
7. Know your child's route to and from school, and make going to school safe.

Things to Do Before Your Child Starts School

1. Get your child into the habit of doing things for him/herself by him/herself.
2. Get your child to put on and take off clothes by him/herself.
3. Teach your child to clean up and put away things he/she used by him/herself.
4. Get your child into the habit of washing his/her face and brushing his/her teeth.
5. Get your child into the habit of washing his/her hands before eating and after using the bathroom.
6. Get your child to clearly say his/her thoughts and things that are important (like if he/she has a problem like he/she forgot or dropped something, he/she needs to go to the bathroom, or he/she has a headache or a stomachache, etc).
7. Get your child in the habit of eating everything served in a meal whether or not he/she likes it and in the habit of finishing meals within 20 minutes.
8. Make sure your child can clearly say his/her name, address, parents' names, and telephone number.
9. Get your child to respond enthusiastically with "*hai*" when his/her name is called.
10. Get your child in the habit of going to bed and waking up early.
11. Make sure your child knows how to read street signs and signals and can cross the street properly.
12. Make sure your child can play friendly with others.
13. Make sure your child can hold a pencil and chopsticks properly.

Can your child do the following?

		Yes	No
1	Read/write his/her name.		
2	Listen quietly and look at the person who is talking.		
3	Distinguish between left and right.		
4	Say the names of colors.		
5	Can fold paper.		
6	Can tie strings, shoelaces.		
7	Can use scissors.		
8	Can ring a dustcloth.		

School Supplies and Other Preparations

◆ **Things to Buy at Home**



“*Fude-bako*”
A simple pen case



“*Shita-jiki*”
A sheet to lay under writing paper



“*Keshi-gomu*”
An eraser



“*Uwagutu*”
Indoor shoes



“*Enpitsu*”/Pencils
(5B pencils, 1 red pencil)



“*Hashi*” and “*hashi-bako*”
Chopsticks and chopsticks case



“*Kyūshoku-yō-fukurō*”
School lunch bag



“*Taiiku-kan shoes*”
Gym shoes + bag



“*Taiiku-bōshi*” / Gym hat
Red and white reversible cap

◆ **Things the School Will Buy (They will be passed out on the day of the enrollment ceremony. You have to pay for them later.)**

- *Nōto*: notebooks (Japanese (*kokugo*), math (*sansū*), an unlined notebook (*jiyūchō*), parent-teacher contact notebook (called the “*renraku-chō*”))
- *Kurepasu, iro-enpitsu*: Crayons, color pencils (in 12 colors)
- *Kakikata-pen*: a marker for writing practice
- *Sero-teepu*: Cellophane tape
- *Nendo*: Clay (with case)
- *Nendo-ita*: Board to use when working with clay
- *Renraku-bukuro*: a bag for the parent-teacher contact book
- *Hasami*: Scissors
- *Namae-pen*: a felt-tip marker used to write one’s name on one's belongings
- *Seiri-bako*: a box for holding school supplies

※Main textbooks are handed out for free, but some books must be paid for.

