



TOSHIMAGAOKA TIMES

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Quiet, Shy, Reserved Girls? No Way!

What image do you have about Toshimagaoka students? You may think that they are introverted, bookish, and not outspoken. They are simply not true! At Toshimagaoka Joshi Gakuen high school, located in the middle of Ikebukuro, one of the centers of business and shopping in Tokyo, students reports they can be anybody they wish to be.

Offering amazing learning opportunities, students give a lot of presentations, and they can find what they are uniquely good at.

Empowerment Program: Be a Self-respecting Woman

This project is held nationwide by ISA during the summer vacation, and high 1 and high 2 can participate in Toshimagaoka.

You make group of 5-6 people and there are one group leader who is a foreign university student in each group.

You discuss and challenge various activities in English for 5 days. But your English skills are not related to participation because the goal of this program is not to learn English, but to acquire independence. Group leaders and group members help you when you are in trouble.

Through conversations with group leaders, you can learn about cultures of other countries and diverse views of the world. In



addition, group leaders come from various countries around the world, from the United States and Great Britain to Morocco and Egypt, and not only want to learn more about their specialties, but also solve a few problems that are occurring in their own country or on the planet. Most people have a strong will to want to do, and even

the strength of their will impress you.

You will be able to discover the problems yourself and get the skills of leadership to solve them. Also, you make so many presentations in front of all classmates. For example, about positive thinking, leadership, gender issues, your own skill, and

so on.

In this program, you can get presentation skills and confidence in yourself, which will surely help you in the future.

And one more thing, you can stay with such a wonderful international student.

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Why No More New Students from Grade 10th ?

Tosimagaoka has admitted about 250 students from junior high school and about 90 new students from high school. However, Toshimagaoka has decided to stop the system in 2021. This news gave an impact on people related to school.

What is the reason for that? According to Mr. Mochizuki, the chief director of Toshimagaoka, one reason is that it is not easy for new students entered from high

school to catch up with those from junior high school students. There need to be two courses in one school to get ready for the entrance exams for universities. These days, the entrance exams for universities are getting harder and harder. It requires high ability to solve new problems and your own opinion.

Another reason is that there is not enough room to provide students good environments for

study now. He also said the entrance exam for junior high school would not be influenced very much. More small classes might be made in the future.

Girl junior high students will lose a choice of entering girl private high school. But it will be better for Toshimagaoka students to get a good learning environment in the future. By abolishing the system, students can improve and study all together

for 6 years.

Girl junior high school students will lose a choice of entering girl private high school, but it will be better for Toshimagaoka students to get a good environment for study in the future.

By Seina Hoshino, Nozomi Kosaka, Rio Hashimoto, Sara Hatakeyama

A Short History of School Bag



Finally the rucksack becomes the schoolbag. On September in

2019, Toshimagaoka released the information about the new schoolbag. The students will be able to take a new rucksack which is designed by the school in February. The changing is big for the students because they have hoped that for a long time.

Toshimagaoka has a lot of traditions. For example, the handing of the needle and the design of the school badge. Also, one of them is the schoolbag. Actually some students wondered why they could not use rucksacks for students' health.

According to a story we heard from our principal who is a graduate of this school. In 1987 students used the commercially

available schoolbags. (she used to use a purple *furoshiki*, a traditional Japanese wrapping cloth, with the bag.) Around 1993, students used the commercially artificial leather bag and the carrying bag.

On the side of the carrying bag has a golden emblem of the same design as today's school badge. In those days, the schoolbag was mainly used, so the carrying bag was given a secondly role. Therefore, the capacity of the carrying bag was not big. In 1995, the bag which was bigger than the one the students use now was installed for the new school bag for only a year. At that time, students started using only the carrying bag so it was not used to

carry light things.

Consequently they changed the size of it. The bag the students bring to their school every day was first begun to use in 1996. It is said that it's design got better and more active than before. There is no good photos of the old bag now, so you should understand this change with your imagination. If you want to see some pictures, you can see them in graduation albums at the school library on the 8th floor.

By Taira Yuka, Aki Kiba

Classi: a New Platform for Sharing School Info.



The application software named "classi" has been introduced into Toshimagaoka High school since April in 2019. This application is provided by the company named "Classi", which was founded by Benesse Inc., and Softbank Inc. The philosophy of the company is to provide a good environment for students and give them chances to live up their unlimited possibility.

The application "classi has various functions such as communication tool, recording tool and studying tool. More than half of all high schools in Japan

have introduced it as of June 2019. In Toshimagaoka High School, it is used mainly as a communication tool between teachers and students or a recording tool for students' achievement. Students can get information from teachers by "Group in the school," one of functions. Mr. Tsuzuura, a teacher of Toshimagaoka, said that students can make use of their records for the entrance applications for the universities. Also they can reflect their achievements in their school lives and realize how they have improved. It will give them a

confidence in the future.

