

2023 School Year

English
《英語版》

がいこくじんじどうせいと ほごしゃ
外国人児童生徒と保護者のための

しんろ てび
進路の手引き

Guide to Academic and
Career Options
for Foreign Residents



とよはししきょういくいいんかい
豊橋市教育委員会
Toyohashi Board of Education

Index

1. Japanese Educational System.....	1
2. Senior High Schools (<i>Koko</i>)	
(1) Public Senior High Schools.....	2
(2) Group Combination of Public Senior High Schools.....	3
(3) Private Senior High Schools.....	4
(4) Main Subsidy Systems.....	5
(5) Part-Time Senior High Schools.....	6
3. Other Career Options	
(1) Specialized Training School (<i>Senshu Gakko</i>) (2) Aichi Prefectural Higashi Mikawa College of Technology (3) Employment.....	7
4. Q&A	
Q1: Academic and Career Schedule.....	8
Q2: Difference between Junior High School and Senior High School Q3: Qualifications for Examination Q4: Textbooks, Q5: School Grades (<i>Naishinten</i>), Q6: School Uniforms.....	9
Q7: Attending School while Working, Q8: Part-Time Jobs, Q9: Open School.....	10
Q10: Career Decisions, Q11: Academic Achievement Test Subjects, Q12: Interviews...	11
Q13: Special Selection Examination for Foreign Students (Toyohashi Nishi Senior High School, Toyokawa Koka Senior High School, Aichi Prefectural Mito Aoba High School..	12
Q14: Aid for Foreign Students Taking Part-Time Senior High School's Entrance Examination.....	13
Q15: Professional Training School (<i>Senmon Gakko</i>).....	13
Q16: Specialized Selection Examination (<i>Tokushoku Senbatsu</i>).....	14
5. Personal Experience.....	15
6. The Most Important Thing.....	16

