

(For Grade 1 in April 2023)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIFE IN JAPAN **(HIROSHIMA prefecture version)**

**For children and their parents/guardians
from abroad**

*JIDO - elementary school children

*HOGOSHA - parents/guardians

Backpack (*Randse*)
For books and supplies.
Any color is okay.

Emergency Alarm
Alarm/whistle
attached to
backpack for
children's safety.

Water bottle
(Water or tea)

A bag for indoor-
only shoes

A school hat
Many schools have
school hats.

School uniforms
Many schools have
original uniforms.

Monday-set/Friday-set
Each set includes P.E.
clothes, school lunch
uniforms, and luncheon
mat. Please ask school for
more details.

The allowed color of student socks
may be decided by each school.



Edit: BUILD

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**This is a brief guide to elementary schools in Hiroshima.
Details may differ depending on each school.
Make sure to attend the Enrollment Information Session at
your school.
Please ask your schools when you have questions.**

I. A Day in School

<p>Meeting Time</p>	<p>Coming to School -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Children living in the same area will usually go to school together in a group. ·They travel a fixed route from home to school and back home. ·Always inform school between 7:30 and 8:20 am if children will be late or absent, either by telephone or email. <p>(Your school will instruct you on how to contact them.)</p>
<p>At 8:20 am</p>	<p>Morning Meeting - Greet everyone in your classroom and listen to teachers every day.</p> <p>Morning Meetings - All students usually get together.</p>
<p>Morning</p>	<p>Classes* ·Your homeroom teachers will teach you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">* Classes = study in School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·One class lasts 45 minutes. There are 4 classes before lunch. Classes are different every day. Please check the correspondence notebook. ·There is a short break between classes. ·Children may use the bathroom during the short break.
<p>Lunch</p>	<p>School Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Schools will provide lunches. School Lunch fees are mandatory. (Pay every month.) ·Sometimes there are days with no School Lunch. ·Children will help serve food. (School Lunch <i>toban</i>). ·Schools will make lunch menus and lists available. 
<p>After Lunch</p>	<p>Recess or Lunch break - Children are free to rest or play.</p> <p>Cleaning - Children clean the school building by themselves. Teachers may help them.</p>
<p>Afternoon</p>	<p>Classes ·There are not always Classes in the afternoon.</p> <p>·End of the Day Meeting - Children listen to teachers and say “good-bye”.</p> <p>Going Home (GEKOU) - Children can go home.</p> <p>After School (HOUKAGO) - The time after Classes.</p> <p>※At the beginning of the 1st grade, children will practice how to go home.</p>

After School Clubs・・・Children can go there after school until evening.

Children must apply for clubs. Documents to sign up for clubs are available at school information sessions.

*** (Applications should be submitted at City Hall in your town or area.)**

various 「*tayori*/letter」 ※also called 「*otayori*」

•School Letter・・・News/Announcement for all children

•Grade Letter (Classroom letter)

・・・News for each grade or classroom

•Health care Letter・・・News on child health care

•School Lunch Letter・・・News on School Lunch

Please read menus carefully if children have a food allergy.

「*tayori*/letter」 has important news!

Ask your teacher to mark important news items on the letter.

Some schools distribute *tayori*/letter by email.

2. Rules and Regulations (Examples)

- × Dyed hair is not allowed.
- × Wearing accessories, such as (pierced) earrings, is not allowed.
- × Do not bring any money, foods, snacks or portable games to School.
- × Do not go to School by bicycle.
- × Do not forget to contact School if children will be absent.
- × Do not go home from School without informing teachers at School.
- × Do not bring mobile phones or devices to School.

(Please consult classroom teachers if children need phones at School.)

3. Daily Schedule

- School finishing time may differ depending on day and grade.
- Children must record homework and the next-day's timetable in their correspondence notebook before going home every day.
- No School on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays.
- Homeroom teachers usually teach all subjects.

じかんわりひょう

Day	げつ 月	か 火	すい 水	もく 木	きん 金
2 nd period	1 こくご	どうきく	しよしゃ	おんがく	びやう
	2 たいいく	さんまう	さんまう	たごころ	さんまう
Subject	3 おんがく	たいいく	あそび	びやう	がく
	4 せいかつ	こくご	こくご	どき	あそび
きゅうしよく					
5		せいかつ		せいかつ	

<Elementary School Subjects>

<i>Kokugo</i> /Japanese	<i>Sansu</i> /Math	<i>Taiiku</i> /P.E.	Ongaku/Music
<i>Zuga Kosaku</i> /Drawing and crafts	<i>Doutoku</i> /Moral education <i>Gakkyu Katsudo</i> /Classroom activities	<i>Seikatsu</i> /Life Studies <Grade 1 & 2>	<i>Shakai</i> /Social Studies <Grade 3 to 6>
<i>Rika</i> /Science <Grade 3 to 6>	<i>Sogoteki na Gakusyu no Jikan</i> /Integrated Studies <Grade 3 to 6>	<i>Kateika</i> /Home Economics <Grade 5 & 6>	<i>Gaikokugo Katsudo</i> /YICA <Grade 3 & 4> <i>Gaikokugo</i> /Foreign Languages <Grade 5 & 6>

4. Assessment

① Exams

- To evaluate how much children have understood and learned.

