



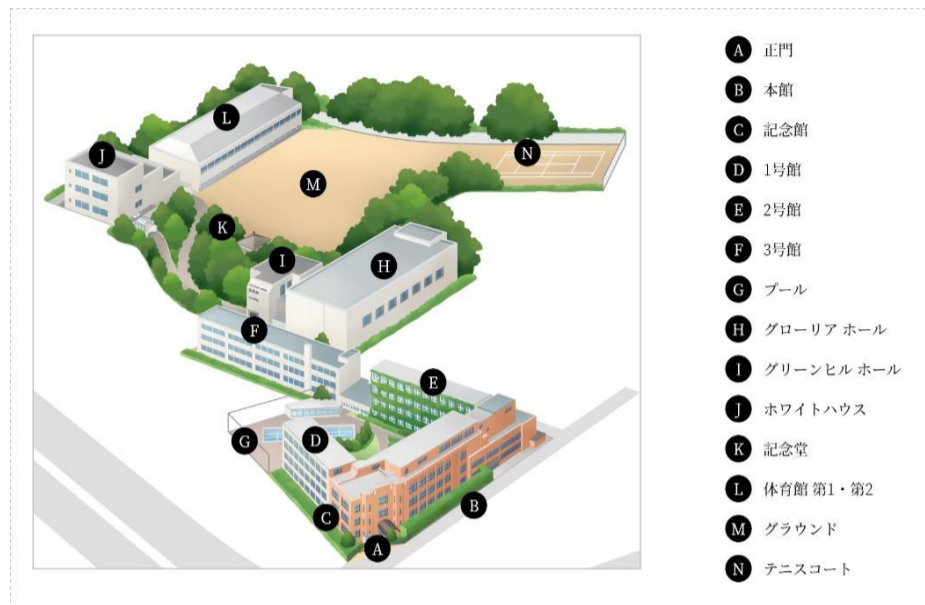
# FURUSATO SHOEI



STUDENT EDITION, JANUARY 2024

## The Efficient Use of School Space

Shoei is a very charming school - the overflowing nature and the spacious grounds call upon many students every year. However, we felt that we are not utilizing the environment to its fullest potential. Therefore, we came up with multiple ideas of how we could make Shoei a place where students are not forced to study but a place where students are motivated to study and learn.



Shoei's campus map Photo by Shoei

Envision yourself studying out in the forest with the natural setting and background sounds serving as a motivational backdrop. Who wouldn't feel motivated to study? Other than tables and chairs, if we could set up a garden or animal shed, we believe the forest can be optimally utilized. Although it may not be as realistic, having plants or animals that students can take care of will encourage them to be responsible in a fun way. It will also enable them to learn by tactile and visual learning the plants and animals instead of just looking at the handouts and the textbook. This will be more memorable and efficient when it comes to studying for the students.



Shoei's courtyard

Photo from Shoei's Instagram @shoei\_girls\_jh

In the heart of Shoei lies a picturesque courtyard with flowers and trees blooming throughout the year. However, we believe that the courtyard isn't being utilized to its fullest potential. The main concern that was raised was how narrow the pathway is, even when most school students use it every single day. It seems very impractical that the courtyard sits at the center of the school, but no more than two people can stand next to each other. Most Shoei students have an unspoken agreement that we are forbidden from entering the lawn. However, according to a Shoei teacher, that is not entirely true. If so, we thought that we could put the vast lawn to better usage. For example, we could remove the small fence that separates the grass and the path. That way, we could provide a wider walking

space for students. We are also suggesting the installation of benches, envisioning the space as a communal area for socializing, studying, or simply enjoying the outdoors. We also considered using the lawn as a place for students to eat lunch. However, according to a schoolteacher, the school policy bans eating outside a classroom to prevent students from feeling left out if they are displaced from their seats. In response, we are proposing a compromise: implement a rule prohibiting eating lunch at other students' desks but allow for eating in open spaces like the courtyard and open classrooms. This way, it addresses the issue of exclusion among students and can provide a better, more aesthetically pleasing lunch space.

When you go a little deeper into Shoei, you are met with a tiny forest. It is full of nature; however the students cannot step one foot into the forest. The fallen leaves and potentially dangerous creatures make it a place which students are forbidden to enter. However,



Shoei's forest Photo by Shoei

with a little effort, it is possible for us to turn it into another fun place for learning. For instance, if we clean up the leaves and trees and make it neater, we could add benches and chairs for alfresco lunch and studying. According to a resource, studying in an outdoor space can have countless benefits. These include the stimulation of creativity, heightened focus, increased student engagement, stress reduction, improved productivity, enhanced attention span, and has a positive impact on your overall well-being.