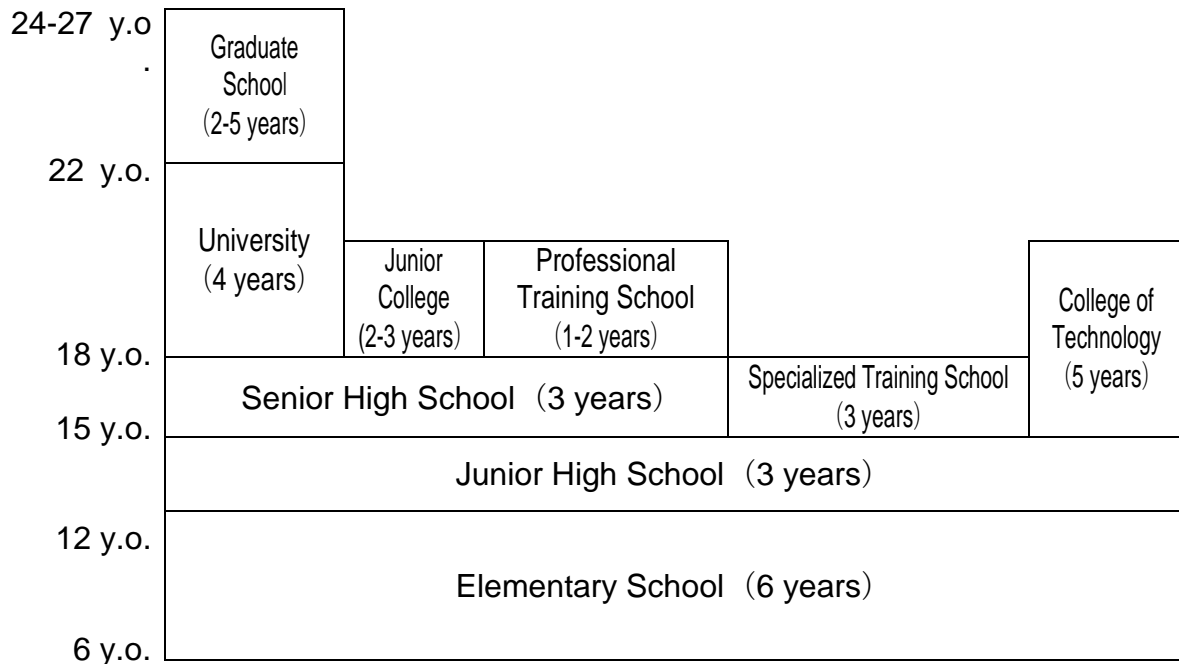
<Appendix>

- Tuition Support Fund System for Public Senior High School Students (Aichi Prefecture)

1. Japanese Educational System

This is a brief explanation of the Japanese educational system.

In Japan, elementary school (6 years) and junior high school (3 years) are compulsory years of education. After graduating from junior high school, about 99% of the students go on to senior high school (3 years). Furthermore, about 82% of students who graduate from senior high school enroll in university (4 years), junior college (2-3 years) or professional training school (1-2 years).



Why Go to Senior High School?

In Japan, the number of junior high school graduates who immediately start working is very low, that being about 1%. That is because Japanese companies tend to hire not junior high school, but senior high school, university or professional training college graduates.

In addition, many Japanese people think that improving academic ability and acquiring knowledge, culture, and skills are very important. The number of jobs requiring a high school certificate of graduation is also increasing. Therefore, going to senior high school can help you reach your full potential and increase your job options in the future.

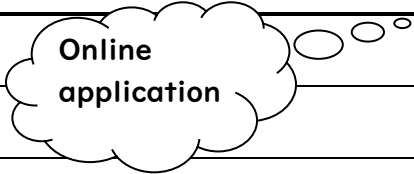
2. Senior High Schools (*Koko*)

There are two kinds of senior high schools: public and private. Most senior high schools conduct classes from Monday to Friday, from around 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. This is called full-day school system.

In addition to the regular course which is for those who aim at entering university, there are courses in technical subjects aimed at finding employment, as well as an integrated course which allows you to choose classes that suit your interests.

(1) Public Senior High Schools

Public senior high schools are administered by their respective city or prefecture. Their lower cost compared to private senior high schools is one of their characteristics. In Aichi prefecture, a new entrance examination system was implemented for those entering senior high school in April 2023. Students can apply to up to two schools as in the past, but there will be just one academic achievement test.

	Selection by Recommendation	General Entrance Examination
	The applicant must have a strong desire to attend the applied senior high school. Excellent character and academic records are needed. A recommendation from the applicant's junior high school principal is required.	2 schools in total, 1 school from group A and 1 school from group B (P.3) can be applied.
Exam Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview • School report (2nd semester assessment) <u>No academic achievement test.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five-subject academic achievement test (Mark sheet system) • Interview (Not held depending on the school.) • School report (2nd semester assessment)
After passing	Applicants who passed the selection by recommendation <u>must enroll in the school they applied to.</u>	Applicants will pass either the first or second choice senior high school, or may fall both.
Exam Fee	¥2,200	
Enrollment Fee	¥5,650	
Tuition Fee	¥118,800 (Annually) <u>Pay in 4 installments.</u> For prefectural senior high schools, there is High School Tuition Support Fund System. Please check the appendix for details.	
Class Fee	Approx. ¥6,000 (Monthly)	
Other	School uniform and gym clothes: Approx. ¥80,000 Textbooks: Approx. ¥20,000	

(2) Group Combination of Public Senior High Schools

[The grouping is based on last year's entrance examination.]