◆ **Clothing**

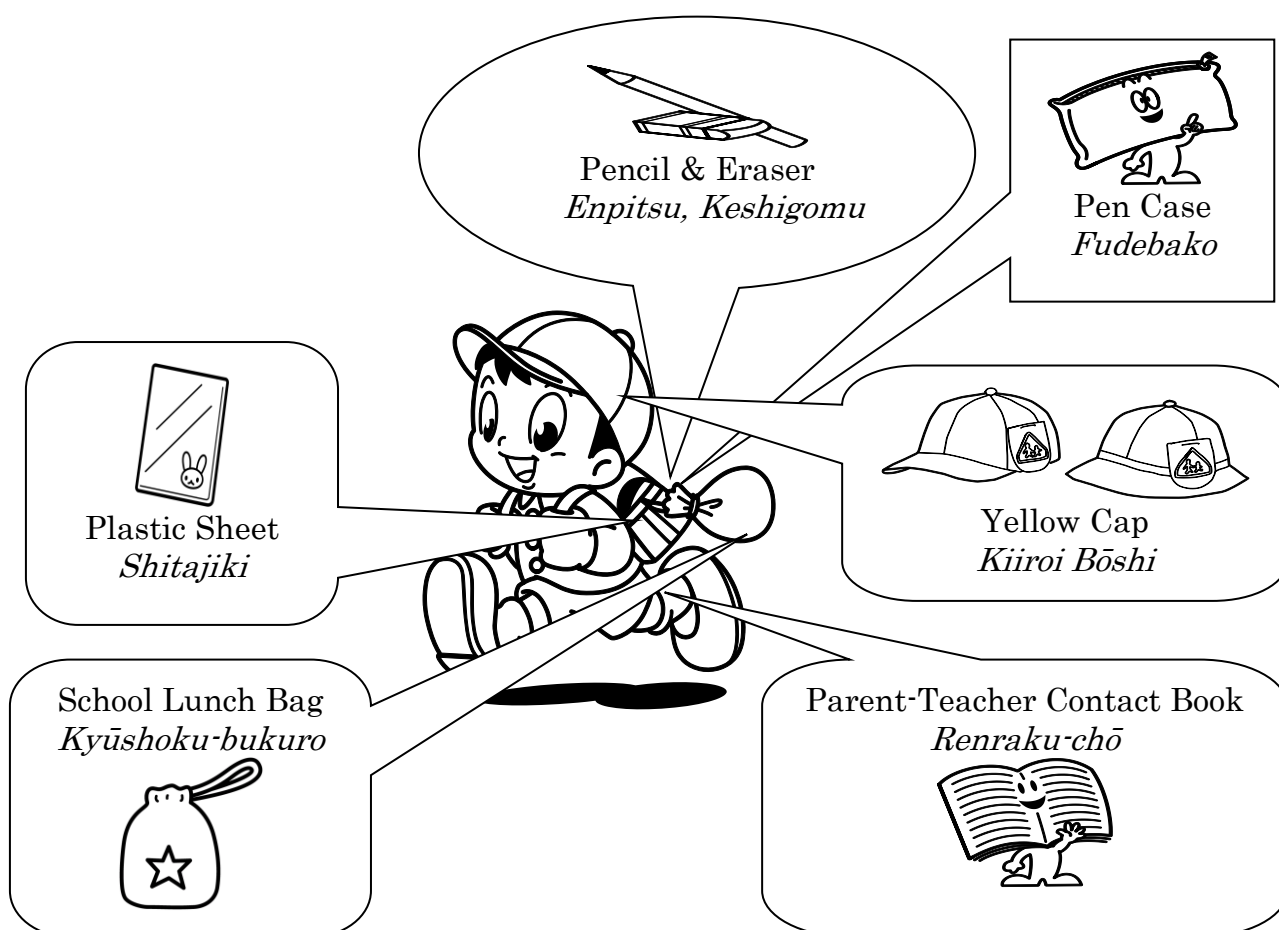
- Clothes: There is no uniform. Your child should wear clothes that are easy to move in that he/she can put on and take off without help.
- Hat: A yellow cap for safety. (Has school insignia. Girls’ caps have a string to tie.)



- Athletic shoes: Shoes that are easy to move in and that your child can put on by him/herself

- Name tag
- Gym shirt (long sleeve/short sleeve), gym shorts, gym hat
(There is long-sleeve/long-legged PE outerwear for winter.)
- Gym shoes (For wearing inside the school gym. They are kept in class in a bag.)
- Raingear: Bright color that stands out such as yellow
(Collapsible umbrellas are not good.)

Things to Take to and from School Everyday



Things that should never be taken to school:

Accessories/jewelry (earrings, rings, necklaces, etc.),
snacks (gum, biscuits/cookies, candy), cellular/mobile phones,
playing cards, card games, video games

Other Notes

- (1) Check the parent-teacher contact book and your child's backpack everyday.
Please submit documents to the school in a timely manner.
- (2) Please clearly write your child's name, grade, and class on each of his/her belongings in hiragana.

