



# TOSHIMAGAOKA TIMES

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## SSH: Bold New Challenges for Girls of Science



(above) Card-board bridge contest at the school auditorium (below) poster presentation

Photo by Hitomi Takagi

From this April, Toshimagaoka high school has approved as Super Science High school (SSH) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. At school designated as SSH, students research on a lot of kind of issues by themselves. Also, such school is able to cooperate with universities. The goal of this project is to raise scientists.

Toshimagaoka's aim as SSH is making a model case of students' challenging themselves. The government designated 204 SSH schools this year. The SSH schools try a lot of unique things. For instance, Tokyo Metropolitan Science and Technology High School studied a new way to grow mushrooms. These high schools are able to get a great deal of grant and supports by university, such as the use of the facilities and the equipment. Also, students are granted easier contact with other SSH schools.

In fact it is rare for a private school like Tshimagaoka, which mainly is for preparation of university entrance exam, to be

SSH. There are 49 newly admitted schools in 2018, but only 7 are private school. This is said because students don't have enough time to try many things because of studying. But during the act as SSH, students surely can take advantages to acquire autonomy and critical thinking for how to make themselves succeed in the research.



According to Mr. Negishi, the director of the SSH committee in Toshimagaoka, teachers' goal is the training of girls who will be able to play an important role in solving problems through scientific thinking in the future. Time for students is limited so these are some tradeoff between study for exam and acquiring such ability, but the importance of the latter is increasing when students put

themselves in wave of internationalization and look at the future in long term.

So how was Toshimagaoka accepted? Teachers said that the process is like a rushing. But thanks to them, students got many benefits. Toshimagaoka had planned to do some exploration activities, students' making plans and carrying out them, even Toshimagaoka isn't a SSH school. Just at that time, SSH system showed up in front of teachers.

In August 2017, three teachers -Mr. Kuwabara, Mr.Toyoda and Mr.Tsuzuua- went to see the competition and were impressed by the students making presentation there. Mr. Negishi said that learning as SSH will surely become a good trigger of education of our school in today's technology improving world.

Also the benefit of being SSH is so big that teachers were attracted a lot. Then promotion members and teachers in the top position negotiated with the government several times. During the meeting with whole

teachers, some problems such as short of the time and the content students who majors liberal arts to do in the curriculum. were considered but solved by adjusting the number of classes.

Now, many teachers expected it to be good. Mr.Tao said that he wanted to involve in the activity as one educator. Finally in December of 2017, Toshimagaoka submitted the documents. The efforts students had made such as Academic Day, making projects and graduation thesis was evaluated so that Toshimagaoka was approved as SSH in March.

As a SSH, Toshimagaoka surely will be able to take advantages to provide higher education which matches this period. Teachers' great effort served a lot of chances to students. This event must be the turn of the Toshimagaoka's history.

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By Makoto Ueda, Rie Sai, Hitomi Takagi, Karen Yamada  
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# School Uniform: Past, Present, and Future

Toshimagaoka is known for its neat and clean uniform. Especially, comfortable sailor uniforms and ties shaped like a “pigeon” have been popular among students at Toshimagaoka for a long time. However, it seems that very few students at Toshimagaoka know how our school uniforms are designed. Actually, Toshimagaoka’s uniform has a long history and changed with Toshimagaoka’s good points as the time passed. Ms. Takehana, the principal of Toshimagaoka talked about it.

## Origin of Toshimagaoka school uniform

When Toshimagaoka was founded in 1892, woman's pleated trousers called “Hakama” came into fashion in Japan. Wearing Hakama, anyone could be active. So Toshimagaoka adopted it for its uniform. After Taisho period(1912-1926), the uniforms in Japan changed from Hakama to sailor uniforms and blazers. The main reason of this change was the Great Kanto Earthquake. People got interested in functional Western clothes because wearing them, it was easy to evacuate. In 1930, the school uniform of Toshimagaoka changed from Japanese-style Hakama to sailor uniform. The design of Toshimagaoka uniform has continued for about 90 years.