	Group A	Group B
Regular Course Mikawa Group	Yutakagaoka Toyohashi Minami (Education Course available) Fukue (Welfare Practice Course, Tourism Business Course available) Kou Mito Aoba Okazaki	Jishukan Toyohashi Higashi (International Understanding Course available) Seisho Kozakai Gamagori Higashi Taguchi (Nature Exploration Course available)
Specialized Course	Toyohashi Koka (Robotics Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical) (Architectural Design, Urban Engineering) Toyohashi Shogyo (General Business, International Business, Accounting, Information Processing) Toyohashi Minami (Life Design) Yutakagaoka (Life Culture) Kou (General Business) Anjo Norin (Agriculture and Horticulture) (Flower Science) (Food Science) Zoological science (Forest Environment) Asahigaoka (Art) Meiwa (Music) Horyo (Welfare) (Hygiene and Nursing) Mito (International Liberal Studies) Shinshiro Higashi Tsukude Kosha (People and Nature)	Toyokawa Koka (Robotics Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical, Information Design) (Life Course) Seisho (General Business) (Life Culture) Atsumi Nogyo (Agriculture and Protected Horticulture) (Food Science) (Life Science) Miya Suisan (Marine Science) (Information Communication) (Marine Resource) (Marine Foods) Taguchi (Forestry)
Integrated Course	Gamagori	Toyohashi Nishi Shinshiro Yukyokan (Humanities and Sciences, Specialized)



For details of public senior high schools, please check “Aichi Prefecture Admission to Senior High School (高等学校への入学 愛知県)” (Aichi Prefectural Board of Education’s website).

(3) Private Senior High Schools

When people hear the word “private senior high school,” they usually think that it costs a lot. In Aichi prefecture, however, the government provide parents with tuition fee reduction subsidies and enrollment fee subsidies.

As a result, the tuition fee difference between public and private senior high schools is getting smaller. When transportation expenses are taken into consideration, attending a private senior high school close to your house might cost you less than commuting to a public senior high school far away. Moreover, owing to their special advanced courses and guidance, many private senior high schools have had excellent results in terms of students entering universities and getting jobs at renowned companies.

	Selection by Recommendation	General Entrance Examination
	The applicant must have a strong desire to attend the applied senior high school. Excellent character and academic records are needed. A recommendation from the applicant’s junior high school principal is required.	Applicants can apply to as many schools as they want unless the examination date is different. Applications to public high schools is also possible.
Exam Subjects	Japanese, mathematics and English academic achievement test, essay, interview, etc. (Depends on school)	Five-subject academic achievement test and interview, etc. (Depends on school)
After passing	Applicants who passed the selection by recommendation <u>must enroll in the school they applied to.</u>	In case the applicant passed the general entrance examination of both private and public senior high schools, it is not necessary to enroll in the private one. However, about ¥20,000 as a part of the enrollment fee should be paid.
Exam Fee	Approx. ¥15,000	
Enrollment Fee	Approx. ¥200,000	
Tuition Fee	¥30,000-¥37,000 (Monthly) (Tuition fee is usually paid every 2 or 3 months.) * It differs depending upon parents’ income because there are subsidies from the government, prefecture, and city. The expense is approximately ¥40,000, including tuition fee, facility fee, PTA fee, etc.	
Class Fee	Approx. ¥12,000 (Monthly)	
Other	School uniform and gym clothes: Approx. ¥80,000 Textbooks: Approx. ¥20,000	

This is information from last year. Please check each school’s student recruitment guidelines that will be officially announced in October as well as their websites.

About ¥200,000 (enrollment fee) by the beginning of February and about ¥200,000-¥400,000 (school uniform, text books, etc) by the end of March should be prepared. Therefore, about ¥400,000-¥600,000 is necessary by the end of March. (The amount may vary from school to school.)

For details about private senior high schools, please check the “Aichi Prefecture Private School Association (愛知県私学協会)” website.