According to Mr. Abe, who works for "Classi", students can get "AAR Cycle," that is Anticipation, Action and Reflection. He emphasized that students get deep and active learning through "classi." Toshimagaoka students can have more opportunities to improve their potential with "classi."

By Seina Hoshino, Nozomi Kosaka, Rio Hashimoto, Sara Hatakeyama

Vocaloid Hit Toshima

Do you know Vocalo?: Make your own virtual idol!

There was Vocalo amateur in our school last year. I heard they worked to show at our school festival called "Torisai". This was not well known even students, so I want you to introduce this amateur which was one of our school's.

I interviewed one of member who made this amateur why did you try to make this amateur. She said her friend who are best

friends each other wanted to express something only them, and they try to challenge their hobby—to make music of Vocalo.

They gathered friends, and did their best to success their showcase. On the day they could success them, and got a message board for everyone.

By Erina Fukusima



Three School Trips, Three Learning

The From this year, Toshimagaoka students choose the school excursion course from Nagasaki, Hiroshima, and Kagoshima. Why were the three destinations chosen? We interviewed Ms. Tokizane, a teacher of Toshimagaoka who planned the school trip and she adduced two reasons.

First, all these courses had peace learning programs. We only “know about” the war, and we don’t have experiences. Listening about real experiences and learning from real materials give us better understanding about the war. However, peace learning contains sad, heavy topics, and some students are reluctant to learn on sightseeing trips. Therefore, she planned the trip to give us a chance to think about the war. That is why these courses have peace learnings.

Second, she wanted students to visit places which they don’t usually visit in private trips, such as Ikeshima in Nagasaki, Tanegashima, and oil base. This is because she thought that most students may not have chances to visit these places again. Many toshimagaoka students have ever been to abroad, but she wants them to realize great points of Japan through visiting them. The following, we will show you details about each course.

Hiroshima

We want to state some spots we visited during the trip to Hiroshima.

First, we visited the atomic bomb dome and the surrounding places. We were divided into some groups and each group made a tour of the atomic bomb dome and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park listening to a guide. Also, we looked around the atomic bomb museum and saw pictures or relics such as a watch or a lunch box. A student visited said that it was a really valuable experience for her because she could learn what really had happened through a lecture by the guide and so on.

Second, we went to Itsukushima shrine, the location registered as a World Heritage Site. We saw the scene of the main shrine building or trii, a gateway at the entrance to a shrine, standing in the sea. Also, we could



unexpectedly walk around the shrine and Trii because the tide was just going out at that time.

Finally, we visited Simonoseki in Yamaguchi and Moji in Fukuoka, where there are still historic buildings. We felt a little bit of how people had lived in the period. Ms. Tokizane said in our interview that she had chosen these places so that we could see port towns in Meiji period especially how people lived near the sea. She said, ‘These places are not famous as tourist sites. But that is especially why I wanted students to visit there, too.’

Nagasaki

First day, they learned about the second war, especially about atomic bomb in Nagasaki, by hearing the story of a woman who experienced atomic bomb dropped in Nagasaki. Some students could not hear her lecture without being moved to tears. A student who heard her lecture said that she was impressed with the moment that person she loved was injured by blew off glass. Hearing her lecture, they visited Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and Nagasaki Peace memorial Park. They saw the real remains that showed the size of damage caused by atomic bomb, and Peace Statue. Peace Statue is called Heiwa-kinenzou in Japanese. “Kinen” means not commemoration but prayer. This expresses that the

statue has the determination of victims of atomic bomb. Students must be able to learn the fear of atomic bomb. From the second day, they were separated into two groups and visit Gunkanjima, Digital Museum of it, Ikeshima, Kujukushima and so on. I interviewed to a student who chose the course to visit Kujukushima this time. She went to Aquarium Kirara, Kujukushima, and Arita Porcelain Park. The most impressing thing for her was cruising Kujukushima. Kujukushima do not has 99 islands truly, but there are a lot of small islands. Student were able to see beautiful islands they cannot see in Tokyo. Also she said that the plate she painted in Arita Porcelain Park would become special memory of this trip. On the second day, her group went a cafeteria in their free time. They ate 120m tall parfait for 4 people.

She said it was delicious. Students who chose this course also ate Sasebo burger. It was generated in Nagasaki. It was enough big to be full and delicious. Like this, they ate such delicious food in Nagasaki. Last day, student went to Kyushu National Museum and Dazaifu-tenmangu. In Kyushu National Museum, there were a lot of historical materials which some students learned in classes of Japanese history. Sometimes scenes that such students explained what they are to others who do not study Japanese history were seen. (Some students explained about these heritages to those who do not study Japanese (Some students explained about these heritages to those who do not study Japanese history in their classes.) In Dazaifu-tenmangu, they spent each time for

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themselves. Some enjoyed written fortunes, others bought some souvenirs.

Kagoshima

Kagoshima Course was the course where we can learn many kinds of things, such as history, culture, geography, and latest technology.

