

CHICAGO FUTABAKAI JAPANESE SCHOOL

I OVERVIEW

1. General School Overview

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago is the parent organization for the Chicago Futabakai.

Futabakai is in charge of the operation of the school. Basically, Futabakai Japanese School is a private school run on income from: tuition, donations from the Japanese-related industries in the Chicago area, and support from the Japanese government in the form of faculty, free textbooks and teaching materials, and financial assistance for the rental of the school building.

The Day School was opened in September, 1978 with approximately 103 students from first through seventh grade. The current enrollment is about one hundred and seventy students, including an elementary division (grades 1 through 6) and a junior high division (grades 7 through 9).

Both elementary and junior high divisions are recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and they are registered with the Illinois State Board of Education. The Day School curriculum follows the guidelines of the Japanese Ministry of Education, with American Social Studies and English. The Chicago Futabakai Japanese School is one of 85 such schools recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and established throughout the world.

The primary reasons for establishing a Day School in the Chicago area are as follows:

1. There is increasing growth in the number of Japanese families sent overseas for short periods of time to serve either in businesses or service agencies. Children of these families who are within the age range of compulsory education ought to be educated in a similar way as children in Japan since all fall under the responsibility of the Japanese educational institution. Because of the relatively short period of stay abroad for many of them, the children, in many cases, do not have time to learn another language and also do their studies in that foreign language at the same time.
2. Countries around the world have different school systems. When a family stays in a foreign country for only a few years, children are apt to be confused by the new and different expectations and instructional approaches and goals.
3. Some children do not adapt quickly to different cultures, in addition to learning a new language. A full-time school which offers instruction in the Japanese language provides them with a familiar environment and an easier introduction to another culture which is drastically different from their own.
4. In the United States, many Japanese children attend American schools for five days, Monday through Friday, and then go to a Japanese Language School on Saturday. A six-day school week cuts short their free time for participating in community activities. Also, some children have difficulty keeping up meaningful developmental learning when they must be part of two separate school systems.

II THE CURRICULUM

1. The Educational Aim of This School

The daily school activities are organized in such a way to encourage the students to foster the following attitudes and abilities: "To develop students who have desires for intrinsic learning, thinking, and taking actions"

- (1) To further a desire for intrinsic learning
- (2) To further a spirit of responsibility, cooperation, and service
- (3) To further healthy minds and bodies
- (4) To understand and support each other

2. The Educational Policy of This School

A standard policy of education has been established by careful consideration of social, economic, and international concerns, as well as the individual needs of students in order to promote a harmonious learning environment. Through this standard policy we hope to promote the following:

- (1) To develop independent and autonomous spirit of students
- (2) To develop a desire for intrinsic learning
- (3) To develop healthy minds and bodies
- (4) To develop a good relationship with parents and live up to their expectations

3. Instructional Objectives

(1) To Help Students Fulfill Basic Learning Objectives

- ① To provide the students with the basic essential education to help them acquire knowledge in addition to making the best use of their personalities.

(2) To Develop Morality and English Learning

- ① To channel the vigorous energy of the students to help them to build up their physical strength and intrinsic morality and to develop their healthy minds and bodies.
- ② To help students develop and improve their ability to use basic and practical English communication skills.

(3) To Develop Global Understanding Through Education

- ① To facilitate activities of exchanges with local community and schools and to use educational practices, which promote understanding of global culture in all subjects (including Social Studies, Science, History, and the Arts).
- ② Attempting to install in students a strong sense of themselves as Japanese nationals, encouraging them to develop multi-cultural attitudes, and to help them become "Citizens of the World" responsibly solving issues of international concern having international vision and action.
- ③ In order to increase mutual understanding, facilitate the students to understand and respect Japanese modern as well as traditional culture.