Health Maintenance and Advice for Your Child

Results of the medical examination

- tooth decay / cavity
- atopic dermatitis
- hearing difficulty
- low vision
- tonsillitis (inflamed, enlarged tonsils)
- other (heart murmur)

▲ If this exam shows that your child has a disease, please take him/her to a doctor.

▲ Health is fundamental for life at school. Come to school in the best of health.

From the Nurse's Office (*Hoken-Shitu*)

- (1) The nurse's office will conduct height/weight measurements three times a year.
We will inform you of the results through the "*hoken-nōtō*" (health notebook), which holds a record of your child's growth.
The measurements will be made while wearing gym clothes.
- (2) If your child suffers an injury that is covered by the National Agency for the Advancement of Sports and Health (an injury that requires treatment from a doctor):
This system will pay for a portion of the medical fees if your child is injured at school and he/she receives treatment at a hospital/clinic. The premium for this program (460 yen last school year) must be paid once every year.
Our school has all students enroll in this program.

▲ If the school takes your child to a see a doctor:
we will take your child to the hospital/clinic you have written on the "Emergency Contact Card" (*Kinkyū Renraku Kaado*). As a general rule, we have parents come to the hospital/clinic and be with their children.
Sometimes treatment cannot be given without the consent of a parent/guardian. Therefore, we must be able to contact you in case of an emergency.

▲ If your child gets injured at school and you take him to see a doctor after school is dismissed, please contact your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

(3) Other Notes

Lending of clothes:

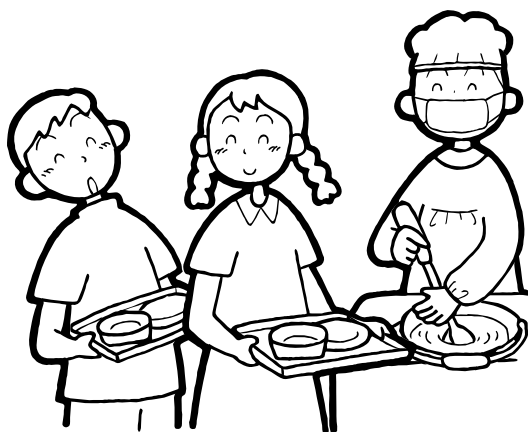
If your child dirtied or soiled his/her clothes, the school will lend your child a new piece of clothing and send your child home wearing the borrowed piece of clothing. Please return the borrowed piece of clothing.

▲If your child has a habit of wetting himself/herself, we recommend putting an extra pair of underwear in his/her backpack.

School Lunch

In Japan, rice is not seasoned with salt and pepper. Many dishes are usually flavored with miso, soy sauce, sugar, and/or mirin (a cooking wine). If your child is not used to Japanese food, please have him/her try to get used to it little by little.

School lunches (*kyūshoku*) are served at school, and teachers and students eat lunch together in the classroom. School lunch is served by students who are picked out for school lunch duty. School lunch duty rotates among students on a regular basis.



The student on school lunch duty must take home every Friday the hat, apron, and mask worn when serving lunch and wash them. Do not forget to bring them to school on Monday morning.

Chopsticks, spoons, forks, and napkins should be washed every day. Do not forget to bring them to school every day.

School lunch starts 1 week later for first graders than it does for other grades. (School lunch will start in mid-April.)

School lunch menus will be passed out every month.

Going to and from School

In Japan, the school your child goes to is decided based on where you live. In order to prevent traffic accidents, safe roads to school are picked out as “school commuting routes” (*tsūgakuro*), and children walk to school together in groups (called *tsūgakuhan*). Sometimes parents take turns as traffic guards.

