

Application for Participation

Associated Schools Project (ASP) for Promoting International Education

To educate the students to (i) become aware of the good points of their immediate environment (ii) develop a love for it and (iii) to pass on that love for the environment to future generations.

Description of the Project

At Takatoyo Junior High School, we teachers have given thought to the relationship between industry and the environment, in order to better educate the students about it. Our students participate in experiential learning to better understand their hometown. They learned a lot of things from the people living here and also from the natural environment around the school. In line with above, Takatoyo J.H.S. has a plan wherein students do the basic groundwork for building a society in which we can raise future leaders of an environmentally sustainable society.

Based on the idea of E.S.D. the plan's aim is to help educate the students so that they (i) become aware of the good points of their immediate environment (ii) develop a love for it and (iii) to pass on that love for the environment to future generations.

In addition, we want to enhance the ability of the students to interact as members of society through various activities.

All of the teachers have adopted E.S.D. and have deepened their personal learning, in order to promote E.S.D. We have made an E.S.D. calendar. Specifically so that the students understand their hometown and its natural environment, we decided to give thought to the curriculum from an environmental point of view, which in Japanese we call "Hito, Mono, Koto". By teaching this curriculum systematically and on an ongoing basis, we think that we can help to bring up young people who love and will contribute to their hometown, and who will leave behind them positive improvements to the hometown for posterity.

Objectives of the Project

At our school, we educate students so that they cultivate a better understanding of their own region environmentally, and so that they will get involved in the environmental affairs of the region. Through this practice, students become aware of the positive aspects of the region's environment, look after the region's environment, and stand a chance of growing up to become an environmentally sustainable society.

Therefore we advocate the following 4 activities in this school district.

(1) Activities in which an understanding of agriculture, and what is needed for success in agriculture, are deepened.

Students visit agricultural farms in the local area and participate in working on them. By working on real farms with local farmers, by being reminded of requirements in the local area

and being aware of where agriculture has prospered, students can better understand the good points of Toyohashi's environment, thereby enabling themselves to carry that knowledge with them into their adult lives, in which they will be able to support local agriculture and industry.

(2) Activities through which students increase their awareness of, and think about maintaining, the local environment.

In the Takatoyo area, features like the Omotehama beach where loggerhead turtle lay eggs, and the cycle-path from which the ocean and groves of trees can be seen, contribute to our local environment. By teaching the importance of living in harmony with nature and by having students participate in for example, both beach cleaning and cycle-path cleaning activities, we can help to raise people who will take pride in their lives and in the local area.

(3) Activities through which students protect nature, in order that it has a chance to flourish.

Students known as the "Bamboo Grass Lily Volunteers" plant and transplant bamboo. They do this as part of the "Bamboo village", which is managed by Bamboo Grass Lily Preservation Society. At the bamboo village, the students also welcome visitors, show the village to sell them flowers and vegetables grown in the local area. Through the above-mentioned activities, students can gain practical experience working alongside others from the neighborhood, whilst developing a love of their hometown and a desire to maintain the local environment.

Execution

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

After completion of the Eastern Mainline Waterway in 1968, this district became the main farm-belt of Toyohashi, making it one of the major areas of agricultural production in Japan. In addition to cabbage, which is a well-known local product, Japanese radish, Chinese leaf, tomato, and watermelon are other crops also grown locally. In addition to being able to see the Enshu Sea, we have Omotehama beach, which stretches for approximately 8 kilometers. Members of the Bamboo Grass Lily Preservation Society in the Ikobe district are carefully trying to raise a Bamboo Grass Lily which was about to go extinct. They are trying to cover a small hill by the beach with the bamboo grass lily – an activity which they have continued for some years. We aim to help raise talented people who will be aware of the merits of their local district and who will help their local district to be successful through the concept of "People and Things". We would like those people to recognize the rich relationship between all people and the natural environment in which we live.

We have an E.S.D. calendar with which to promote activities.

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
1st grader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings with farmers and visits to farm on-site agricultural training 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle-path cleaning activities 							
2nd grader	The beach cleaning activities		Bamboo Grass Lily Festival Volunteer				Bamboo Grass Lily Volunteer					
Third grader												

(1) Activities to deepen understanding of, and help with the success of, agriculture

Students gain an understanding of the agriculture in the school district by learning in advance of visits to agricultural farms. Furthermore, the students continue experiencing farming and communicating with people engaged in agriculture. Through the activities, students can appreciate how wonderful agriculture is and take pride in it.



Students trying strings to poles to encourage straight growth of melon stems.



Picking off the extra buds from the tomato plants to control growth

(2) Activities aimed at students' being aware of the good points of the school district & maintaining it.



A lot of garbage on the shore



There are mountainous dead leaves on the cycle-path

Students from Takatoyo J.H.S., in keeping with the motto “Let’s preserve the nature of Omotehama Beach”, clean the beach. They do that in cooperation with the groups Takatoyo Child Rearing Society and Bamboo Grass Lilies Preservation Society, and in doing so, help to protect loggerhead turtles. The beach cleaning activities have been done for the last 28 years. The activities were begun by the students’ council, involving all of the students at Takatoyo J.H.S. Furthermore, when the students learned about the local area through integrated studies they found that there is a cycling road along the beach, where people can see the sea when they ride a bike. However, as the cycling road was full of dead leaves and debris, the students began the cleaning activity in 2011. Students felt strongly that the local people should have a chance to be more aware of the local area via cycling along the path. Through the beach cleaning & cycle-path cleaning activities, students become more deeply aware of the local area’s wonderful environment and learn to live in harmony with nature.

(3) Activities aimed at being aware of the good points of the school district & maintaining it.



Students serving tea to visitors



Students carrying the bamboo grass lilies which visitors purchased

Students have learned how difficult it has been for the bamboo grass lily to recover through working with an elderly people’s group. Through interaction with the elderly people’s group, students have learned what to expect the bamboo grass lily hillside to look like, once the bamboo grass lily has recovered and is growing in profusions. Through these interactions, students will continue to be encouraged to have a love for nature and themselves and love toward their hometown and its people.

Type of materials to be used

Cotton gloves, bamboo broom, rake, garbage bags, small shovels, buckets.

“Toyohashi Educational Basic Plan” in 2011 Toyohashi Board of Education
 Guidance of Career Education” Career Education from Elementary School through Junior High School” Aichi Board of Education

“Career Education Notebook” Notebook to make students’ dreams come true
 Aichi Board of Education

“History of the School District” in 2006 Representative Committee of Toyohashi

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

Evaluation of students' understanding and attitude is done as follows:

- We understand the outcomes of the students' activities from the subsequent summary, their impressions essays and from hearing their reports read out in class.
- We evaluate students motivations and attitude through the presentation and of the activities ,the newspaper and the reports.
- Along with the evaluations mentioned above, we are trying to improve the activity plan appreciably by doing the following (i) evaluations covered by the School Discussion Committee (ii) distributing questionnaires after activities and parents' meetings (iii) two times yearly questionnaire about school activities in general for parents and students (iv) making the E.S.D. better and more suited to the characteristics of the local environment.

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.

Date (日付)

Principal's name (校長名 (※直筆))
Position, (役職) **Principal**
Institution's name (学校名)
Takatoyo Junior High School