Though the design of the sailor uniform has hardly changed, the tie and socks had changed along fashion trends and students’ requirements. The tie was not like a “pigeon” at first, the students just knotted it twice. Many years

after that, tight tying became popular, and now they tie it like a “pigeon.” But there are no records about when and who designed it. It has changed naturally. Changes of the way to tie were not by the school rules but by the students. The tie had reflected each period’s fashion.

Concerning the socks, Toshimagaoka once did not have its approved socks. The students put on socks which were sold at shops and folded the rims in three because they thought it was beautiful. However, each student began to choose socks’ height as she like. So the teachers wanted to bring together the socks and designed the approved ones. The concept of beauty changed, now students do not fold the rims.

## Drastic changes in what the uniform is made of

Ms. Takehana said that she has changed the uniform of Toshimagaoka. In 2006, Ms. Takehana drastically changed two things of the uniform when she was in charge of student guidance.

First, she changed the material of the uniform into high-quality and comfortable. Especially, it changed to washable and wrinkle-free. Now students of Toshimagaoka can wash their summer uniforms with cuffs and collars. However, before 2006, they could not. This is because the cuffs and collars were made from wool, not-washable cloth. So the students could not wash the parts which were liable to sweat such as neck and wrist every day! Also, many students were tired from



putting the parts back to their uniform bodies after washing.

Seeing the situations, Ms. Takehana really wanted students to wear their uniforms clean. Then, she began to think about improving the Toshimagaoka uniform.

Now the summer uniform has the 50% wool and 50% polyester collar. This combination is usually used for formal wear, such as uniforms. These days mixed cloth is seen in daily lives, but it was new and uncommon when Ms. Takehana changed the uniform. By changing cloth of the summer uniform, the students could wash their uniforms at home every day, and they were easy to keep their uniforms clean.

The second change was the shape of the skirt. Before 2006, the skirt of winter uniform was pinafore dress. In midwinter, it was warm because of having the upper body, but its style was very hot before seasonal clothing change in early summer. Also, it was not convenient for students as they change their clothes before P.E. and cleaning. So Ms. Takehana changed the pinafore dress to skirt. For the students,

the summer uniforms became more comfortable and easier to put on.

## Toshimagaoka school uniform in the future

Current Toshimagaoka’s uniform is not the same as the original one; it has so many stories in its changing history. And now, it is no wonder that Toshimagaoka students wear their summer uniforms, clean and washed every day. However, before Ms. Takehana changed it, there were great efforts by her.

What is her hope to students about their uniforms? She said, “Our uniform is comfortable and beautiful, so please wear it with a tie, a school badge, and without any changes.” She also said, “Not only graduates but also examinees who want to enter Toshimagaoka love them. I want students to be proud of our school uniforms.”

By *Seina Kadowaki, Aya katsuta*  
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(left) a classroom of Toshimagaoka in 1960s’ (above) our current school uniform (from Toshimagaoka Joshigakuen Historical Archive)



# “Once upon a time (about 35 years ago), there were only half a dozen school events,” said a teacher.

Today, many universities and companies require students' aggressiveness and the skills of developing educational materials and solving some problems. The change of the college entrance examination shows that. Now, some events are paid attention. Do you know the event of Toshimagaoka school for girls? Our school events remain changing, and a lot of events which students can attend are there. Our life can't consist without the event around us!

### From now on

“I hope students challenge various things actively without making mistakes.” This is the word by many teachers who teach at our school.

Today our school hold about 30 kinds of event. It's about 4 times as much as them in 1984.

The president of our school Ms.Takehana said “ I want to increase global events, especially with Asian countries, and some events which have the connection with other schools, universities, and companies. Like the Academic Day, to increase student-centered events is also my wish.” about the events from now on.

