



# Ritsumeikan



# Primary

学んだ子どもたちが、  
世界をかえていく。



# School Guide

# 確かな学力を 育てる教育

In order for children to think for themselves and grow they need strong foundations. At Ritsumeikan Primary School student-driven, co-operative lessons foster students' academic skills.



## A Holistic Approach to Learning

Study doesn't end with the classroom.

Occasionally the younger grades visit the nearby Kyoto Botanical Gardens to continue their education, while the 4<sup>th</sup> graders have a chance to study natural dying techniques by gathering wild plants and cooking dyes from scratch. We are blessed to have these local resources for students to continue their investigations into the world around them.



## Developing a taste for Discovery

As we aim for students to have an extensive vocabulary and a self-driven attitude to learning, even first year students are encouraged to use dictionaries and find answers for themselves. Students search for words which have been introduced in class so that they can become familiar with the Japanese language. The more they use their dictionaries the more they want to learn and before they know it, their dictionaries are filled with sticky notes.

Every morning children practice their Japanese, English and math skills during module time. The school halls echo with their energetic voices preparing for another day of learning before the first period begins. In Robotics lessons, students get a taste of the future with cutting-edge tools and skilled instructors. The English department pairs Japanese and Native teachers to provide natural input and demonstrate conversation strategies. Wherever possible, we seek to effectively use technology to meet the various needs of our students. Balancing "thinking," "judging," and "expression" together we form the student's solid foundation for enquiry.



# 真の国際人を 育てる教育

To be Globally Minded –  
Building a mindset that  
stretches beyond borders



In their day-to-day school life students are naturally exposed to various cultures and visitors from different countries. Then during “World Week” students can meet guest teachers from around the world and use the English they’ve learned, to communicate and discover a desire to learn even more! There are many chances for students to use their English and connect with the world.



## English lessons that encourage communication

English lessons begin from the first year and consist of lessons taught by native and Japanese teachers working together. “Speaking, Listening, Communicating” are the three principles we value highly. In second grade students act out a scene from “Beauty and the Beast” and in 4<sup>th</sup> grade students act as presenters in a news program. While in 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have a speech competition to display how they have become able to express their opinions and feelings.



## Diversity exemplified, “World Week”

Students representing around 15 countries come from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and spend “World Week” interacting through specially designed lessons. Children love being able to experience first-hand many different languages and cultures. We also have visitors from sister schools in different countries – this provides our students opportunities to welcome their peers from around the world.

# 豊かな感性を 育む教育

Nurturing open-mindedness

Developing our students' individuality and self-expression through the arts.



**Learning from peers as we shape our futures** – One goal of our art program is “To cultivate the ability and pursue the joy of communicating through the arts.” Children understand themselves by interacting with the world around them and to deepen their understanding, sympathizing with and understanding other people is absolutely essential. In our art classes we use mottos like “it’s okay to make mistakes, so let’s challenge ourselves and try new things” to create an environment open to new possibilities and one which reinforces our sense of open-mindedness.



**A chance to shine at the Culture Festival** – 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in various performances like plays and musicals. Students work together to set the stage and deliver performances that stretch their limits, in our fully equipped theatre. These performances are prime learning opportunities for our students to grow and mature.

Holding the brush with anticipation – *What kinds of fruit are we drawing today? What sort of design should I create? What colors will I use?*

Boundless worlds flow from the children’s imagination. We admire the joy of creation and the children’s works are displayed around the school. We value having a school environment that fosters our student’s creativity.



# 高い倫理観と 自立心を養う教育

学んだ力を活かしてどんな世界を創っていくのか。

未来を創る大切な指針となる倫理観と自立心を、

日常のかかわりの中で育てていきます。

*How will we use what we've  
learned to make the world a  
better place?*

**Ethics and individuality –**  
the all-important guides to  
creating a better future

“I've got ‘siblings’ at school too.” In addition to grades and classes, every student also belongs to one of six houses: Sakura (Japanese cherry), Keyaki (Japanese elm), Kusunoki (camphor tree), Kaede (maple), Kashi (evergreen oak), Kiri (foxglove tree). Students engage with other grades within their respective houses in various activities throughout the school year. Every day students join their houses to clean the school. Older students guide students of the lower grades, become role-models, and build sibling-like relationships. Our younger students often aspire to the exceptional examples their older peers set through their day to day interactions and other events like field trips and the sports festival. In this fashion, our school strives to raise our students in a rich social environment with their classmates by their sides and their house ‘siblings’ at their backs.



## Be punctual, be tidy, be courteous –

As a goal for their daily lives, our students are taught to be punctual, tidy, and courteous at all times and to all things. We encourage our students to grow to become reliable and mature individuals by following these three points. Upon entering the school grounds, we show respect to the school, our teachers, and our friends with a bow. Our students are also taught to minimize distractions by maintaining their appearance and keeping their surroundings tidy.