Website links of private senior high school

About money



愛知県私学協会
https://www.aichi-shigaku.gr.jp/

(4) Main Subsidy Systems for 2023

	Scholarships and Subsidies	Repayment	Application
Private	1. Aichi Prefecture Enrollment Fees Subsidy Program (Private school full-day course and part-time course)	-	In April To private high school
	2. Aichi Prefecture Tuition Fee Reduction Subsidy (Private school full-day course and part-time course)	-	In April To private high school
National · Public · Private	3. Special Relief Fund/Scholarship for Households Experiencing Sudden Financial Difficulties (National, public, and private senior high school, etc)	-	Period specified by the senior high school
	4. Aichi Prefecture Senior High School Student Loan (National, public, and private senior high school, specialized training school)	○	Period specified by the senior high school (Beginning of June)
Public	5. Aichi Prefectural Senior High School Tuition Support Fund System (Public senior high school full-day course, part-time course, and correspondence course)	-	Online application when entering school

In any case, subsidies can only be received after paying the necessary expense first and completing the procedures. If you are interested in using these systems, please apply through the high school you will enroll in.

(5) Part-Time Senior High Schools

In part-time senior high schools, there are typically four classes per day. It is possible to work while studying. Although graduating in 4 years is expected, if the student takes additional specified classes, graduating in 3 years is possible, too.

There are daytime and evening courses. The following part-time senior high schools are in the vicinity of Toyohashi.

【Toyohashi】 Toyohashi Municipal Senior High School (Daytime General Course, Evening General Course/Integrated Business Course)

Aichi Prefectural Toyohashi Koka Senior High School (Evening Mechanical Engineering Course)

【Gamagori】 Aichi Prefectural Gamagori Senior High School (Evening General Course)

【Kosai, Shizuoka Prefecture】 Shizuoka Prefectural Arai High School (Evening General Course)

【Toyokawa】 Aichi Prefectural Mito Aoba High School (Daytime General Course)

General Entrance Examination	
	There is no selection by recommendation. Only general entrance examination is conducted. There are two application periods (first and second). You cannot apply during the first period if you are also applying to a public school via selection by recommendation or general entrance examination. The number of successful applicants is about 80% of the full quota of the course.
Exam Subjects	Japanese, mathematics, English academic achievement test, interview and essay.
Special Aid	Applicants can take the academic achievement test with <i>hiragana rubi</i> and the interview can be held individually instead of in a group. This aid is available for those who satisfy either or both of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Those who are admitted to Japanese elementary school in grade 4 or later. · Those who have lived in Japan for less than six years.
	Toyohashi Municipal Senior High School Prefectural Part-Time Senior High School
Exam Fee	¥950
Enrollment Fee	¥0 ¥2,100
Tuition Fee	¥2,000(Monthly) ¥2,700
	In case the Tuition Support Fund System is applied, tuition fee will be free.
School Expense	¥4,300(Daytime) ¥5,000(Evening) Approx. ¥4,000-¥10,000(Monthly) It includes PTA fee, student council fee, school excursion trip fee, graduation album fee, etc.
Initial School Expense	¥45,000(Daytime) ¥60,000(Evening) Approx. ¥50,000-¥100,000 You will make one payment to cover costs needed for the 1 st year when enrolling in school. This includes the textbooks fee, materials fee, practical training fee, gym clothes, gym shoes, etc.
Other	【Daytime course】 School uniform: (Winter)Approx. ¥50,000, (Summer)Approx. ¥20,000 【Evening course】 School meal: Approx. ¥2,600-¥5,000(Monthly)

※Even in part-time schools, about ¥50,000-¥100,000 is needed when entering school. (The amount may vary from school to school.)

3. Other Career Options

(1) Specialized Training School (*Senshu Gakko*)

These are schools for people who want to acquire skills and abilities needed for the future profession or daily life. There are domestic science, cooking, designing course.

In Toyohashi city, there is a public school called “Toyohashi-shiritsu Kasei Koto Senshu Gakko”.

◎Toyohashi-shiritsu Kasei Koto Senshu Gakko

- Duration: 3 years
- Certification and license you may acquire: Eligibility to enroll in a university, cook license, certificate to conduct *sado* (Japanese tea ceremony) or *kado* (traditional incense-smelling ceremony) course, food hygiene supervisor, business practical test, etc.