### Two major events

The number of the students

who attend Academic Day is 680, and the one of Monozukuri Project is 169. These two events have so many participants, so let us introduce them.

Academic Day is closely linked with universities and private companies. The tasks used to be only by our teachers, but students got some chances to make own tasks this year. Teachers want students to get the skill to find the task by themselves and to get close to the result. Also, Monozukuri Project is making something with students' imagination and their knowledge of physics. This year, our teachers projected “FLY HIGH”; make a flying object with bamboo sticks and balsa plates. The program changes each year. The students make something specified with limited materials with group members. And students challenge not only building up but also experimenting, so we can experience the process of making something

### “Sempai” teachers' memories of their high school events

The teachers of Toshimagaoka who graduated our school told about some events.

When Ms.Takehana was a student, there was a swimming competition. At that time, the swimming pool was on the schoolyard and there was a

### School Events (1984)

- sports festival
- school festival
- P.E. at Iruma ground
- Camp school at Komoro
- School trip
- swimming competition

balcony in each classroom. Swimming players were chosen from each class and other classmates cheered them up.

But this event ended because the swimming pool had been moved to the roof.

At the school festival, there used to be many competitions, such as sewing a blouse or yukata fast, typing Japanese or English, abacus, and flower arrangement.

Now it is only a competition of *unshin* that remains ; repeatedly sewing a 1-meter-long white cloth with a red thread one ; because the number of vacant classrooms has decreased due to the increase of club activities.

When Ms.Ikawa, who teaches Japanese was a high school student, the music class had the chorus contest in the first term for first year students. Also, students enjoyed chorus by teachers at the end of the concert. The sports day used to have a game called “THE CHANGE”, at which teachers with fancy dresses walk around the ground.

### School Events (2018)

#### First term

- P.E.at Iruma
- Learning how to study from our seniors
- Panel discussions for career
- The power of stock
- Social studies's symposium

#### Summer vacation

- Camp school at Komoro
- Empowerment program
- Overseas training
- Mind The Gap
- One-day experience of consulting
- Mock trial under jury system

#### Second term

- Sports day
- Tourisai- the school festival
- P.E. at Iruma ground
- The project of English newspapers
- Career koushien

#### Third term

- Chorus contest
- English oratorical contest
- Naoki prize by high school students
- “Disastan” map making

#### Throughout this year

- Academic day
- Monozukuri project
- Nikkei Stock league
- The volunteer of reading for children
- The cafe of philosophy
- biblio battle

By Luna Otsubo, Hiroha Ota,  
Rika Okajima, Miu Hosoya

## Hiroshima, Nagasaki, or Kagoshima, your choice?

4 days school trip of Toshimagaoka is to change drastically, starting from 2019, as students can choose one course from 3 places, including Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Kagoshima. Every year, about 370 students all went to Nagasaki. Also students in the school excursion committee plan the trip program as tour guides of the course with teachers and travel agency staff.

The excursion was held toward the end of September before, but in 2019 it is going to be held in early June. The purpose of

this change is to lighten the burden of the students and teachers in the second term this school has many big event such as sports day and school festival .

“We want students to take action by themselves and join it not follow teacher but more actively.” a geography teacher Ms.Tokizane said. She has led the school trip change project since 2016.

All three places have peace learning, but other activities are quite different.

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(above) A day in School Trip to Nagasaki  
Photo by a Toshimagaoka Teacher



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For example, students can study social studies at Shimonoseki in Yamaguchi, Gunkanjima in Nagasaki, students of science can study at Tanegashima Space Center. Actually few schools in Tokyo go there as a school excursion. All courses include some famous sightseeing destinations

Forty-one members who want to join in the preparation of the school excursion are in the school excursion committee in 2018-2019. All of them decided which course they would go and they are researching about the course.

