

# School Newsletter

Important information about school life.

12  
DECEMBER  
2020

## Message from the Principal

Some of the YMCA high school students are currently preparing Christmas presents for people sleeping rough, the so-called homeless, in Kamagasaki. This is a volunteer activity taken up every year in response to requests from a support organization for the homeless. It is also a chance for the participating students to learn through advance lectures about the history of Kamagasaki and the social issues that create homelessness.

Homeless people face harsh realities, with no safe place to sleep, nowhere to escape the winter's cold, nothing to eat tomorrow. Lately, more women and young people are becoming homeless as well. Many of them are estranged from their families or have been abused. "Homeless" does not mean "lazy."

Many of our students struggle with various troubles as well. Some problems, such as family issues, are beyond what the individual person can cope with alone, and there are limits to what the school can do as well, but we pray for the wisdom to find hope in our students' futures.

Only connect. It is a saving grace to know that someone cares about you and is looking after you. Family, friends, teachers... If there is no one else to connect with, there is always God. If you find it difficult to connect with God yourself, the school can help you.

How do we find our way out of trouble, who do we talk to about it, where should we go? One of the ways out is learning. Greater learning leads from knowledge to wisdom, to the strength to escape troubles and keep living. Learning in daily life builds up greater fulfillment throughout your whole life. Keep hoping, and never give up.

It's almost Christmas. God sent Jesus Christ into this world as our Savior. When we feel ourselves in darkness, he is our light. We ourselves hope to care for others and walk along with them.

"That was the true Light, which enlightens everyone who comes into this world."

Gospel of John 1:9

The YMCA Christmas donations are used to support people in depression or darkness. Thank you for your cooperation.

Don't forget to look at *Osaka Seinen*, which introduces the YMCA's activities -->



## Requested Anti-Infection Measures

To prevent infection with the novel coronavirus, the most important thing is to take care of your own health. Because we gather in groups at school, please be considerate of others as well.

Please continue to observe the items below.

1. **Everyone takes their temperature upon arriving at school, but also take your temperature at home and fill in the temperature sheet before coming to school.**

If you have a temperature of 37.5 degrees or above, stay at home.

If you feel even a little unwell, contact your homeroom teacher and rest at home. Your homeroom teacher will let you know what to do when you miss school.

\*The temperature sheet was mailed in October. Receive it from the staffroom.

2. **Always wear a mask.**

Do not dispose of your mask at school.

3. **Wash your hands thoroughly.** (Use hand sanitizer when entering the school and after using the bathroom.)

4. Desks and chairs are sterilized every morning, but feel free to use the sanitizer and paper towels in every classroom whenever necessary.

5. Avoid touching other people, and keep a set distance whenever possible.

6. Use the stairs. Only four people at a time should use the elevator.

7. Between classes, speak in a normal tone of voice and do not shout.

8. When eating in the school, do not face other people and eat quietly.

## Academic Affairs

### Report submission

Reports for submission	Notes	Final deadline for submission of second term reports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reports to be submitted</li> </ul>	<p>Be very careful not to forget to submit your reports! Even if you miss each report deadline, you can still <b>submit reports until the final deadline, December 24 (Thu.)</b>.</p> <p>Turn in any missing reports as soon as possible!</p>	<p>○ <b>For submission at school (staffroom)</b> <b><u>Deadline: December 24 (Thu.), 17:00</u></b></p> <p>○ <b>For submission by post</b> <b><u>Postmarked by December 24 (Thu.)</u></b></p> <p><b>*When posting your reports on December 24 (Thu.), be sure to send them from a post office window.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reports returned with "For resubmission" <i>*Excluding those marked 1/15 (see [Note 1] below left)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Check whether your returned reports are marked "For resubmission." If so, go back to work on them and submit them promptly!</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Integrated Study (Exploration) A report Osaka Museum of History, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Be sure to check museum opening days and times in advance, visit the facility in good time, and submit your report.</p> <p>*Students who have not attended in-class schooling for Integrated Study (Exploration) A should consult their homeroom teachers.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Schooling alternative assignments</li> </ul>	<p>If your attendance count is too low, you can receive credit for schooling attendance by submitting a "schooling alternative assignment" and receiving a passing grade.</p> <p>(One assignment per class hour)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reports with 1/15 marked for resubmission deadline [Note 1]</li> </ul>	<p>Be sure to check this and submit the report. Reports must reach the staffroom by this date. (Note that <u>this does not mean postmarked by 1/15.</u>)</p>	

- If you have lost your reports or bar code stickers, apply for reissuance at the staffroom.  
**(Reissuance application deadline: December 21 (Mon.) 17:00)**
- When submitting reports, be sure to affix the bar code stickers.
- Even if you put your reports into a mailbox, **they will not be postmarked on that day if it is after collection. In particular, be careful on the final day and mail your reports from a post office window.**
- **The school will not accept reports sent by package mail, special delivery, etc.**
- **Blank or almost blank reports submitted on the final day will be graded "Fail," with no resubmission permitted.**