Some student enroll in “Professional Training Schools” shown on P. 13 Q15.

(2) Aichi-kenritsu Higashimikawa Koto Gijutsu Senmonko (Aichi Prefectural Higashi Mikawa College of Technology)

This is a school that nurtures technical workers and conduct professional training. Their general architecture course (20 people recruited) is for those who want to work in architecture-related industries in the future. The duration of the training is 2 years. The entrance exam subjects are Japanese and mathematics academic achievement tests and interview. If you are interested in entering this school, please inform your homeroom teacher as some required documents must be submitted to the Employment Security Office (“Shokugyo Antei Jo”).

In addition, there is a training school for handicapped people called “Aichi-ken Shogaisha Shokugyo Noryoku Kaihatsuko”. It is necessary to submit some documents to the Employment Security Office (“Shokugyo Antei Jo”) in order to apply to this school, too.

(3) Employment

For those who wish to work after graduation, please inform your teacher because an “employment consultation” among the student, guardian, homeroom teacher and officer of the Employment Security Office (“Shokugyo Antei Jo”) is needed. However, please be aware that the demand for workers who graduated from junior high school is very low. In 1995, 242 junior high school graduates were recruited through the Employment Security Office, but the recruitment at the end of March 2023 saw just three people total from Toyohashi and Tahara recruited by a single company. We recommend you ask your family and friends to introduce you to available jobs.

4. Q&A

Q1: I'm not sure when and what to do because I don't know much about the Japanese entrance examination system. Can you show me the annual academic and career schedule of a third-year junior high school student?

April	Academic Test	
May	Periodical Test I	
June	Career Guidance Session Survey for Academic & Career (1) Periodical Test II	-This session is focused on private senior high schools. Teachers from different schools may come and explain about their schools.
July	Parent-Teacher Meeting	
August	Open School in Senior High Schools	-Open schools are occasionally held after August, too. Applications are through junior high schools.
September	Survey for Academic & Career (2) Comprehensive Test	
October	Periodical Test III Career Guidance Session	-Some schools hold the Career Guidance Session in October.
November	Comprehensive Test (3 rd graders only) Career Guidance Session Periodical Test IV Survey for Academic&Career (3)	-This session is focused on public senior high schools. Teachers from different schools may come and explain about their schools.
December	Parent-Teacher Meeting	-The private and public senior high schools that you will apply to will be decided.
January	Periodical Test V Private School's Selection by Recommendation (Jan. 16 th) Private School's General Entrance Examination (Jan. 23 rd , 24 th , and 25 th)	
February	Public School's Selection by Recommendation (Feb. 6 th) Specialized (<i>Tokushoku</i>) Selection Examination for Foreign Students (Feb. 6 th) Distinctive Selection (Feb. 6 th) Part-Time School's Entrance Examination (1 st period) (Feb. 9 th) Public School's General Entrance Examination (Feb. 22 th)	Group A public high school interview (Feb. 26 th) Group B public high school interview (Feb. 27 th) <u>Just one academic achievement test from this year.</u>
March	Graduation Ceremony (Mar.6 th) (scheduled) Part-Time School's Entrance Examination (2 nd period) (Mar. 14 th)	

The name, number, and schedule of tests may vary depending on the school.
School schedule is subject to change.

Q2: What is the difference between junior high school and senior high school?

The big difference is that junior high school is not compulsory and unlike junior high school, if you get bad grades or are absent too many days, you may fail and repeat a year or not be able to graduate. Since attending a senior high school is a personal decision to enhance your interest and ability, you have to study seriously or you may not be able to graduate.

Q3: What are the required qualifications to take a senior high school entrance examination?

Those who are over 15 years old and have graduated from a Japanese junior high school or completed elementary school and junior high school (9 years in total) in a foreign country is eligible to take the entrance examination.