They can decide what they will eat during the trip or rules of the excursion.



agree with the new school excursion. A leader of Nagasaki course said that the teachers would reflect students' opinion more easily. A vice leader of Hiroshima course said that three

the students can select the courses which suit their tastes. There isn't enough time to change schedule and destination in 2018. Some members of the school excursion committee said

PLACE	MAIN SIGHTSEEING	PEACE LEARNING	FREE ACTIVITY TIME
Hiroshima & Yamaguchi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Itsukushima shrine,</li> <li>Akiyoshidai and Akiyoshidou</li> <li>Bugaku (traditional Japanese dance)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiroshima(Atomic Bomb Dome and Museum )</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tsuwano, Hagi, Chofu, Shimonoseki</li> </ul>
Nagasaki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dazaifutenmangu</li> <li>Gunkanjima and Kujukushima</li> <li>Ikejima coal mine / Aquarium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nagasaki (Atomic Bomb Museum and park)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nagasaki city</li> </ul>
Kagoshima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunamushi Onsen (sand bath)</li> <li>Tanegashima Space Center</li> <li>Sakurajima</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chiran (<i>Kamikaze</i> attack corps museum)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kagoshima main city</li> </ul>

Many students in the school courses have little in common and they wanted to hand over their job

to junior students in school and improve the excursion.

Also a member of a student council in our school who isn't a member of a school excursion committee said that the students can select which course to go and they can be more interested in their course. Moreover they can act with fewer students and they expect that they can do more activities than before.

Now, ,Toshimagaoka's school excursion which has continued for long time is about to change. The excursion hasn't been decided in details, but it is sure that it will be better one. Also, this change will continue for many years. All places and activities seem interesting and they will enable the students to make good memories with friends. The students should think this new school excursion positively, join actively and enjoy it.

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#### School Values

## Unshin : What Stands the Test of Time

Do you know handling of a needle? Many people don't know what this is. Toshimagaoka Girl's junior and senior high school, the student do "the handling of a needle" five minutes from 8:15 to 8:20 every morning. They call it "Unshin" and it means that carry the needle. What is the handling of a needle, history and aim. Let's take a look at them.

Don't you think Toshimagaoka Girls junior and senior high school is serious and ordinary school? That idea is wrong. The school has characteristic custom called "the handling of a needle". Student of the school prepare a white long cloth, red thread and a needle.

They start "the handling of a needle" after a chime at 8:15. They sew 1 meter for five minutes. In this five minutes, the school gets quiet. No one speaks.



Students can concentrate and train their heart.

"The handling of a needle" became popular in the Russian-Japanese War. The influence of the Russian-Japanese War, Japanese girls started to do "the handling of a needle". Toshimagaoka was formally called as "girl's sewing technical school", and this is the roots of "the handling of a needle" in Toshimagaoka.

In Toshimagaoka high school in 1948, school building moved to Ikebukuro and changed school's

name to when school building moved to "Toshimagaoka Girl's academy". Fukai Tomokichi, principal of Toshimagaoka inspired by a story told that the handling needle improves concentration told by an old graduate, adopted "the handling of a needle".

A first-grade student of Toshimagaoka is thinking "By doing the handling of a needle, I can count five minutes without looking at a clock". Another girl said "I enjoy doing this because I can sew longer than before!" We found a very creative and imaginative girl had once sew a shape of heart.

A second-grade girl said "I always set a goal of sewing beautifully. When I sew beautifully, I feel really good."

Students say that they can have their goals when they do the

handling of a needle. It is very important to have a goal because they can make an effort to achieve the goal. In Toshimagaoka, it isn't expected only the handling of a needle but also study, sports and so on.

Also history of the handling of a needle is very long. It is important to keep the history. And the handling of a needle is the tradition of Toshimagaoka. So students have to pass the tradition down to future generations. In addition, knowing the history of the handling of a needle is difficult, but very interesting. Let's do handling of a needle in Toshimagaoka.

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*By Mika Kagaya Saki Takamiya Nanako Kurosaki Hina Inaba Hana Ikeda*  
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Photo by Saki Takamiya