

**Application for participation
Associated Schools Project (ASP)
For Promoting International Education**

“Always Loving Yoshidagata, Our Home Town.”

~“Discovery”, “Familiarization” and “Protection” the Community and Nature in Yoshidagata.~

Description of the Project

In our institution, we have been practicing environmental education activities to get familiar with and protect regional nature mainly in Toyokawa River. In addition, on an occasional basis we have carried out learning activities to explore regional history and historic sites through school zone expedition and study tours. With those experiences, we would like to promote the education for sustainable development (ESD) by rethinking about how to effectively combine the regional materials and taking advantage of them for school education.

Currently in the second grade, students and their parents go for Shijimi clam gathering in Toyokawa River, where they enjoy the blessing of nature and learn the importance of environmental protection. In the fourth grade, students take part in “River walk activity” (walking along the embankment of Toyokawa River observing its condition) and study about water supply, which will raise their awareness of the value of Toyokawa River which influences our life water. In addition, the 6th graders take initiative in Toyokawa River cleaning activity in cooperation with local junior high school and people in the local community. Through those activities, students became interested in regional nature, historic sites, facilities and people involved, which will raise students’ awareness of their local area.

To associate those things with the promotion of “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)”, we will review the existing education curriculum and school events to establish the new ESD activity program based on collaborative activities with local community and will practice the program mainly in the classes of Life Environmental Studies and Comprehensive Studies.

Through the continuous practice along this ESD activity program, our students will appreciate their hometown and its beautiful nature as they become familiar with and value their local community.

Objectives of the Project

We would like to start our ESD program with educational activity focused on the local community. In fact, many of our school activities such as expeditions and study tour become known to the society through students’ families. We have many traditional events or cultural historic places which people in three or more generations can enjoy together, and children get familiar with those events or places through the conversation in their families.

Under the circumstance as above, we primarily help our students to know about and become close to the regional nature, culture and history, and accordingly inspire them to inherit and protect them. To achieve those purposes, we set the specific agenda for each of the following activities.

- (1) Discovery activity ・ ・ ・ Students get to know about natural environment, facilities, people and history of Yoshidagata school area.
- ① Expedition & study tour in school zone ・ ・ ・ Target: people, material, information (1st ~ 5th grades)
 - ② Environmental study ・ ・ ・ River walk mainly at Toyokawa River (4th grade)
 - Learning about water creatures.
 - ③ Study of Yoshidagata history ・ ・ ・ Related with Toyokawa River (6th grade)
 - Learning about the history of Yoshidagata school area in social study and comprehensive studies classes.
 - ④ Disaster prevention study ・ ・ ・ Regarding Tsunami etc. (school-wide)
 - Carrying out in special activity, comprehensive studies and moral education classes.

Through the school zone expedition and study tour conducted at every grade in a systematic curriculum, students can learn about the characteristics of Yoshidagata school area in terms of people, materials and information according to children's stage of development.

- (2) Familiarization activity ・ ・ ・ Students get familiar with the school area through the experiences in regional nature, welfare facilities and local events in Yoshidagata.
- ① Family activity ・ ・ ・ Shijimi clam gathering etc. (2nd grade)
 - Students go with their parents for clam gathering in the riverbed of Toyokawa and cook them at home.
 - ② Toyokawa marathon (school-wide) → We held annual marathon at river location in December.
 - ③ Tradition of Japanese classic games (1st grade) → Students learn how to play traditional games from Senior citizen's club members and enjoy it with them.
 - ④ Participation in local festivals ・ ・ ・ Shinto music and dance/ Japanese drum (for applicants)
 - Students practice drums every day for participating in local festivals.
 - School (club) participates in the city festivals.
 - ⑤ Welfare facility visit (5th grade) → 5th graders visit day-care facility and communicate with the elderly.

Based on different purpose for each grade level, students get involved with local people through school zone expedition, study tour and on-site training, which will develop students' mind to value and respect the regional nature and facilities. Also they become more familiar with the local culture through participation in the traditional events.

- (3) Protection activity ・ ・ ・ Students raise their awareness of conserving the natural environment and traditional culture in Yoshidagata and protecting people's lives.
- ① Toyokawa cleaning (6th grade) → Volunteer activity to clean up Toyokawa River area in cooperation with junior high schools nearby
 - ② Tsunami lesson (school-wide) → Knowing the geographic characteristic of local area which is designated to be "Disaster prevention district" and raising awareness of the measures
 - ③ Emergency drills for Tsunami (with nursery schools) → Training in preparation against Tsunami
 - ④ Traffic parade (with junior high schools/ local community) → Regional activity for traffic safety
 - ⑤ Disaster drill with local community (with local community)
 - Providing opportunity for elementary school students to actively get involved in the training

Through the school-wide or each-grade activities, we try to get local society involved in our efforts to protect the natural environment, facilities, traditional events and people's lives in our school area.

