

### **【 1 】 Pre-school Physical Examination (October ~)**

There is a physical examination for children who are to enter school in the next April. Checkups for eyes, ears, body, and teeth are required. A notice will be sent out to parents from the municipal office. If the examination reveals of concern, we will let you know. In that event, the child should receive treatment at a hospital before starting school.



### **【 2 】 Orientation for parents of new students (January ~ February)**

Before children enter school, a session for parents is held at the school. It is to explain what to prepare before children start their new life at school. Parents who have a child in 6th grade in primary school also have the same kind of orientation before their child enters middle school.

### **【 3 】 Entrance Ceremony**

It is a ceremony held when children enter primary school or middle school. New students and the parents should attend. Teachers and senior students also participate in the ceremony to celebrate the entrance of new students.



### **【 4 】 Classroom Visitation**

Parents visit school to see how their child/children are doing at school. The day for this visitation is announced by the school. Parents can see how their child/children are doing at school.

### **【 5 】 Parents' Meeting**

A teacher and parents have meetings. It is called "kondan-kai". These meetings are held about four times a year, at the beginning of the school year, and at the end of every term. Parents can get acquainted with each other at the meeting.

### **【 6 】 What is PTA?**

It is an Association of Parents and Teachers. Parents help with the school events. Every April, the assignments are allocated to each PTA member. Parents have to pay for PTA membership. Collected money is used for school and PTA events.

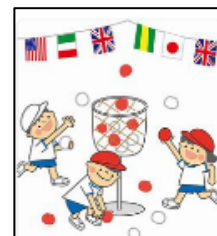
### **【7】 Home Visit by a Teacher**

After each homeroom teacher is decided in April, the teacher visits his/her student's home once a year. The teacher and the parents talk with each other, exchanging information about the student's school life and home life.

### **【8】 Sports Day/ Athletic Meeting**

It is an event held in spring or in Autumn.

Children are to engage in various sports programs from morning on this day. Parents go to school to cheer for their children.



### **【9】 Training Camp**

It is an extended program required of 5th grader students in primary school and 7th graders in middle school. Children enjoy outdoor activities near the ocean or in a mountain area. They learn the importance of caring for nature. They also learn the importance of cooperating with their friends. It is an overnight trip, so parents should pay expenses for their meal, accommodation, and transportation.

### **【10】 School Trip**

A trip is scheduled for students to learn about peace, history, and nature, outside of Kumamoto Prefecture. (It is a part of the school curriculum.) Students in the 6th grade of primary school stay one night, and students in the 2nd year of middle school (grade 8) stay two nights on this trip. Parents have to pay transportation, accommodation and meal expenses.

### **【11】 Survey Slip on Food Allergy**

When people eat a specific food, they sometimes cough, have itching, or have runny nose. This symptom is called an allergy. This is a form to survey what foods make the child allergic.

### **【12】 Hikiwatashi Kunren (A drill to hand over children safely)**

Natural disasters, such as heavy rain, typhoons, and earthquakes are prone to occur. In such events, sending children back home alone is very dangerous. To ensure their safe passage home, the school provides a drill for parents. The drill is called "hikiwatashi-kunren". The school indicates specific methods, so please follow the directions.

### 【13】 Climate Alert (Countermeasures by school)

When a disaster may occur, such as heavy rain, flood, storm, snowstorm, tsunami, or landslide, the school is closed, or beginning or ending hours may be changed. In such cases, a notice is sent from school to the parents by e-mail or by phone. The school always contacts parents when it closes, or when it lets children go home earlier to protect their safety.

### 【14】 What must be Prepared for Physical education

Japanese schools have swimming lessons in the PE curriculum. Please prepare a swimming suit, swimming cap, bathing towel, and a bag to put them all in. Goggles might be necessary.

### 【15】 Swimming Card (only for primary school students)

It is a card to inform the physical condition of the student on the day of the swimming lesson. Without this card, the student cannot join in the lesson. Parents should fill out the card and sign it as below.



#### Example

Month, Day	Body Temperature	Breakfast Ate ○ Didn't eat ×	Participate ○ Observe ×	Parent's sign or seal	Reason
Entry Example	36.4	○	×	seal	Slight cold

In order to skip the swimming lesson, middle school students must show their parent's or guardian's signature.