On the first day, students went to Senganen, a traditional samurai residence. After that they went to

Tanegashima by ship. Next day, they went to Tanegashima Space Center. On the third day, they had a program of "peace learning". They visited Chiran Peace Museum, where we learned about Tokko, suicide attacks that Japanese Army had conducted during WW2. They heard that many soldiers wrote letters to their family. They also read the letters themselves. Some of them were so shocked that soldiers as young as them have to die for the war, leaving their family behind. Last

day, we visited Kiire Oil terminal, one of the largest petroleum stations, and Yamakawa geothermal power plant.

Ms. Tokizane said in our interview that in school trips, they tended to visit a lot of historical and cultural spots, and few scientific ones. Then she planned the course so that student who were interested in science and technology could enjoy. Also, she said that Kagoshima course especially had a lot of spots that were not so famous but very

attractive.

"It was my hope to make the trip once in a lifetime experience for every student. There were no terrible accidents, and both students and teachers were able to enjoy the trip. It was really great." she concluded.

By Kotomi Yamano, Ayane Morikawa, Rikako Masuda, Kazami Takeuchi

Shy, Domestic, Reserved Girls? No Way!

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This year, one of the reporters joined the event by herself. Speaking in English from waking up to going to bed at night, I usually try to speak in English with family and chatting with my friends who tend to use a lot of directives. It looks like

The experience of English coming into a place where family members only speak Japanese will be a valuable experience that cannot be studied abroad.

In addition, I can feel the difficulty of explaining their customs and common sense, and the difference in culture, and it will be a good memory for my family during the summer vacation.

Model United Nations: Playing the Super Powers

Have you ever wanted to

become a UN ambassador?

In this program, you play as "UN ambassadors" of a country in the world with your friends. Then you discuss and draft resolutions with other countries members.

Also, you can join practice meeting at school before the game. There are two games per year, and the winner can join World Championship in NY!

Usually about 50 Toshimagaoka students join this event. Every year, you will be assigned a new country. So, you can learn about many countries!

Biblio Battle: Reading is Fighting
Biblio means "book" and battle means "Fight".

There will be 3 to 5 presenters and 20 to 30 audiences.

Presenters called "Vibrio Butler" will have 5 minutes to share the

interesting part of a book that they read. The Winner will be decided by the number of audiences who think "I want to read". Also, there are Biblio battles by teachers. You can join it and judge!

Nikkei stock league: Get Smart, Get Rich (in your mind)

This event is a virtual investment exercise which Toshimagaoka students have taken part in for three years. In this event, you will be an investor. First, you make a group to work together. Then decide an investment theme. After that, they select an interesting company and write a report of the process to deciding which company to invest. Also, this event is open for participants from junior high school students to university students.

If you take part in this event, you will be able to get precious experience that hard to get at daily school life. For example, one of the participants who got junior high school category award with the theme "Our way to Innovation" said "Through company visit, my future vision became clear." Also, there are students who have participated for two years. She said "during the second year I was able to based on last year's reflection. Through this I could learn the importance of continuity."

By Arisu Tani, Sato Haruna, Chihiro Suzuki

Three Months Exchange Program at NZ

On 19th of July, 5 Toshimagaoka girls arrived at Auckland airport and 72 days in New Zealand had finally begun. Spending a time with their host families abroad must be a first time in their lives, and that was not the easy thing to get used to the lifestyle which is completely opposite from Japan.

New Zealand is such a diverse country as many people living there have different religions, languages and backgrounds, so one of them said making new friends was not as hard as she had expected and all of the days during her stay was very stimulating to learn different cultures particularly Māori.

Not surprisingly, given that New Zealand is surrounded by sea and beautiful nature, Maori have a strong affinity with the ocean and have strong spiritual bonds with the land. Actually, 2 of them were playing haka which was used to symbolize community, strength, and performed for guests as a sign of respect.

The New Zealand All Blacks are reknown for performing a haka before every international match – a ceremonial haka symbolizing the "celebration of life triumphing over death." They said "While we were playing Kapa-Haka, we felt the songs and dance represented the beauty of nature and so we could identify the connection between land and us

which was an unusual thing for us living in Tokyo."

That feeling makes them think about environment issues much more often than before, and now they are working on reducing food waste to protect our beautiful planet and trying to take some actions to have everyone involved in this movement.

They already got some strong supporters to help them to work on reducing food-waste project. They have a sense of crisis in the current situation in Japan that a lot of people waste the food still can eat. They say "Put simply, you have three apples and you will throw one apple away every time. This is the situation what happens in this world.

We think few people know this stupid situation so we want more people to know that to make this situation more noticeable and treated as a problem." They seemed to be trying hard and to be going toward to their big goal. After reading this and if you are interested and feel sense of crisis, contact them and work with them to change this situation. They will be very happy to have you to become one of their members. Thanks to the most beautiful cultures, they might be able to be leaders to change our planet.

By Aiko Kato & Seie Shu