Q4: What about textbooks? Where can I buy them?

Textbooks in elementary school and junior high school are provided for free, however that is not the case in senior high school. You need to purchase them under school's orientation after enrollment. They usually cost ¥20,000-¥30,000.

Q5: What is *naishinten* (school grade score)?

The generally used word *naishinten* correctly is the *tyosasho hyotei*, the sum of school grade scores in the report card graded on a 5-point scale. The grades of the third year in senior high school is the object. As the general entrance examination result is decided by the evaluation of the academic achievement test and *tyosasho hyote (naishinten)*, the school grade in the third year of senior high school is very important.

Q6: Are school uniforms and gym clothes specified by school? How much do they cost?

In most senior high schools, they have their own and specified school uniform, gym clothes and shoes. The price varies from school to school, but school uniforms and gym clothes usually cost around ¥100,000. As the school uniform is purchased when entering school, "enrollment fee+uniform fee+textbook fee" will be necessary.

Some part-time senior high schools' evening courses and correspondence courses don't require school uniforms.

Q7: Is it possible to work while attending school?

There are many people who want to work while studying. In part-time senior high school evening courses, you can work during the day and go to school at night. There are 2 such schools in Toyohashi city: Toyohashi Municipal Senior High School (so called “Ichiko”) and Toyohashi Koka Senior High School. In nearby cities, there are Gamagori Senior High School (Gamogori city, Ue Honmachi) and Arai Senior High school (Kosai city, Arai-cho), which are part-time senior high schools with evening courses and Mito Aoba Senior High School (Toyokawa city, Mito-cho), a daytime part-time senior high school.

As part-time courses were originally established for student who wish to work while attending school, if you work more than 90 days a year (it can be a part-time job), you can receive financial assistance for textbook fee, etc. In addition, a senior high school equivalency diploma can be earned through some correspondence courses (Aichi Prefectural Kariya Higashi Senior High School, Aichi Sangyo Daigaku Mikawa Senior High School, etc.).

Q8: After entering senior high school, I want to start working part-time. Is that okay?

For part-time senior high schools, getting a part-time job is encouraged. However, in full-day senior high schools, you will need your school’s permission to get a part-time job. Please consult your senior high school teacher.

Q9: What is Open School in senior high schools? What should I be aware of?

Open School is when 3rd graders are given the opportunity to visit senior high schools and see or experience their classes and club activities. Therefore, if you wonder “What kind of classes do engineering senior high schools have?” or “What can I learn in a commercial senior high school?,” we highly recommend you go visit them.

Application forms are distributed in junior high schools. You need to fill in the requirements in the application form and submit it to your classroom teacher. You can visit as many schools as you want, but don’t be absent once you have applied. In addition, don’t forget to dress appropriately (wear your school uniform) and mind your manners during your visits.

Q10: By when should I decide my future plans?

Please decide by October whether you will go on to senior high school or start working. If you will go on to a senior high school, decide your application pattern from A to D at the parent-teacher meeting in December. The schools that you will apply also need to be chosen there.

A: Apply only to private senior high schools.

B: Apply to both public and private senior high schools.

C: Apply only to public senior high schools.

D: Apply to professional training schools or specialized training schools.

Q11: How many subjects will I take for the academic achievement test?

It depends on the school, but in case of public school's general entrance examination, there is going to be 5 subjects: Japanese, mathematics, social studies, science, and English on the 1st day. The test will be in mark sheet system. On the 2nd day, there is going to be an interview. (Some school don't have interviews.) Private school's general entrance examination also requires 5 subjects, but for selection by recommendation, there will be Japanese, mathematics and English tests as well as an interview. Some schools require an essay, too. Make sure to ask your junior high school teacher about the entrance examination subjects of the senior high school that you are applying to.

Q12: How are the interviews conducted?

