

Application for Participation

Associated Schools Project (ASP) for Promoting International Education

Outline of the way the Project(s) will be implemented in the institution

(please use extra sheets if necessary)

Description of the Project

As the school theme "earnest" implies our students study and exercise with all their bests. By the same token Ishimaki Junior High School would like to be an ESD accredited partner. The school administration is in the advantage of having a strong tie-up with its community and on the account of that good reputation, the core of this project proposal has consequently founded on this presumption. The collaboration is apparent in various reasons: our school has been greatly and naturally blessed with enrollees from five elementary schools; and is considered the largest district in the school division. Moreover, a significant number of long-time local residents of this district are alumnae actively involved in the community. Had it not on this collaboration, the school program wouldn't be yielding favorable outcomes highly valued today. As a result, activities which have been carried out in the past and continually done for many years are now adapted primary in school fairs. In addition to this, the school events which are mostly familiar and known to students' parents and grandparents gave way to a stronger connection between school and families. For this reason, Ishimaki Junior High School will continue to carry out its education plan which puts importance on community partnership, and to strive towards making students healthy and strong.

Objectives of the Project

① Environmental education

Focusing on the nature surrounding the school area, instill the concept of the need for a place to live; and incur a sense of responsibility of taking good care of the environment for the children in the future.

② Community volunteering

In order to protect the environmental and cultural aspect of the local community for years, foster understanding on the indispensability of activities contributing to community and arouse interest in joining volunteering activities.

③ Local community cultural and sports collaboration

Create a convention or establish a way of raising children across the region through sports clubs, wherein young and adults interact in activities with cultural and sports significance.

Execution

(e.g. through a specially designed course, through an existing course(s) or as an extracurricular activity)

① Tea cultivation

In our school, tea is being grown for more than 50 years now. Throughout the year, the school staff together with the students takes part in watering, trimming or pruning, weeding and fertilizing the tea shrubs. In April, we distribute and give away the finished tea product in pouches to all who have helped in the manufacturing process. In addition, students themselves during a scheduled event can taste-test the first month harvest of sencha – which literally means “new tea”, and everyone has a chance to take home some samples or to try some brewed green tea. This activity is viewed as a way of strengthening family ties and nurturing the sense of value for Ishimaki school area.

② Mt. Ishimaki as school emblem

- The Ishimaki Three-necked Pond Clean-up Operation

Student-volunteers in collective effort with the local residents clean the three-necked pond near the base of Mt. Ishimaki in November of every year. Students of our school numbering over a 100 hundred are joined together in picking up trash around the pond. This operation takes more than two hours and involves a lot of people in meetings and preparations. In the conclusion of the event, a commemorative tree-planting is held symbolizing support on environmental protection and conservation.

- Ishimaki Tozan Marathon (Mt. Ishimaki Marathon)

This event, “Run up Mt. Ishimaki Marathon” takes place in December every year. Mt. Ishimaki is a famous mountain located in Toyohashi and is known for its over 30-year historical tournament. The race begins from the foot of Mt. Ishimaki where the school is situated up to the summit; boys and girls competing separately run uphill in a total of 3 kilometers race distance. It is a tournament that raises PTA members and local residents’ awareness towards school support and involvement. It has become a tradition wherein the local community cooperation is strongly felt.

③ Local volunteer

In our school, requests for aspiring volunteers coming from the region are pouring in great number. A wide-range of help for respective local community cultural events, elementary school events and others is being solicited from us. The students are playing an active role in rose bed gardening, mushroom foraging, and cultural festival presentations and others alike. The local community is also banking on the students capabilities, this tie-up also serves a way to develop students’ growth and development.

④ Collaborative Regional Sports Club (SKITS)

The sports club called SKITS has been established, an acronym representing the five participating elementary schools of the district. Pupils, students, and adults taking part on these activities geared towards children’s growth and development through local community effort is

seen widely spreading. In Ishimaki Junior High School, a joint practice between the school clubs and SKITS is done with great enthusiasm. Local community leaders help students in their school club trainings on holidays and participate as coaches on weekdays. Teachers oversee students' extracurricular activities on regular days and get involved in practice matches of SKITS likewise. The fathers of pupils acting as coaches also have chances to be trainers of their own kids. It is a huge club involving the school, neighborhood associations, and health and development committee as they work hand in hand concerning club applications and procedures, and organizational management.

Type of materials to be used

① Tea Cultivation

- Tea (purchase seedlings in small quantity to be planted around the school yard yearly)
- Greening Committee (committee of students protecting the tea)
- Fertilizers (nitrogen compounds, ammonium sulfate: fast-acting fertilizer)
- Hedge Clippers (manual trimmers for students use; electric trimmers for staff use)

② Mt. Ishimaki as school emblem

- Three-necked pond (for conservation and preservation of Toyogawayosui River; a water reservoir coming from the foot of Mt. Ishimaki)
- Steering Committee (Ishimaki schools neighborhood association, elementary-junior high schools)
- Cleaning tools, garbage bags, work gloves, truck for garbage transport
- Seedlings for planting, scoop, seedling labels, string

③ Ishimaki Tozan Marathon (Run up Mt. Ishimaki)

- Marathon course billboards with instructions
- Summit finish line (tent, vinyl sheets, truck, power generator, computer for record-keeping, and others)

④ Local volunteers

- Volunteer Card (for one year use)
- Annual Plan (volunteers' schedule for each school area)
- School Secretariat (understanding the student-participants, dispatch, contacts)

⑤ Collaborative Regional Sports Club (SKITS)

- Regional Organizations (Sports Committee, Neighborhood Association, Alumni Association, Health Development Committee, Schools)
- School Clubhouse (chaired and run by Ishimaki Junior High School Administration)
- Application Area (at respective elementary / junior high schools, community gymnasium)
- Elementary School Commissioner
- Accounting (Secretariat)
- School Persons-in-charge (schools Vice-Principal, school curriculum coordinator)

Is there any type of evaluation to examine the effects of the project on students' comprehension and attitudes?

- As we continue to implement the plan and other programs of this project, close supervision is inevitable as to giving importance to students' assessment and evaluation.
- In tea cultivation, the project progress is evaluated through the concerted effort of students, and the greening committee with involvement of other students in organizational campaign.
- Keep record of the attitudes and behaviors exhibited during and after the activities such as the school clean-up, community activities and others; and continue to evaluate the level indicators of volunteering ideals through different media and educational assessment tools.
- In conjunction with the local/community sports, assess the implications of the aforementioned activities towards the students' physical and mental growth and development.

On behalf of my institution, I apply for participation in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project and give the assurance that this institution will make an active contribution to the Project, as outlined above, for a minimum period of two years. At the end of every year, I shall submit a report of the Project to the ASP National Co-ordinator of my country.

TOSHIHIRO UEDA

School Principal

Ishimaki Junior High School