Even though these are only our suggestions, we hope we were able to give you ideas to change Shoei for the better. We believe that change does not come easily; however, with help from students all over the school, we can make students' hopes and ideas come a reality.

By Aoi Kayama  
Suzuno Kimura  
Rayna Suzuki

## Behind the Scenes of the Cafeteria



Shoei's cafeteria Photo from Shoei's website

Many Shoei students eat lunch from the school's cafeteria, but have you ever wondered how the cafeteria workers manage to make many of those delicious meals every day? We would like to introduce you to the cafeteria workers' busy daily schedule, and

some questions that we thought might be interesting for us Shoei students to know!

The cafeteria workers start their busy day coming to school around seven o'clock and preparing for the day's meals.

After first period, they go around

to check for additional orders made by the students and teachers, separating into roles of making meals for students, teachers, and side menus. Before the fourth period is over, the workers get ready to hand out the meals for students. When fifth period starts, the workers bring the dishes back to the cafeteria to wash and dry. When classes finish, and students have bought their tickets for tomorrow's meals, they start preparing for the next day. And the cycle goes on and on.

These workers came to Shoei by recruitment or due to transfer and they've worked here for around 20 years on average. However, there are some

hardships which even these veterans face. For example, when they don't know the exact number of students ordering the menu, especially the number that gets ordered in the morning, they must guess and make extras in order to serve every student who needs it. Therefore, they need to consider the popularity of the meal and approximately make it. Also, since they only have one oven in the kitchen, it will be tough work to make foods which require it such as pizza.

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By Yurika Konno  
Hinako Kato  
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## One Day Schedule around Shoei



A picture of Museum of Package Culture

Have you ever experienced difficulty deciding where to hang out with friends? Unlike public schools where most students live in close areas, students in private schools like Shoei come from many different areas. Therefore, it is difficult to pick the perfect place

which is easily accessible for everyone. However, there is one place where Shoei students can access for almost free and can easily gather: the places around Shoei. Most people have a commuter passe, so the fare will be free, and it won't be too far

from any students' house. Also, as a Shoei student, getting familiar with the places around the school may lead to feeling more affinity for Shoei!

Now we will present a wonderful one-day schedule around Shoei!

After a satisfying meal of delicious pastries, you may relax at the "Museum of Package Culture." Inside, visitors can observe the development of everyday items like boxes, cans, and different polymers that people hardly think twice about. You could take yourselves to have some Italian seafood for lunch at "Sakanabaru" that serves dishes of seafood such as oysters, crabs that you wouldn't want to miss!

To burn some calories, you could go to karaoke at "Best 10" and enjoy three hours of karaoke with unlimited popcorn and drink bar for 550 yen inclusive.

To wrap up your day, you cannot miss out on dinner. "Printemps" is famous for its Neapolitan, and it has been introduced on TV programs several times. There are a variety of menus to choose from but if it's your first time, you must try out their delicious Neapolitan with a rich, addictive taste. You wouldn't regret it!

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By Arisa Kikuchi  
Yuri Kiyono  
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# THE ESCALATOR CASTE SYSTEM

## ~The unspoken agreement in Shoei~



All drawings by Nao Hayashi

With Shoei's long history there is no denying some intriguing unspoken rules among students. We would like to introduce the most interesting agreement: The Escalator Caste System.

At one of the nearest stations from Shoei, Takanawadai Station, there is an escalator parallel to a long staircase. Due to the immense labor of going up the stairs, most students are eager to take the moving stairs. However, this is not the case.

With the sharp eyes of the seniors and the tense atmosphere, most junior high school students are unconsciously forced to take the never-ending stairs instead of the escalator unless they are

injured. One student in Sr.1 got scolded in junior one by another student from the same grade, who she had never talked to before, for using the escalator.

We came up with two reasons for this unspoken agreement. The first reason is the need to divide the students going up into two to avoid congestion. According to our English teacher, Mrs.N who has worked for Shoei for 10 years, this unspoken agreement had already been around when she started working for Shoei. However, the curious part is that when Mrs. N was a student at Shoei, this unspoken agreement wasn't around. The second reason is because Shoei students have massive respect for our seniors or

what we call *senpai*. Whether in the halls or during club activities, whenever we see our seniors, we are expected to bow and greet them with the utmost appreciation more than it was in the past. With the need to show respect, junior students may need to take the stairs instead of the escalator.

Having thought about this unspoken agreement deeply for the first time, we are curious to see how this agreement cultivates students and if any other agreements pop up in the future.

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By Karen Nakamura  
Makoto Takasaka  
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# Shoei Universalon

## ~Hairstyles to do in Shoei~

Although school rules are an unavoidable obstacle for us students to dress freely, it doesn't mean that we let it take control over us and make limits on how we express ourselves. Therefore, we would like to introduce three top recommended daily hairstyles especially convenient for busy Shoei students.