② Assessment Sheet called AYUMI

- At the end of each term, homeroom teachers will make assessments and talk to each child about their School life at *Kondankai*/individual or three-person-meetings. Teachers will give each student an assessment sheet/*Ayumi*.

※Each April, students will go on to the next grade.

5. What parents should do at home

① Children back home after school...

1. Parents should check Correspondence Notebook (*Renrakuchou*) for homework duties and the next day's schedule. This information should be written by each child. Teachers also use this notebook to communicate with parents/guardians.
2. Read news and bulletins (*tayori*) issued by School.
3. Check children's homework. (Signature is required.)
*Signature = print simple letters. Hanko is ok.
4. Prepare for the next School day before going to bed.



② Contact School if children will either be absent, late or have to leave early from School.

- Make sure to contact School by phone/email/ correspondence notebook.
- When children are late, parents/guardians must go to School with them.
- When children leave early from School, parents/guardians must come to School and pick children up.



Please DO NOT forget to contact School when children are absent. Teachers must confirm the whereabouts of each child and will worry that there was an accident.

<Absent>

I am the dad of Ken of Grade 1-A.
He will be absent today because he has a fever.

<Late>

I am the mother of Anna of Grade 1-B. She will be late today.
We will go to the hospital and arrive at school at 10:30am.

<Leave Early>

Mother of Ken of Grade 1-B.
Today I will pick up my son at 1pm. He must go to hospital.



6. Things to use at School

(Differs depending on School. Ask for details at the enrollment information session.)

Make sure to put children's names on all items. (Some people order name stickers.)

① Items provided by School

<p>Name Tag</p> 	<p>Textbooks</p> 	<p>Notebooks</p> 
<p>Personal Alarm/Whistle</p> 	<p>Correspondence Notebook with Bag</p> 	<p>Tablet Computer (rental only)</p> 

② Item-list for purchase before Entrance Ceremony

<p>Randsel Backpack (any color is OK)</p> 	<p>Shoes (outside-use)</p> 	<p>Shoes (inside-use) with shoes-bag★</p> 
<p>Weekly Set Bag (Ex. Monday Set or Friday Set)★</p> 	<p>Cleaning Cloths ★</p> 	<p>Luncheon Mat (For School lunch)</p> 
<p>stationery 2B pencils, red color pencils, a ball-point pen, an eraser, a sheet to place under paper, a ruler/triangle, a pencil case</p> 	<p>A bag for P.E. clothes</p> 	

★A handout will be given at the enrollment information session.

It will describe the size of the bag and the items you need to order.

③ Items to order/purchase at School

(Some Schools ask parents/guardians to order at enrollment information sessions. Please measure in advance or know your child's height and clothes sizes.)

<p>Melodica/Pianica</p> 	<p>Colored Plastic Pencils /Colored Pencils</p> 	<p>Scotch Tape, Glue, Scissors</p> 
<p>Math Set</p> 	<p>Toolbox</p> 	<p>P.E. Clothes, a white-red cap</p> 

- ※ Item-lists may differ depending on School. Ex: different shapes/kinds of pencils. Please ask homeroom teachers if you have any questions.
- ※ It is easy to order at School when possible.
- ※ 50,000 to 60,000 yen is necessary to get listed items other than *Randsels*.

7. School Monthly Expenses

Tuition and Textbooks	¥0.-	Tuition and textbooks are free.
Expenses	About ¥5,000 per month	Materials used at School
PTA fee	About ¥3,000 per month	Parental events and so on
School Lunch	About ¥5,000 per month	About ¥250/meal times about 20 days
other	Including School Trip, differs depending on Grade.	

- ※ Expenses can be transferred from a specified bank account, indicated by School in advance. Please make sure that you keep a sufficient balance in the bank account.
- ※ Some Schools ask children to bring cash on certain dates.

8. Contact between Family (Parents) and School

If children are going to be late or absent, parents/guardians should inform the School. Teachers worry when children don't arrive and haven't informed the School of their absence or tardiness.