## Final Study Progress Reports for Credits

- Date of mailing: January 21 (Thu.) (planned)
- To be mailed along with notification of qualifications for course credit tests

### Credit Tests

- Credit tests will be held in all courses. (excluding Integrated Study (Exploration))

**Credit is awarded based on taking and passing credit tests.**

#### [Test qualifications]

- **Date of mailing: January 21 (Thu.)** (planned)
- Test qualifications for each course are granted on the basis of fulfilling the predetermined schooling attendance class hours and passed reports. Students who have not fulfilled their schooling or report requirements are not qualified to take the tests. The test qualifications for each course will be notified individually with the **Credit Test Qualifications Check Sheet**.

#### [Test scope]

- **Report sample answer date of mailing: January 21 (Thu.)** (planned)
- Use the returned reports to review class material thoroughly.
- The list of test contents for each course will be provided separately.

#### [Test methods]

- Credit tests include **written tests, assignment tests, and practical tests**. Each course will use one of these methods.

See the separate list to confirm the testing method for each course.

#### **Written tests**

- **Written test dates: February 2 (Tue.), 3 (Wed.), 4 (Thu.), 5 (Fri.)**

\*Clear your schedule in advance.

- Written tests are conducted on a different schedule from the normal class schedule.
- Written test schedule date of mailing: January 21 (Thu.) (planned)

#### **Assignment tests**

- Assignment test date of mailing: January 22 (Fri.) (planned) (for those qualified only)
- Assignment test submission deadline: **February 8 (Mon.) 17:00 (postmarked same day)**
- **The school will not be open to students on February 9 (Tue.) or 10 (Wed.) because of entrance exams.**

- Assignment tests will be sent to qualified students in applicable courses.

Work on the assignment tests at home and submit them by the deadline.

**\*Credit will not be granted if tests are not submitted by the deadline.**

#### **Practical tests**

**Carried out during the schooling period.** Contact the teacher in charge for more information.

## Special Activities

- Special activities for December and January are as below. Check SakuraNet for the details.

To participate, register on SakuraNet.

Special Activities	Date and Time	Location	Credit hours	SakuraNet notification date
Bible Hour	January 7, January 21 *Every Thursday 15:00 - 15:30 January 15, January 29 *Every Friday 16:00 to 16:30 <u>December 25 (Fri.) 15:00 to 15:30</u>	Posted on the day	1 hour for two sessions	11/30
Advent Cleaning (cleaning around the school area)	12/23 (Wed.) 15:00 - 16:00 (canceled in bad weather; participating for just one day is fine)	Along Tanimachi-suji (from Ikutama Shrine to Meirinkan) Meet in front of the staffroom	1 hour	12/8
Bible Cafe: Christmas talk about our feelings! (With Mr. Fukushima)	December 25 (Fri.) 15:30 to 16:30	Posted on the day	1 hour	12/16

- To graduate, **you must participate in at least 30 hours** of Special Activities.

**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, fill in an application, and submit it to the staffroom. Application forms are available in the staffroom.

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

<https://www.ymcagakuin.ac.jp/upload/63bb46e95961613c88ae414698e1fdec19bca1ae.pdf>

★ 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>

## Administrative Matters

### Administrative Affairs during Winter Vacation

- Office administration holiday period: December 26 (Sat.) to January 5 (Tue.) 13:00

The office will be open from January 5 (Tue.) 13:00 on in the new year.

- Applications for student discount cards or discounts on long-distance travel can be processed by December 24 (Thu.) if handed in by December 22 (Tue.). Ask with plenty of time to spare, as issuance on the same day is not possible.



# Monthly Bible Quotation

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing the Lord has told us of."

Merry Christmas.

2020 years ago, Jesus was born in a stable in a town called Bethlehem (in present-day Israel). It was the shepherds who learned of his birth first. At the time, being a shepherd meant not just being poor but also being of the very lowest class. It was to the shepherds that an angel came, telling them first of all of Jesus' birth. Christmas is an important event, the day God sent Jesus to earth; it means a lot that the very first people to be told of it were not highly placed kings or wise men but the shepherds, the most vulnerable of all.

The Gospel of Mark Chapter 3 tells of Jesus meeting a man with a disabled hand. He told the man "Stand in the middle here." The Bible tells us that "standing in the middle" was important especially for more vulnerable people. Among the people who gather at the YMCA, some may have felt until now that they were nothing special, or that they were weaker than others. The YMCA hopes to be a place where these people of all can feel secure "standing in the middle."

(Vice-Principal Naoki Kobayashi)