## Let's think together with our house – School-wide 'Ritsumei' class –

At our school we have a subject named “Ritsumei.” Using our school’s ‘five pledges’ as a foundation, and various books and personal topics as themes, we consider and discuss how we ought to conduct ourselves in our daily lives. Furthermore, multiple times over the course of the year, we conduct a full school ‘Ritsumei’ class during which we discuss in our house groups and consider different themes and problems. The change of pace from our usual classes and the different perspectives from our seniors helps our students develop a strong moral foundation. In addition, these experiences accumulate to help cultivate our students' ethics and individuality.

Children, challenge yourself abroad!

# 「子どもたちよ、海を渡れ!」

**Ritsumeikan Primary School, connecting with the world**  
 With our programs abroad, students get exposure to different cultures and languages through experiencing various environments in daily life. This can open their minds and students can challenge themselves for their personal growth.

## Chitralada School



(for Ritsumeikan Grade 5 students)

This is a mutual exchange program. Through a project and presentation, students will learn about each other's culture.



Singapore

## Rulang Primary School



(for Ritsumeikan Grade 5 students)

In this exchange program, students can join some regular classes.



Australia

## Toowoomba Anglican School

(for Ritsumeikan Grade 5/6 students)

This is a two-month program. Students stay in an on-campus boarding house and study side by side with TAS students. This gives students a chance to improve their English and become more independent.



## Peking University Elementary School

(for Ritsumeikan Grade 4/5 students)

We started this exchange soon after opening our school. Contact with host families continues across two years, and for many they have stayed in touch after the program.

Peking University Elementary School

Chitralada School

Rulang Primary School

Toowoomba Anglican School

## A message from a teacher who escorted students on a program abroad

In the first half of the program, students asked me many times, "How should I say this in English?" I would reply, "Even if you cannot say it well, try to convey what you want to say." Students began stringing together familiar words and they were actively having conversations! I think they realized that if they show a desire to communicate, the person listening will make effort to understand. I really felt this program's "putting oneself in another culture and trying to use English" connected to students' growth.



## Vancouver homestay and English study

(for Ritsumeikan Grade 5/6 students)



Through homestay and English lessons with a licensed professional, students improve their English skills and challenge themselves to become self-reliant.



## YMCA Camp Erdman · Hawaii Palms English School

(for Ritsumeikan Grade 4 · Grade 5/6 students)

Immersed in bountiful nature, students study English in an environment they cannot experience in daily school life. The goal of these programs is to widen students' view of the world and help them develop sensitivity.

USA



## Polytechnic School

(for Ritsumeikan Grade 5 students)



This intercultural experience program began in 2013. Students are able to meet via Skype prior to their visit. While there, each student has a homestay buddy and they attend classes together.

## For the intercultural experience to go beyond "It was fun"

A message from Principal Miki Horie

Our international education pursues, with programs abroad which include pre and post study sessions, to connect the intercultural stimulation to students' personal growth in multiple aspects. We hope that our students learn to be open to diversity, have a sense of human rights, and that they are able to move forward happily in global society as independent individuals. In order to achieve this, we intend to give children various opportunities to be exposed to diverse cultures, while they are still very flexible and open-minded, so they may shine in their own way.



## Ritsumeikan Primary School's Programs Abroad

Not necessarily dependent on their English skills, we offer a wide range of programs for students to choose something that matches their own goals. Also, part of the attraction of these programs is that they give students a chance to challenge themselves to grow beyond a level generally achieved in six years of primary school.



# 1日の学校生活

## a typical day at school

There is no replacing the time spent with friends and teachers.  
Children learn from every moment.



### "Good morning!"

Learning at Ritsumeikan Primary School begins with a cheerful greeting. Parents are informed of their child's arrival and departure via IC tag.

7:40~8:10 arriving at school



Students can concentrate and learn alone, or they can learn with friends...There are various ways of learning depending on the subject and learning content.

8:40~10:20 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods

Our school's lesson theme is "discovery and creation." Teachers place an emphasis on having an environment in which children can learn independently, rather than on promoting only one way of approaching something.



3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> periods

10:40~12:20

after lunch break



Dodgeball is a popular game on the playground. Students are able to mingle with students outside of their grade level. Younger students enjoy playing on the jungle gym.

13:05~13:25

"terakoya" time



"Terakoya" time gives students an opportunity to review and reinforce what they learned during the day's classes. We also have an advanced math class that is led by a university professor once a month.

15:40~16:05

8:25~8:35

### module time

We work on Japanese, English, and math. Module time activates the students' brains and improves their concentration through repetition.



10:20~10:40

### morning break

Some students go outside to play on the artificial turf, and some students read books in the media center.



"Which books do I want to borrow today?"

### Media Center

The media center has more than 40,000 books, including old classics and newly published works. More than 5,000 of the books are in English.

12:20~13:05

Food is very important for the students' growth period.



### lunch break

Our school lunch is provided by chefs from Otsu Prince Hotel. Careful consideration is given to the balance and nutrition of each meal, with a variety of ingredients.

人気の給食  
\* Besides classic menu items like curry and rice, we also serve popular dishes like beef stew, grilled chicken, corn soup, and miso soup with tofu.

13:45~15:25

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> periods

Art class is very popular among the students. Each grade level works on various types of art.