How to report School:

- ① Parents/guardians should call or email directly to classroom teachers.
(Some Schools have different rules.)
- ② Write a message to your child's homeroom teacher in the correspondence notebook and have other siblings or students in your commuting group give it to the School.
(Some Schools have different rules due to COVID19.)

★If you are not sure or cannot read Japanese...

Ask parents at your School!

*「Mama-tomo」 or 「Papa-tomo」



If parents/guardians cannot read Japanese, please contact the School directly.

Making Friends 「Mama-tomo」 「Papa-tomo」



- Your Elementary School has a Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) for all parents and guardians. PTA officers are selected each school year on the day of the entrance ceremony. Members of the PTA, especially in Elementary School, have many opportunities to make friends with other parents and guardians.
- Some places/cities/towns have sports teams like baseball, soccer, or volleyball, not connected to the School. Such teams are also a good place for parents and children to make friends.



9. Annual events

Schools are closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

1st term (April to July)	Entrance Ceremony — an event to welcome new students of Grade 1. Opening Ceremony — an event to begin the new term. Health checkup — Doctors check general health, as well as height and weight of children. (Includes eye test, urinalysis and dental exam.) End of the term ceremony — an event to close the term. An assessment sheet* will be given to each child.
Summer Vacation (August)	Children may go to Summer School, sometimes called <i>Tokobi</i> . Children have homework/assignments to finish during <i>Tokobi</i> or by Opening Ceremony day in September.
2nd term (September ~ December)	Opening ceremony — an event to start the new term. End of the term ceremony — an event to finish the term. An assessment sheet* will be given to each child.
Winter break (Late December ~Early January)	The winter vacation break is about 2-weeks long. Children have homework/assignments to finish by the day of the Opening Ceremony in January.
3rd term (January ~March)	Opening Ceremony — an event to start the new term. Graduation Ceremony — an event for children of Grade 6 to graduate from elementary school. End of the term ceremony — an event to finish the school year. An assessment sheet* will be given to each child.
Spring Break	Children often have homework/assignments. In April, all children will move up to the next grade.

*Assessment sheet …A teacher report of each child’s progress for parents/guardians.

The assessment sheet is called 「*Tsuchihyo*」 or 「*Ayumi*」 in Japanese, depending on the School. It is given at the end of the term. Some Schools do not have such assessments.

★Disaster drill

… A drill to learn how to evacuate at disaster such as fire and earthquake. Some Schools may ask parents/guardians to join drills to pick up children.

★Individual interview about assessment sheet

… Homeroom teachers will meet with parents/guardians at School once or twice a year.

Some Schools may visit children’s homes, called Home Visits.

Joyful events (Event names and details may differ from each School.)

<p>Sports festival</p> 	<p>Children can enjoy sports such as running, dancing and so on. All students join this event. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend.</p>
<p>Excursion</p> 	<p>Children take a short trip with <i>bento</i> lunch boxes. Have a good day!</p>
<p>Local Visit</p> 	<p>Tours of local facilities. Children go by bus with <i>bento</i> lunch boxes.</p>
<p>School trips</p> 	<p>In grade 6, all children go on an overnight trip.</p>
<p>Camping</p> 	<p>In grade 5, all children have two overnight, two-night trips and various outside activities.</p>
<p>Music Recital</p> 	<p>Children by grades sing or play musical instruments. Parents/guardians are encouraged to watch. Sometimes children perform dramas about what they have learned in classes.</p>
<p>Swimming Class (June~July)</p> 	<p>Swimming class. On the day of this class, children must check their body temperatures and record it on a swimming card. They should bring this card to school. If not, they cannot swim, but only observe the class.</p>

<p>Swimsuits</p> 	<p>Swimming cap</p> 	<p>A large towel for changing clothes</p> 
<p>Clearly put your child's name on swimsuit and cap. Please ask School for details, such as where and how big to write full name or last name.</p>		

10. Learn about School

Talk with teachers and other parents/guardians of your child's classmates.

① Observation day/"Let's go to School" week

Parents/guardians will have an opportunity to observe classes, short-break time, or lunch time to get to know how Children are doing at School.

Get to know parents/guardians of children's friends.



② Parents/guardian meetings

After observing classes, in the homerooms, teachers and parents/guardians will talk about children's learning, school lives and how children do at home.

③ Individual meetings/an assessment sheet is given

Parents/guardians and homeroom teachers meet and talk.

An assessment sheet of Children may be given.

※Some Schools may give such assessment sheets to Children directly on the last day of the term.

Parent/guardian and homeroom teachers will talk about your children. It is a personal conversation between you and the teacher.