### 【16】 Excursion

Students from 1st grade to 5th grade go on an excursion by bus as a part of social studies or socio-environmental studies. It is a very important study, as students can see the real objects of what they have learned and can listen to the explanation from the real staff directly. Parents should pay the transportation fee (for bus). A bento (lunch) has to be prepared.

### 【17】 Graduation Ceremony

Grade 6 students in primary school and 3rd grade students in middle school (grade 9) receive a diploma on the last day of the school. Parents participate in the event at the graduation ceremony.

### 【18】 School Lunch

It is a lunch provided at school.

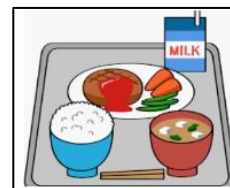
Parents have to pay about 4,000yen to 5,000yen for lunch every month.

At lunch time, children are to serve lunch by themselves.

An apron or lunch mat might be necessary.

Sometimes, there are no-lunch-days.

On such days, children must bring their own lunch (bento).



### **【19】 Bento Day (Lunch box)**

A few times a year, the school does not serve school lunch.

They are picnic days, school trip days, sports event days, and so on.

On such days, children have to bring their own bento lunch.

A day without school lunch is scheduled for middle school students also.

It is to encourage students to prepare their own lunch.

Bento(lunch box) is cooked at home to bring with a students.



### **【20】 Makeup Holidays(Substitutue holidays)**

Classes are usually given from Monday to Friday at school. However, school events such as sports day and class observation day are held on Saturdays and Sundays. As children have to go to school to participate in such events on the weekend, alternative holidays are scheduled during weekdays. They are called make-up holidays.



### **【21】 Educational Counselling**

It is an time, chance, occasion hour when a classroom teacher and a student can talk face-to-face. Children can talk to their teacher about troubles at school or private thoughts. (Sometimes his/her parent joins it.)

### **【22】 School Works (Weeding by parents and Children)**

After summer vacation, before the new term starts, weeding work is required. The job can be hard for children, so parents join the job to help them.

### **【23】 School Concert/Presentation on Learning**

Once a year, students present music, or show what they have learnt, on the stage.(Parents can go to see them.)



### **【24】 Picnic**

In primary school, in April, all students and teachers in the school walk to a nearby park or mountain. Students bring a bento (lunch), a water bottle, and some snacks.

It is an opportunity to get to know the classmates better.

### **【25】 School Report(Achievement sheet, record)**

It is a document to inform parents of the achievement of a student in each subject, and how the student is doing at school. It is given at the end of each term. Two-term schools give a report card twice a year, and three-term schools,

give it three times a year. Parents are supposed to write comments and concerns if any, back to the teacher.



**【26】 Internship program (for 2nd and 3rd grade students in middle school)**

Students are to experience jobs at local companies or shops for a few days, It helps students to think about their future career.

**【27】 Procedure to join the Japan Sport Council(School Safety Support program)**

It is an insurance policy to be paid if children get injured at school. Parents have to pay a small amount of money to join the council.

**【28】 Emergency Contact Sheet**

In case children have a fever, feel sick, or are injured at school, school has to contact his/her parent. The Emergency Contact Sheet shows the place to contact.

**【29】 Shugaku Enryo Shinsei-sho**

(Application to Receive Support for Children Learning at School)

In cases where the parents/parent cannot send their child/children to school due to the financial reasons, the parents/parent can receive money to get children to learn at school. It is the application form to get financial aid.

**【30】 Personal Student Card**

It is a document to show the child's address, telephone number, birthday, parents/parent names, family hospital, emergency contact number (to contact parents when a child has a fever or is injured at school), what allergies they may have, their type of health insurance card, and so on.

**【31】 Mathematics (support) material package**

It is a supplement teaching materials to support students with mathematics in primary schools. (including calculation cards, number cards, and dice).

**【32】 Protective Hood**

Japan is a country with many earthquakes. When an earthquake occurs while at school, children cover their head with protective cushioned hood.