- Side ponytail



Take a tiny bundle of hair from the top of your head and tie it like the picture on the top. The higher you tie it and the closer the bundle is to the face, the more outgoing and sociable you will appear. With this hairstyle, it is likely that you will have increased opportunities to start conversations and make new friends with confidence.

- Chikup hairdo



This hairstyle is perfect for people with short, puffy hair. First, divide your bangs into two and make another bundle from the hair of the top of your head. Then combine the three, twist it once to make it puffy, and pin it to the top back of your head. Exposing the forehead allows your facial expressions to be more valid, which gives people the impression of a trustworthy and reliable person.

- Ribbon rope hairdo



With this hairstyle, you can quickly transform into an angel from a fairy tale. To become one, first make two thin long braids from the side of your head, about 4cm above your ears and tie them behind together. Make sure you don't pull too hard or tie it somewhere too high. Put on a black ribbon, preferably a long-end one, and you have successfully become a fairy tale angel.

Being happy with yourself is key to having a good life at Shoei. Hairstyles help you have more confidence in yourself; it's not only about the impressions from other people. The three hairstyles we briefly introduced may become a great help to your confidence.

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By Yui Kamiyama  
Nao Hayashi  
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## Ranking School Bathrooms

We humans are all universally connected by bathrooms and our use of them. However, it has come to our attention that Shoei's are subpar to their could-be potential, and what better to do than to rank them?

Here, we would like to introduce the best and worst bathrooms in Shoei, curated by those we interviewed. Now, after a thorough examination of the interview results, the answers varied throughout each grade. After all, every grade has different access to specific bathrooms and accordingly, we scrutinized that a single unified "best bathroom" could not be found.

Despite the doubts, the modernized bathroom on the bottom floor of the White House easily took the medal with a whopping margin of votes. Its

sterility and modernization succeed beyond the other ones, it being one of the few bathrooms in Shoei with an automated warm seat. As we went to investigate, the ambiance and technological aspects of the bathroom exceeded our expectations and were sublime in all categories. We also took note of efficient flushing and sanitation system, and the bright lighting that visually exceeded the others. Another honorable mention that gathered many votes, is the bathroom next to Class Sr.1-1, which has exceptional cleanliness and accessibility.

On the contrary, the worst bathroom by far is the one on the lowest floor of Greenhill House. It had over half of the votes, which seems reasonable with its yellowish interior and musty atmosphere. To say the least, there



The bathroom on the bottom floor of the white house  
Photo by Suzuno Kimura

has been talk about a small bug infestation and the locks, sinks, and flush noise malfunctioning. The most amount of heat you could receive is that of thermoresidual warmth, which shows the stark difference between the best ranked.

We hope that soon, Shoei

can bring about a more holistic approach regarding their bathrooms and thus, make their bathrooms multifaceted in both aesthetic and utility.

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*By Tomoka Ando  
Haruno Takeuchi*  
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## Romanticizing School

School can be a very boring and stressful place for students like us. However, we believe that by romanticizing school, we can make school life better, and a place where we can look forward to going. We have come up with several ways you can make learning at school and studying at home more exciting.



- **Taking Pretty Notes**

Use colorful pens and markers to not only make visually appealing notes but it is also helpful in organizing information. By doing so, it will help you focus in class more and prevent you from sleeping through class.

- **Buying New Stationery**

By investing in cute, personalized stationery such as colorful pens, markers, and unique notebooks, you can make note taking an enjoyable process.

- **Have a Clean Desk Setup**

A messy desk will reduce your productivity and your motivation to study. By using organizers, you can store your stationery and other study materials. A clean desk equals a clean mind!

Making small changes to your life to romanticize school is a simple and enjoyable way to boost motivation, enhance learning, and maintain productivity.

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*By Yuna Ueno*  
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### FURUSATO SHOEI

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Publisher : Shoei Girls' Senior High School Sr. 1-1A

Project Supervisors : Erika Nakajima and John Healey, English Department

Editor: Rayna Suzuki

Assistant Editor: Suzuno Kimura

Staff Writers : Tomoka Ando, Yuna Ueno, Hinako Kato, Yui Kamiyama, Aoi Kayama, Arisa Kikuchi, Suzuno Kimura, Yuri Kiyono, Yurika Konno, Rayna Suzuki, Makoto Takasaka, Haruno Takeuchi, Karen Nakamura, Nao Hayashi

Contact : ☎108-0071 2 Chome-26-5 Shirokanedai, Minato City, Tokyo

URL : <https://www.shoei.ed.jp/>