

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)

“Full of flowers, books and songs”

~Cultivating Takaoka students who can love friends, community and themselves.~

1. Description of the Project

Since its opening, our institution has been developing education activities which are based on the community. Recently in 2012, we established our new research theme that “Students who love friends, community and themselves” in order to focus more on the community, know more about the community, learn more from the community, and promote the education for our students who will bear the future of a sustainable society. In other words, we reviewed the conventional education activities and established a new educational goal developing our traditional spirit represented by our mutual phrase “Full of flowers, books and songs”. This phrase implies our education goal to develop the human quality of students with the great emphasis on their close contact with nature (represented by “flowers”), intellectual excellence (“books”) and rich emotion and sensibility (“songs”).

In 2013, we rethought our current education activities from the viewpoint of ESD, and restructured the curriculum in which we made the ESD calendar considering mainly the learning in Living Environmental Studies and Comprehensive Studies (we call “Challenge time”) in cross-relation with the other subjects such as science, social studies, music and Japanese. This ESD calendar is planned that all the education activities will give students sufficient opportunities to engage themselves in activities which are “full of flowers, books and songs” actively and that will also realize them to love and live with their community.

We are confident that it is possible to cultivate our students’ pride and attachment to the community into the future by continuing practice based on this ESD calendar.

2. Objectives of the Project

In our institution, we take the ESD concept as follows:

A Regarding the characteristics of environment surrounding us

- ① Different (diversity)···To respect the diversity of people, materials and matters
- ② Relating (mutuality)···People connected in relation with people, materials and matters
- ③ Limited (finiteness)···To pass the limited people, materials, and matters down to next generations

B Regarding human’s will and actions

- ① Everyone plays a main role (fairness)···Society stays fair beyond generations
- ② Work together(cooperation)···To cooperate with others beyond status or interest
- ③ Responsible(commitment)···To take the initiative in achieving sustainable society and take the first step forward

In our institution we share the same wish that our educational philosophy of “full of flowers, books and songs” will be extended over the whole community through the students’ activities. For the realization of our wish, we set the following goals in three main activities below.

(1) Activities full of flowers

- Students design and grow the “big flower garden” which will add a touch of seasonal colors to our school.
- Each class grows its favorite flowers in a planter.
- We make the most of student’s farming experience in the school farm in Living Environment Studies and Comprehensive Studies.

Through the “filling school with flowers” activity performed by the plant cultivation committee and student’s gardening club, the students will feel more familiar with their school area which is full of flowers and greens. In addition, we work on promoting local awareness of environmental beautification and limited natural resources through the activities of collecting “empty cans”, “PET bottle caps”, “milk cartons” and “ink cartridges” with the assistance of PTA and local people.

(2) Activities full of books

- We try to provide many opportunities for our students to be exposed to literature by “reading or listening to a story”, “studying”, “feeling”, and “enjoying” in educational activities.
- We enrich the quality and quantity of classroom library and enable students to reach many books easily.
- We plan to introduce PTA volunteer’s story-telling time into “morning reading time” and have students get familiar with books and picture-story shows.
- Students study about their school area by looking into books and doing an interview with local residents.

We also try to secure enough time for students to relate with literature to cultivate their intellectual awareness and rich sensibility.

(3) Activities full of songs

- We hold annual “Takaoka Music Concert” where students present the outcome of their learnings mainly through music entertainment.
- We have a school-wide “Singing meeting” monthly, and lead students to enjoy singing songs in daily life.
- In each class, students sing “Takaoka song” which includes the basic “to do and not to do” for learning and living in its lyrics, which works well to create cooperativeness and a sense of unity in the whole school.

Our intention here is that introducing songs into students’ life will let them be aware of interconnectedness with others and cultivate their cooperativeness and school spirits.

Execution

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

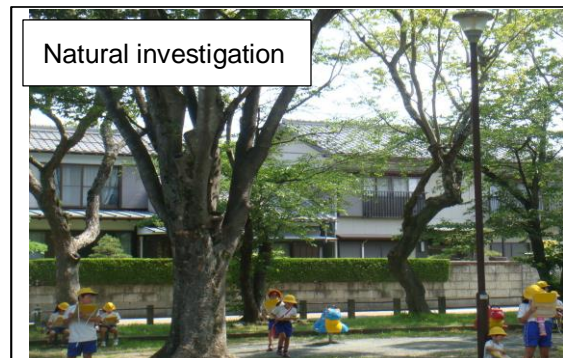
Our institution takes the purpose of ESD to be “Growing students who love the community”. We believe that cultivating the mind and spirit of students who love their friends and themselves and value their local community will be the ideal education to grow the bearers of sustainable society.

We make the ESD calendar for each grade level and related it with students’ learnings at school events and subjects, promoting our school activities which are based on the idea of “Full of flowers, books and songs”.

Example of ESD Calendar (for 4th grade)

Month Field & subj	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar
Event		Planting Class flower					Music concert	Planting Spring flowers			
Comprehensive studies			Study of Swallow		Study tour to water treatment plant				Explore in school area	Growth of myself	
Social studies	Town research	Where does waste go?	Water supply & sewerage						Old days research		
Science	Spring creatures	Weather		How does the air work?		How does water work?	Movement of stars		Winter creatures	Water in nature	

(1) Activities full of flowers



(2) Activities full of books



(3) Activities full of songs



Type of materials to be used

「Career Education Manual for Elementary School Ⅰ」

published by Education Ministry in 2010

「Journey logbook to find your dream and make it come true」

published by Aichi Prefectural Board of Education in 2012.

「Basic Plan for Promoting Education in Toyohashi City」

published by Toyohashi Board of Education in 2011.

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

The teachers evaluate students by after-the-project reflection cards written by students as well as by observing students' comprehension level and their attitude in daily school life.

In addition, they take the following evaluation method.

- Grasping the results of various activities by students' after-the-fact summaries or self-reflection reports.
- Observing and evaluating students' motivation, interests, and attitude toward each activity through their presentation of learning outcome in an "open school day" or "Takaoka Music Concert" and sending their positive messages to the community.

Alongside the above evaluations, we collect local people's evaluation through the school councilors and conduct questionnaire surveys to all the guardians to make a further review on our ESD activities, and will keep improving the activities to develop our students to be the one who love and live with their community.

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.

5 Nov.2013

Date

Principal's name (✕autograph)

Position, Principal

Institution's name

Takaoka Elementary School