



School is Cool!

The Japanese School Year

In Japan, the compulsory education only includes elementary school (grades 1-6) and junior high school (grades 7-9). Preschools and kindergartens are optional, and many parents choose one for their children according to their needs. Nearly 98% of junior high school graduates go on to senior high school (grades 10-12), and about 50% of high school graduates attend college.

A typical school year for a Japanese elementary school may look like this:

April 5: The first day of school

April 29-May 5: Vacation Week (“Golden Week”)

July 20-August 31: Summer Break

September 1: The 2nd trimester starts

December 23-January 6: Winter Break

January 7: the 3rd trimester starts

March 25: Commencement/The school year ends

Most public schools are open 5 days a week, and a little over 200 days a year.