Children in your neighborhood will gather to form a group (*tsūgakuhan*) and then walk to school together. To find out the place and time the *tsūgakuhan* meets, ask the group leader (called the *hanchō*). If your child is ill or will be absent from school for any other reason, write the reason down in the parent-teacher contact book (*renraku-chō*) and hand it to the *hanchō* of your child’s *tsūgakuhan*. Your child’s homeroom teacher will write the schedule for the next day in the in parent-teacher contact book and send it back to you.

If your child comes to school on a bus from a day care center, please tell the school the contact information for the day-care center and the bus. If you change day-care centers, please tell the school as soon as possible. Make sure to tell the school when your child will come to and leave school.

Every morning, your child will come to school with his/her *tsūgakuhan*. (Your child must come to school by 8:10.) We will inform you of your child’s *tsūgakuhan*, its name, meeting place, meeting time, etc., though another student in a higher grade from your neighborhood at a later date. Before school begins, walk the route to school (*tsūgakuro*) with your child and teach your child to walk on the right side, how to read traffic signals, how to cross the street, and places that are dangerous. (Make sure to check that it is safe from a child’s point-of-view.) A teacher will accompany students part of the way home after school for period of time after the school year begins.

Traffic Guard Duty (*Hata Tōban*)



Traffic guards help children cross the street and at dangerous intersections and street crossings every morning as they go to school. When your turn for traffic guard duty comes, you will be given a yellow flag (flag = *hata*) to use. When your turn on traffic guard duty ends, hand the flag to the next family on duty. (You may leave the flag at the family's front door if they are not at home.)

Traffic guarding starts from about 7:30 AM, takes about 30 minutes, and ends at about 8 AM. You will be assigned traffic guard duty 2 or 3 times a year. If you cannot perform traffic guard duty on the day you are assigned, you may ask someone to do it in your place, but make sure to pass the flag to the next person on the schedule. At the beginning of the school year, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) will hand out a schedule with dates, locations, and names of persons on duty.

Direct Debit System for Paying School Expenses

How to Start Direct Debiting (Automatic Bank Account Transfers)

- (1) Please open a bank account with one of the banks that the school has partnered with (listed below). If you already have an account at one of those banks, you do not need to create a new one.

Banks we have partnered with:

- (2) Please deposit enough money into your account to pay for school expenses by the () day of each month.
 - We will inform you of the amount of money to be collected for school expenses at the end of every month through your child.
 - Please make sure that your bank account has a sufficient balance, paying attention to Saturdays, Sundays, and other bank holidays.
- (3) The automatic bank transfer will take place on the () day of every month.
 - Your child's school expenses will be transferred automatically from your bank account into the school's account just like an automatic bank transfer for water, electricity, or telephone bills.
 - The amount of money transferred will be reported in the "*Gakuhi Jidō Furikae no Oshirase*" (notice of school fees transfer).
 - The school will contact you if the money could not be transferred due to an insufficient balance.

Procedure for Setting up Direct Debiting

- (1) Please follow the sample form to fill out the form. Use a ball point pen and press firmly.
- (2) After filling out the form, bring all 3 sheets to one of the banks listed above.
- (3) Use the seal (*inkan*) you used to open your account on pages 1 and 2. Do not write in your child's CLASS (*kumi*) or NUMBER (*bangō*). The school will fill in these items.
- (4) The bank will check the account holder's name, bank book, seal, etc., and stamp pages 2 and 3 and return them to you. Please submit those 2 pages to school.

NOTE: You must use the seal you used to open your bank account on this form.

Parent-Teacher Contact Book

◆Please memorize the following words.

