

School Newsletter

9

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No. 209

Important information from the school.

Message from the Principal

Many people struggle with LGBT-related issues* and their own sexual orientation and identity. Diversity is a feature of sex, and some people find it difficult to be a sexual minority. Each with their own situation and their own characteristics, some come out to the people around them while others prefer not to; in any case, there is great emotional damage and stress caused by constantly feeling ill at ease or unhappy with their own bodies, being upset and distressed and also uncomfortable with the gaze of others.

In recent years understanding has gradually spread; among universities, Ochanomizu and Nara Women's Universities have begun to accept students who "consider themselves women, even if assigned male at birth" as of this spring. Corporations like Unilever Japan have begun removing the gender and photo requirements from applicants' CVs. The office appliance manufacturer Kokuyo is also working to create CV blanks of this kind.

At the YMCA, we accept students with worries and discomfort related to LGBT issues among others, and support them to "live in a way true to themselves" above all else. When consulted by LGBT students or their guardians, we ask how they want to spend their time at school and consider what the school can and should do in response. However, individual issues may concern bathrooms, changing clothes, overnight events and so on, with each situation requiring individual solutions and diverse accommodations; we often struggle along with our students, unable to provide an instant answer.

The topic of the staff human rights education training at the end of September was, like last year's, LGBT issues. Last year we heard from a junior high school teacher personally involved about their conflicts and their way of life. This year, we heard from a high schooler enrolled in the YMCA school. This student was assigned female at birth but considers himself male, and spoke to us about experiences like dressing in a boy's costume for the Shichigosan ceremony as well as past and present troubles in everyday life, helping us understand better. The student himself said "I don't need your understanding. What's important is acceptance." We are grateful for his courage in speaking to us. As we listen, we will use what we've learned to consider what we can and should do on the ground at school.

*LGBT <http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/LGBT/index.html>

(Human Rights Bureau, Ministry of Justice)

How to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

The basics of infection prevention, for the novel coronavirus as for other infectious diseases, are hand-washing, gargling, and manners (such as wearing a mask) when coughing. It is extremely important for each of us to do our part to prevent the spread of infection. When going out (such as to school), be careful to avoid the three Cs (closed/crowds/close together), and otherwise behave in order to avoid getting sick or making anyone else sick.

Gathering for Students and Parents/Guardians with Concerns about Children's Health

- Date: October 17 (Sat.) 14:00 to 16:00
- Location: YMCA Gakuin High School 2nd Floor/Online
- Target: Parents/guardians and students with health concerns, and other interested parents/guardians and students
- Content:
 - Part 1 "Learning Time" lecture: "Psychosomatic Symptoms in Children and Adolescents and How to Handle Them: Focusing on Orthostatic Dysregulation"
Dr. Yoshitoki Yanagimoto (pediatrician at Kansai Medical University Medical Center)
Online participation possible
 - Part 2 "Sharing Time": Gathering of parents/guardians and students
*In charge: Ninomiya, Ikeda, Yokoyama
*Online participation is possible for Part 1 only.
*Check SakuraNet for details on number of participants and how to apply.
- Application: Use the QR code or the website.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1h9j1fUtPL1vY82lFyqHJSPla47ThRk0ZWa5DyWpQfU4/viewform?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5f521ac1&edit_requested=true



Welcoming Applicants for the 2020 Second Term Global, Wellness, Advanced, and My Space Plus Courses!


The Global, Wellness, Advanced, and My Space Plus courses will begin in mid-October. In the second term, we plan to hold the usual number of schooling classes with due care for the novel coronavirus. Online study will also be included according to the situation.

- Course registration method: Fill out the Course Registration Approval Form sent on September 14 (Mon.) (for students continuing the course from the first term, the Course Continuation Application), and submit it to the school.
- Feel free to attend the briefings below if you want to know more about any of the courses.

School Administrative Matters

Homeroom

In homeroom, you will receive your grades from the previous term and prepare to register for your courses.

Class period	Time	Homeroom/course briefings
October 1	10:00 - 10:50	1A/1B/2A/2B/3A (1)
	10:50 - 11:30	Second Term Course Briefings (not a special activity) Open to all class years (registration in advance, 30 people only) Online participation is also possible Apply with the QR code at right. 
	11:40 - 12:30	3A (2)/3B (1)/3C (1)/3D/3E/3F
	13:00 - 13:50	1L/1M/2C/3C (2)/3M (1)/3B (2)
	14:00 - 14:50	2M/2N/3M (2)
	15:00 - 16:00	Online welcome party (see attachment)

*Because the 3A, 3B, 3C, and 3M classes are large, homerooms will be split into two groups.

(1) is for students whose student numbers end in an odd number and (2) for students whose student numbers end in an even number.

Course registration

For details, see the information sent by post on October 1 (Thu.). (Sent express mail for third-year students only)

Course registration will take place during the following period, by telephone or in person.

By telephone: Be sure to check the information mailing in advance.

In person: We plan to keep the number of people present low and the time short.

Dates can be changed during homeroom or via SakuraNet or telephone.

*Depending on the situation, plans may be changed.

*First-term tuition fees must be paid by September 30 (Wed.) in order to register for second term courses.

(Period)

Third-year: October 5 (Mon.), October 6 (Tue.) all day

Second-year: October 7 (Wed.) all day, October 8 (Thu.) morning

First-year: October 8 (Thu.) afternoon, October 9 (Fri.) morning

All years: October 9 (Fri.) morning (extra registration period)

2020 Second Term Schooling Period

Y-Challenge My Space (second-year)	October 12 (Mon.) to December 22 (Tue.)
My Space (first-year) Global, Health and Sports, My Space Plus, Academic, Translingual	October 13 (Tue.) to December 22 (Tue.)
Standard	October 26 (Mon.) to December 22 (Tue.) First half: October 26 (Mon.) to November 24 (Mon.) Second half: November 25 (Tue.) to December 22 (Tue.) *PE class days differ.