Execution

To develop children's ability through ESD program mentioned above, our institution will promote the learning activities on three basic principles, **"Discovery"**, **"Familiarization"** and **"Protection"** aiming at knowing, loving and carrying on the tradition of the local history, culture and nature. By deepening the understanding, students will know about the characteristic features of Yoshidagata, value human relations, and as a result, raise their awareness of protecting natural environment and traditional culture. In addition, it is essential to **develop their awareness of disaster prevention** because this area is designated as "Special district for disaster prevention" (= high risk area which is sinkable when hit by massive Tsunami.) Therefore, we must remind ourselves of the potential risks and think what we can do with local community. We believe that is exactly the education for sustainable development in relation with local society.

Through the above mentioned learning process based on the three basic principles, we think it is possible to enhance students' qualifications and abilities needed to find our current issue, act for the solution, value the local community and develop a sustainable society.

(1) ESD activity program (example of the 4th grade)

Month Subject	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
Science	Season & creatures (spring)			Season & creatures (summer)			Season & creatures (autumn)			Season & creatures (winter)		
Social study			Water study			Local wishes					Development of our city and prefecture	
Special activity		Class newspapers					Family activity	Classic games / play meeting		Disaster prevention	Class newspapers	
Physical education									Toyokawa marathon			
Events	Emergency drill					Tsunami training (with nursery)				Emergency drill		
Comprehensive studies	"We Love Toyokawa" Expedition tour/ river walk in Toyokawa River		Study about upstream dam	Research		Presentation	Myself in the past and future		"Half coming-of-age" ceremony		Message for my future self.	

(2) Concept of Activities

- Expedition/study tour in school zone
 - • • Subjects : People/material/information (1st~5th grades)
- Environmental learning
 - • • Mainly based on Toyokawa River (4th grade)
- History learning of Yoshidagata
 - • • In connection with Toyokawa River (6th grade)
- Disaster prevention
 - • • Learning about Tsunami etc. (School-wide)



Learning the history of Yoshidagata

Discover



Environmental learning

Familiarize

- Family activity • • • Shijimi clam gathering (2nd)
- Toyokawa marathon (School-wide)
- Tradition of classic games (1st)
- Participating in festival • • • Shinto dance&music / Japanese drum(for applicants)
- Welfare facility visit (5th)

Expedition/Study tour in school zone

Visiting welfare facility

Protect

- Toyokawa clean (6th)
- Tsunami lesson (School-wide)
- Tsunami emergency drill (with nursery schools)
- Traffic parade (with junior high schools and local community)
- Participating in local disaster drill (with local community)

Family activity

Cleaning Toyokawa River

Type of materials to be used

Kyodo Gakushu Dokuhon Yoshidagata (Reader for students on local area YOSHIDAGATA) published by Yoshidagata elementary school in 1989.

Noda-cho Susanoh Jinja Taisai (Susanoh Shrine Festival in Noda town) published by Noda Mikagura preservation association in 2013.

Kyaria Kyoiku no Tebiki (Career Education Manual for Elementary School) published by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2010.

Kyaria kyoiku noto ~Yume wo mitsuke yume wo kanaeru kokai noto~

(Notebook for Career Education ~Journey logbook to find and fulfill your dream~)

Published by Aichi Board of Education in 29 February 2012.

Koku no Ayumi, Yoshidagata (History of Yoshidagata School Area) published by Editorial Board of Yoshidagata School Area History/ General Meeting of Representative for Yoshidagata School Area in 2006.

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

We will evaluate students' comprehension level and attitude in each activity as follows.

- We have a grasp of their achievement from students' after-action reports, self-reflection comments and summary presentations.
- In each grade level, we set up an opportunity for students to present the results and achievements from their learning activities, where we observe their performance and evaluate them on their motivation and attitude in the activities.
- We conduct questionnaire survey targeting guardians, students and teachers to investigate the educational achievement on the subjects of "Community-related education" and "Environmentally-oriented education" twice a year.
- In February, we hold a teachers' conference to discuss the improvement of learning activity and new guideline for next year in order to make modification on the existing program along the actual state of students and regional characteristics.

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)

Institution's name (学校名)