Japanese	KOKUGO	Class Meeting	GAKKYŪ
Mathematics	SANSŪ	Moral Education	DŌTOKU
Music	ONGAKU	Life Education (1 st - 2 nd grade)	SEIKATSU
Art	ZUKŌ	Domestic Science (5 th - 6 th grade)	KATEIKA
Physical Education (PE)	TAIKU	Social Studies (3 rd - 6 th grade)	SHAKAI
General	SŌGŌ	Science (3 rd - 6 th grade)	RIKA
English	EIGO		

- *Kurabu* (Clubs: sports, science, games): 4th, 5th, 6th grade
- *Bukatsu* (Sports teams and other school organizations: track & field, swimming, volleyball, soccer, music, etc.): 4th, 5th, 6th grade

The subjects in elementary school are Japanese, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, English, Music, Art, and Physical Education. However, in 1st and 2nd grade, Science and Social Studies are combined into “Life Education,” a subject where students learn about things closer to their everyday life.

Also, in 5th and 6th grade, students learn cooking, sewing, and the role of the family in Domestic Science.

In Music, 1st and 2nd grade students learn the keyboard harmonica, and 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students learn the recorder.

In Art, students make paintings with watercolors and make things out of various materials. Starting in the 4th grade, students learn how to make engravings in panels for making prints. If the teacher says that supplies are needed for this class, please purchase them. If you do not know where to purchase them, please come to the school to ask.

Gym clothes worn for PE will have the school’s insignia and the design will vary from school to school. Ask the school which stores sell the school’s gym clothes, and buy them as early as possible. Some schools use the school’s gym clothes as a school uniform.

Starting in mid-June, students will swim in gym class. Swimwear will be needed for PE class at that time. Some schools sell swimwear before swimming begins. All schools have a pool, and students swim in an area and depth appropriate to their grade. Unless your child is unable to swim due to certain circumstances or was told not to swim by a doctor, please have your child participate in swimming classes.

In the subject “General,” students do things like research things on their own, exercise, or apply something they learned in another class.

When Your Child is Absent from School

When your child will be absent from school, make sure to inform your child's homeroom teacher by phone or through the parent-teacher contact book (*renraku-chō*). If your child needs to leave school early for family reasons or because he/she got sick, a parent/guardian must come to school to pick up him/her. Your child will not be allowed to leave school alone.

Japanese	Meaning	How to write
けっせき します	My child will be absent from school.	Kesseki shimasu
ちこく します	My child will be late for school.	Chikoku shimasu
そうたい します	My child will leave school earlier.	Sōtai shimasu

Reasons

ねつ	fever	Netsu
はきけがする	feel nauseous	Hakike ga suru
せき	cough	Seki
かぜ	cold	Kaze
あたま が いたい	headache	Atama ga itai
みみ が いたい	earache	Mimi ga itai
は が いたい	toothache	Ha ga itai
けが を した	injured	Kega o shita
びょういん に いく	going to a hospital/clinic (going to see a doctor)	Byōin ni iku
ようじ が ある	family reasons	Yōji ga aru
おなか が いたい	stomachache	Onaka ga itai

◆ Examples

Example 1: Write: Kesseki shimasu. Kaze desu.

Meaning: My child will be absent from school. He/she has a cold.

Example 2: Write: Chikoku shimasu. Byōin ni iku.

Meaning: My child will be late for school. He/she is going to see a doctor.

Example 3: Write: Sōtai shimasu. Yōji ga aru.

Meaning: My child will leave school early. It is for family reasons.

▲ **The school's main concern is whether or not the parents know about their child's absence.**

▲ In Japan, children should attend school unless they are ill. Please avoid absences for family reasons as much possible.

If any of the following changes, please inform your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. The school must know these in case they have a question for you or if your child gets injured and needs to go to the hospital.

- ◆ Your home telephone number and cell phone number(s)
- ◆ Your workplace, emergency contact number, and health insurance number(s)
- ◆ Your child's day-care center and how your child will go to and from school

When your address changes, or if you plan to leave Japan

Help your Child with Homework



Listen to your child read every day.

Have your child practice writing Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji everyday.



Watch your child when he/she is studying as much as you can. (Just staying by his/her side is good.) Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of words.

Make sure your child can say numbers in Japanese. Have your child practice counting, addition, and subtraction every day.