Career/College Support

Third-year students, how are your post-graduation plans progressing? As of September, applications for the overall selection entrance exams (AO exams) are beginning at many colleges, junior colleges, and vocational schools. You are in charge of deciding on your own future path, but asking for advice is a good way to get a new perspective. If you are struggling with what school to choose, how to write your application, and so on, consult with your homeroom teacher or guidance counselor.

This is the time for first- and second-year students to begin gathering information about what you want to do after high school. Some of the open campuses currently taking place are open to first- and second-year students as well. Many schools are offering briefings online this year as well, so we encourage you to look at any that interest you. Help yourself to the information booklets and pamphlets in the Future Paths areas on the 1st and 5th floors of the school.

Issuance of Reports and Recommendations

□ Reports issued by the high school are required when applying to universities, junior colleges, and vocational schools.

Confirm the required documents and the deadline for each school, and be sure to apply through your homeroom teacher in advance if you need a report (it takes about a week from application through issuance).

- You must notify the school of the content by two weeks in advance of the day you want the report issued. For details, see the SakuraNet notice sent on August 17 (Mon.). Or ask your homeroom teacher.
- Reports issued up through the end of September will contain grades through the second term of 2019.

Reports including grades from the first term of 2020 will be issued from October 1 (Thursday) on.

- If you need a recommendation, ask your homeroom teacher with plenty of time to spare, as it may take up to a week to prepare.

Special Activities

- Graduation requirements include **30 or more hours of participation in special activities**. However, in order to avoid the 3 Cs and prevent the spread of coronavirus, it is now extremely difficult to carry out special activities face to face in groups.

We will keep you posted via SakuraNet about online and small-group special activities, which you can choose to take part in. University/junior college/vocational school open campuses and companies' hiring briefings also count as special activities (including online versions). Application forms are available in the staffroom.

- "Time for Film and Art: Off-Campus Art and Cinema Appreciation" (two credit hours for each movie or exhibit, up to 18 hours): View the movies and exhibits listed under "Special Activities (Off-campus art and cinema appreciation)" on the school website, and go through the procedure to receive credit for special activities. Movies seen in the past will also be accepted. Application forms are available in the staffroom.

★ August Special Activities (Off-campus art and cinema appreciation) are here

<https://www.ymcagakuin.ac.jp/upload/39ddb4c2302db84c34c24ebd4a9f0c2af3e1de90.pdf>

★ July Special Activities (Off-campus art and cinema appreciation) are here

<https://www.ymcagakuin.ac.jp/upload/51f5a0377721118a9f7af72639dc2a656f622a54.pdf>

★ June Special Activities (Off-campus art and cinema appreciation) are here

<https://www.ymcagakuin.ac.jp/upload/4adcb692d3db3ae8f0bc918dd3407210a137a9f7.pdf>

Student Support

Counseling

- Counseling is available at the following times. Parents and guardians are also welcome to make appointments for themselves as needed.
 - Dates: October 7 to December 21
 - Time: 14:00 to 16:50 (50-minute sessions)
 - Supervisor: 石倉篤 (ISHIKURA, Atsushi)
 - Counselors: Monday: 川野敬子 (KAWANO, Keiko); Wednesday: 小野真由子 (ONO, Mayuko)
Friday: 道嶋公子 (MICHIJIMA, Satoko)

Administrative Matters

Payment of 2020 Second Term Tuition

- A guide to payment of 2020 second-term tuition will be sent by post in late October. The **payment deadline is to be mid-November**. Proceedings to extend the tuition payment deadline or to request split payments must also take place by mid-November. For the details of these proceedings, see the payment guide.

Reissuance of Reports

- If lost, reports and distributed documents can be reissued. Fill out the request for issuance of reports and other forms, add the required issuance fee, and complete the process.

Type	Fee	Application form	Date of issuance
Student discount request card/case	100 yen	Request for issuance of reports and other forms	3 days from receipt
1 report (reissue)	50 yen		Immediately
1 report barcode sheet	100 yen		
Class schedule (individual)	100 yen		
1 report submission envelope	10 yen		



Monthly Bible Passage

"The Lord directs the steps of the one who delights in Him.
Though they stumble, they will never fall.
For the Lord holds them by the hand."

(Psalms 37:23-24)

"Life is so boring." I used to think that when I was in junior high school. I never asked for tomorrow to come, but even so it came. The morning broke and the new day began. "How come morning has to come? I wish it wouldn't. I wish tomorrow would never come." I kept wishing that for a long time.

Fifteen years later, I came to look back on my own path. The "path" I've walked was narrow at times, sometimes far from the shortest route, sometimes not there at all. But even so, when I looked closely, there was always a path. I didn't make it, and as I walked it I never thought of it as a path. I just lived day to day and ended up where I am. In the end, I left a path behind me. That means that my day to day from now on will create a path too. "So is something else creating the path, if it's not me?" This question brought the Bible passage above to mind.

Not only that. "Though they stumble, they will never fall./ For the Lord holds them by the hand." In someone else's words, "He even provides aftercare." Sometimes that aftercare is in a visible form, and sometimes it's invisible or may not even be noticed.

The paths drawn by our lives are mysterious indeed. I hope to continue along my mysterious "path" with faith in the One who guides me.

(Shigeru Kawamata, former pastor of the Handago Church, United Church of Christ in Japan)