In the interview, senior high school teachers will ask you about your reasons for applying and your school life in junior high school. There is an individual interview and a group interview. Interviews are conducted in Japanese. Teachers pay attention not only to your answers, but also your posture and attitude.

In junior high schools, special practices are provided to help students prepare in advance for the interviews, so please ask your junior high school teacher if you have any question.

Q13: I heard there is a selection examination for foreign students in Toyohashi Nishi Senior High School and Toyokawa Koka Senior High School. What are they like?

★Selection Examination for Foreign Students

There is a selection examination for foreign students (*GAIKOKUJIN SEITO-TOU SENBATSU*), where students can have Japanese lessons and course instruction support after enrollment in Aichi Prefectural Toyohashi Nishi Senior High School's integrated course, at Aichi Prefectural Toyokawa Koka Senior High School, or at Aichi Prefectural Mito Aoba High School.

Those who apply must live in Aichi with a guardian, have foreign nationality (or the guardian) and be admitted to Japanese elementary school in the grade 4 or later may apply for the selection examination. Those who are under special circumstances or have lived in Japan for less than 6 years are also qualified for this selection.

The senior high school and course that you apply through this selection must be your 1st choice likewise the selection by recommendation. The academic achievement test consists of basic questions about the subjects (Japanese, mathematics and English) with hiragana *rubi* to aid with reading. It will not be mark sheet system. The interview will be held in Japanese on the same day.

The selection will be based on submitted documents and results of the academic test and interview.

Students who did not pass the selection for foreign students can apply to the same school by taking the general entrance examination.

Q14: I heard part-time school's entrance examination is with *hiragana rubi*. What is it like?

Both at first and second term entrance examination of public senior high schools, there is special aid where academic test with *hiragana rubi* and individual interview can be taken.

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements :

- (1) Those who have foreign nationality
- (2) Those who are admitted to Japanese elementary school in the grade 4 or later, or have lived in Japan for less than six years.

Please ask your junior high school teacher for details.

Q15: I am interested in computers. Is there any school that I can learn about it?

There are some computer-related professional training schools with business course, information course, etc. Student can learn from the basic usage of business software to information system knowledge and skills. There are some professional training school that also offer senior high school curriculum.

Other than computers, there are also some professional training college that help people aiming to become a cook, fashion designer, electrician, etc. get licenses that will be useful in their future

Tuition fee for professional training colleges is expensive because they are private schools. In addition to the tuition fee, the material cost for practical training is also necessary. Certain courses ask you to purchase tools such as kitchen knife or scissor set.

School expenses for the first year range from ¥1,000,000 to ¥1,500,000. You must check the total cost until graduation and save money for a long time. There are some subsidy systems so please consult your school teacher to learn more about them.

Q16: What is *Tokushoku Senbatsu* (Specialized Selection)?

This specialized selection will be implemented in a few senior high schools that have specialized courses, an integrated course or a regular course with specialized education or doing community-based educational activities.

An interview is mandatory, and either an essay, general knowledge examination, presentation, or specialized test (practical examination) will also be conducted.

Documents that need to be submitted are: application for admission, school record, and a personal statement. The personal statement must be written by the applicant.

Applying in other ways at the same time, such as selection by recommendation and special selection for foreign students, is not allowed.

In the Higashi Mikawa district, this selection will be implemented in the following senior high schools. For those interested, please consult your school teacher.

↓ 【Previous School Year】 ↓

School Name	Course Name	Exam Content	Number of Students Selected
Toyohashi Minami	General	Presentation	About 5
Toyohashi Shogyo	Commerce	General Knowledge Exam	12
Seisho	Integrated Business	General Knowledge Exam	8
	Life Culture	General Knowledge Exam	8
Fukue	General	General Knowledge Exam	8
Atsumi Nogyo	Agriculture and Protected Horticulture	General Knowledge Exam	16
	Food Sciences	General Knowledge Exam	8
	Life Sciences	General Knowledge Exam	8
Kou	Integrated Business	General Knowledge Exam	4
Mito Aoba	General	Presentation	24
Kozakai	General	Essay	14
Horyo	Welfare	General Knowledge Exam	4
Miya Suisan	Marine Science	Presentation	2
	Information communication	Presentation	2
	Marine Resources	Presentation	2
	Marine Foods	Presentation	2
Shinshiro Yukyokan	Integrated(Humanities and Sciences)	Essay	24
	Integrated(Specialized)	Essay	24
Tsukude Kosha	People and Nature	Essay	8