④ Home visit

Teachers will visit your house/place and talk.

Teachers often do not actually enter the rooms.

Some Schools do not have Home visits.

11. Consultation available when you have concerns.

① Children's growth and bullying

- Please consult homeroom teachers about your concerns.
- School counselors and nurses are available for consultations about Children's progress and health.

*School counselors are specialists in parental consultation.

② Money assistance

- Financial assistance system — Residential cities, towns or villages may have this financial assistance for school lunches and supplies. Please ask your child's teacher for more details.

※Information handouts will be given out at the enrollment information session.

③ Children's Japanese language

- Teachers to teach Japanese language skills to non-Japanese speakers. Children raised by non-Japanese speakers sometimes have difficulty learning in Japanese. In that case, Japanese language teachers are available. Please ask your child's teacher for details before the school year begins.

④ Parents/guardianship language

- There are free-Japanese lesson classes in Hiroshima prefecture, as well as classes you can pay for. Please check on the Live in Hiroshima website!

にほんごきょうしつ
日本語教室 Live in Hiroshima

☆When you need an interpreter/language assistant

- You can ask for an interpreter/language assistant at School meetings. Reservation is required, so please ask your child's teacher for more details.

The School staff or homeroom teachers will contact the HIC (Hiroshima International Center in Hiroshima city) consultation window.

I 2. What to wear to Entrance Ceremony (parents/guardians)

Most parents/guardians wear suits, like in this photo. Color: black, gray, or beige.

Some mothers wear a corsage flower or necklace.

A corsage is pinned to the upper part of woman's clothes.



I 3. Enrollment Information Session (Late January to early February)

Many handouts are given.

There are many things to explain in a hurry.

The following items will be explained, but the order may be different at each school.

★ This star means that documents are required and *must be* submitted!

①~ ⑰ also require to submit order sheets such as school uniforms, stationary and so on.

Handouts	Explanation
① Traffic safety	Traffic safety advice to avoid accidents
② After school clubs	Children can remain at school until evening. ★ Application forms must be submitted.
③ Special education	There are special classes for children with handicaps or need of assistance. Please ask classroom teachers for more details.
④ Student guidance regulations	Rules for clothing and items brought to School. There are also rules for outside of school.
⑤ Injury and Accident Mutual Aid Benefit System	Insurance for injuries at School.
⑥ School lunch and food allergy	Explanation on how School lunches are made. ★ Please submit an application form if children have any food allergy or religious dietary restriction.
⑦ Application forms for School Lunch	Apply for School Lunches. ★ The due date is fixed. Everyone must submit an application.

⑧ Before entering Grade 1	School may inform parents/guardians of A) Simple tasks children should be able to do B) Rules that children should be prepared to follow. (Each school may have different rules.)
⑨ Questionnaire on Children and family	Questions on Children and family members. ★Due date is fixed. Everyone must submit.
⑩ Register email delivery service for Children/students' safety measure	Safety measures and news on suspicious persons are delivered by email. You must register for this service by yourself. Instructions will be provided.
⑪ Announcement: educational financial support system	Residential cities, towns or villages may have financial assistance services and may provide financial support for school. ★Application form is required!
⑫ Announcement: educational financial support system for handicapped students ※If you apply for ⑪, then you are not eligible for ⑫	Handicapped children and children who go to special educational schools are eligible for financial support. Such parents/guardians may be able to seek this educational financial support, depending on one's income. ★ Application requirements are many, and include receipts. The due date is in May.
⑬ Announcement: PTA	Announcement by parent/guardian group.
⑭ PTA directors' election survey	Please write if you would like to become a member of PTA directors and submit this slip to School. ★Due date is fixed. Everyone must submit.
⑮ Student (Elementary and junior high schools) comprehensive mutual insurance system	Insurance for not only your children's injury, but any injury caused by your child at or away from School. ★This Insurance is optional. Please apply if you want this insurance.
⑯ Announcement: entrance ceremony	Time and remarks about ceremony.
⑰ Maps of each neighborhood association (main routes to School)	Routes Children should take to and from School.

About your child's name

For all school related items and documents, parents/guardians must write their child's name in *Hiragana* Japanese.

Children will practice writing their own names in *Hiragana* every day at School on classwork and written quizzes.

You may consult with your homeroom teacher about possible nicknames to use at School if your child's name is too long to write.

Such nicknames may also be written on name tags, school items, belongings, and even on name stickers on classroom desks.

References:

- 「Elementary School life in Kure City」 (Edited in February 2021)
(Editor: Japanese Language Network Sumi tsudukete Kure)
- 「Elementary School life in Fukuyama City」 (Edited in January 2022)
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