

2016-17 スクール・カレンダー

The Japanese School Year

September · 9月

運動会・うんどうかい undoukai · Sports Day

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

From elementary to high school, all schools in Japan hold a yearly "Sports Day." They are usually held around October, because of the national holiday 体育の日 (*taiku no hi* / National Sports Day), but lately they are also held in the spring. On Sports Day, the children participate in lots of different group events outside on the school grounds, most of which are a competition between the classes. As every class wants to come out on top, everyone gives it their all.

Sports Day events include 玉入れ (*tamaire*), where teams compete to see who can throw the most red or white balls in a basket, relay races, tug-of-war, group gymnastics, dance, and so on.

Traditionally, families of the students also come to Sports Day. Parents prepare a special お弁当 (*obento* / lunch box) for their children, and after watching their children participate in the various events, they eat the lunch boxes together as a family.



文化祭・ぶんかさい bunkasai · Cultural Festival

The cultural festival is a huge event in the school year, where students get to show off their various talents. These, of course, involve many different cultural activities from theatrical and musical performances to fortune telling and お化け屋敷 (*obake yashiki* / haunted houses). For Junior High and High School cultural festivals, each homeroom puts on a different event, so depending on your class you may be playing the guitar or dressed up as a ghost!

Many classes will also have food stands instead of performances, so the cultural festival is also a great place to eat typical festival foods such as 焼きそば (*yaki soba* / fried soba noodles) and カキ氷 (*kaki gaori* / flavoured crushed ice). Some classes might even set up a café, where you can sit down and be served sweets!

November · 11月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October · 10月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



December · 12月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

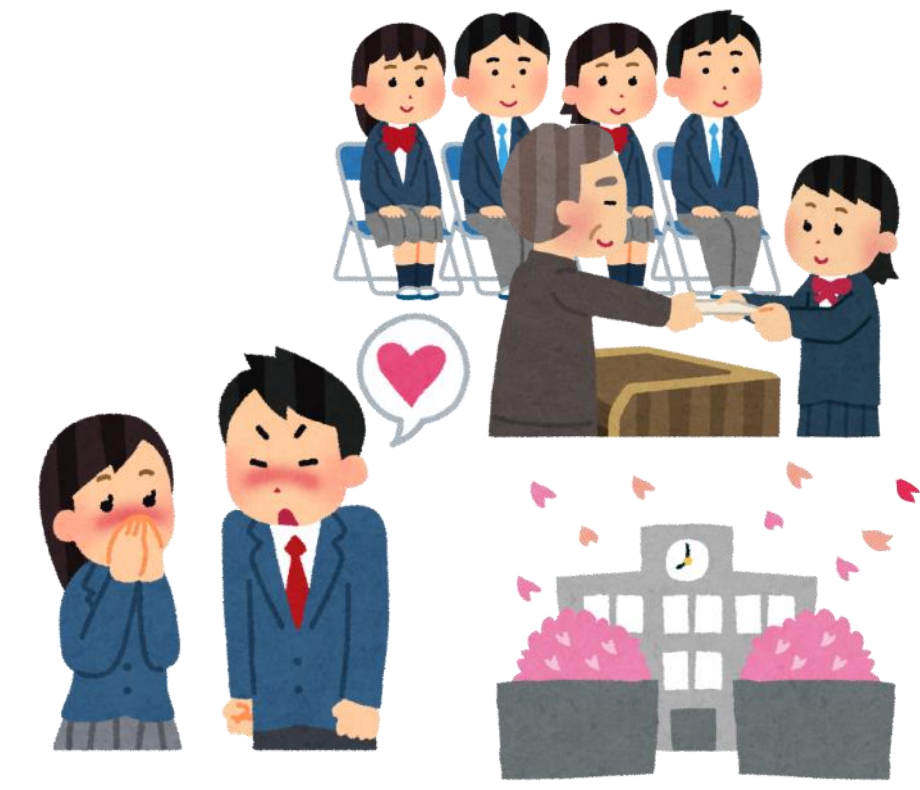
January · 1月

入学試験・にゅうがくしけん nyuugaku shiken · Entrance Exam

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

In Japan, students are only required to stay in school until the end of Junior High (Grade 9). To enter into High School or University, they must pass the entrance exam for that particular school. Students in their third years of junior high and high school usually give up any extracurricular activities so they can focus on 受験勉強 (*juken benkyou* / studying for the entrance exam).

Taking the exam for any one school can cost several hundred dollars, so students have to think carefully about where they want to go. If high school students have the misfortune of failing their university entrance exams, many will become a 浪人 (*rounin* / "samurai without a master"), which has come to mean someone who is done school but studying to retry the entrance exam the next year.



入学式&卒業式 にゅうがくしき&そつぎょうしき nyuugaku shiki & sotsugyou shiki · Entrance & Graduation Ceremonies

The Japanese school year starts in April when the 桜 (*sakura* / cherry blossoms) are in full bloom, and is marked by the Entrance Ceremony where all new students gather and are welcomed in the school. For many, the day is not only to celebrate starting at a new school, but also the fact that they passed the entrance exam.

With March comes the end of the school year, and for those in their third year of Junior High or High School it means they will attend their Graduation Ceremony. At the ceremony, it is not uncommon for there to be some tears as they say goodbye to the friends they will soon be parting ways with. Graduation is also the last chance for many students to confess their feelings to a certain classmate, and there is a tradition where boys give the second button off their 学ラン (*gakuran* / boy's school uniform) to the person they like.

February · 2月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



March · 3月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April · 4月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May · 5月

修学旅行・しゅうがくりょこう shuugaku ryokou · School Trip

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Most of the schools have school trips each year during the spring or fall. Younger classes usually go on 遠足 (*ensoku* / field trips) to local attractions or educational facilities for a day, similar to Canadian students. When students are in the last years of Elementary, Junior High, and High School (grades 6, 9, and 12), they will go on overnight trips (修学旅行 / *shuugaku ryokou*) to other areas of Japan to see the country. There are also some schools which go to other countries, especially in high school. These trips are an important rite of passage for students in Japan. Furthermore, students actually do much of the planning leading up to the trips, making them not just a vacation but also an exercise in working together as a team.

In high school, trips can also take place in grade 11 (and not the last year) because students in grade 12 are too busy studying for university entrance exams.



夏休み・なつやすみ natsu yasumi · Summer Vacation

Although it varies from region to region, summer vacation in Japan is generally from late-July to late-August. Students are assigned a lot of homework, including a 自由研究 (*jiyuu kenkyuu* / independent study), because summer vacation takes place in the middle of the school year and not at the end. This means that a lot of students don't really have the time to go on summer trips with their family. However, during お盆 (the O-bon Festival) people traditionally return to their hometowns, so some may take trips to other towns or cities to go visit their grandparents.

To help students keep active, during the summer a lot of community centres and parks have a morning assembly to do ラジオ体操 (*raijo taisou* / radio calisthenics). Older students will stamp a card for younger students to prove that they participated that morning.

June · 6月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



July · 7月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August · 8月

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Japanese-Language Learning Resources by the Japan Foundation

Japanese in Anime and Manga
www.anime-manga.jp



NIHONGO えな
Portal for Learning Japanese
www.nihongo-e-na.com



HIRAGANA / KATAKANA
Memory Hint App



Erin's challenge!
I can speak Japanese
www.erin.ne.jp



Japanese Language
Proficiency Test
www.jlpt.jp/e



MARUGOTO Plus
www.marugotoweb.jp