5. Personal Experience

I was 5th grader in elementary school when I first came to Japan. I was very worried because I didn't know any Japanese language and culture at that time. Despite the hardship, I learned Japanese and got used to school life. After a year, I had to go back to my home country due to family reasons. After attending elementary and junior high school there, I came back to Japan again in January when I was a 2nd grader in junior high school.

Although I could understand a little Japanese as it was my second time in Japan, I could barely keep up with the studies. I had some friends, but I had no idea when it came to senior high schools or career issues. I felt alone every day because my family didn't know about the Japanese school system either. That was the time when my homeroom teacher and *kokusai* (International) teacher talked to me.

They invited an interpreter and I told her that I was lost and didn't know what to do. After that, they were so kind and told me about my situation at that time. They suggested I attend the "Career Information Session for Foreign Students" held by the city hall and also explained things to my parents at the parent-teacher meeting. Then, with the help of others, I studied very hard in order to pass the entrance examination for senior high school.

I successfully passed the entrance examination and joined the English club. I chose this club because I want to live by myself and work in a hotel with many foreign guests in the future. I am currently studying hard every day to challenge myself with various qualification tests, such as *Eiken* (English Proficiency Test) so that I can get closer to fulfilling my dream.

What I want to tell you all is that, "Where there is a will, there is a way". Even if your family members don't know much about Japan, there is definitely someone who can help you. Even if you are not good at speaking Japanese, don't be afraid to ask your friends and teachers. I am sure that you will get some clues from them. I am still on my way to fulfilling my dreams. Let's strive together!

6. The Most Important Thing

It was in 1990 when a foreign student entered Japanese school in Toyohashi for the first time. Now, more than 2,000 foreign students study in elementary schools and junior high schools, and a lot of them continue their study for their future in Japan. Some of them receive college degrees, and become teachers or work in city hall. On the other hand, it is also a fact that others lose their will to study and quit school because of the differences in language, culture, and habits.

The Japanese school system is undoubtedly different from that of your home country, so it may be confusing even for parents who have lived in Japan for a long time. As for parents who have just arrived in Japan, the worries and doubts must be a lot. However, regardless of the situation, **education, which forms the basis of your child's life, is very important.**

In Japan, education until the age of 15 is mandatory, so no one is allowed to quit school or work. That is because education until the age of 15 is thought to be necessary. In order to go to a Japanese senior high school, a junior high school graduation certificate either from Japan or your home country is needed.

We sometimes meet people who say "I want to go to school again" a few years after having quit junior high school. But it is very hard to do so without graduating from junior high school in Japan or your home country.

Parents, please don't let your child quit school easily. If you have any issue, please consult the school or the Board of Education. Let's find a solution together.

The Toyohashi Board of Education is open to help and assist you with any educational issue and problem. If you need an interpreter, the schedule is as below.

Location: City Hall, 11rd Floor, "Consultation Corner for Foreign School Children"

TEL: 0532-51-2077

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| ▪ Consultation in Portuguese | Mon-Fri | 9:00-16:00 |
| ▪ Consultation in Spanish | Tuesday | 11:00-15:30* |
| ▪ Consultation in Tagalog | Mon, Wed, Fri | 11:00-15:30* |
| ▪ Consultation in simple Japanese | Mon-Fri | 10:00-17:00 |

***Spanish and Tagalog interpretation unavailable between 12:00 and 13:00**

