

Guidebook to Application for Senior High Schools 【2018】

For those with native languages other than Japanese

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Edited by Mie Prefectural Board of Education

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A. Entrance Guide for Public Senior High Schools in Mie Prefecture

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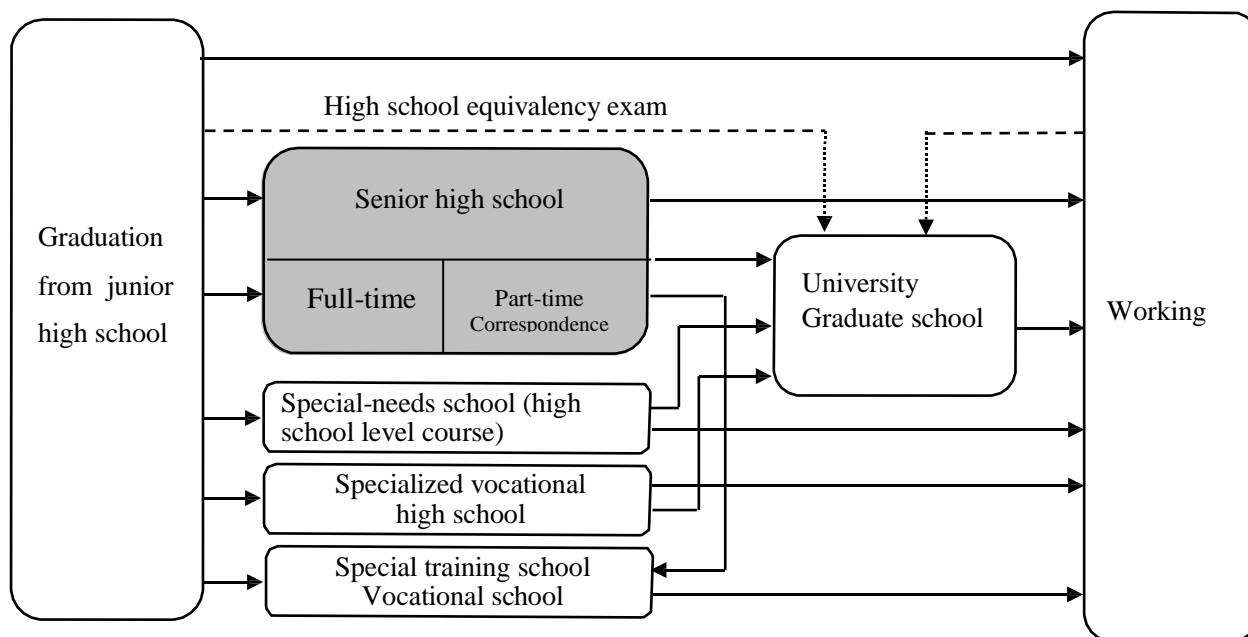
◇Outline of Public Senior High School

1. Academic options

(1) Introduction

As the chart below shows, there are many academic options available to students after they graduate from junior high school.

Applicants are advised to choose a path that not only best suits their individual interests and abilities, but that will also help them succeed later on in life.



(2) Application for senior high schools

Senior high school education is aimed at fostering a high level of social consciousness and providing knowledge and skills that establish the foundation for further education, as well as promoting the ability within each student to think critically for oneself. These developments are supported through special activities and learning basic academic skills as well as taking part in homeroom classes, student-body meetings, school events, and club activities, as well as a wide array of course options.

High school offers a course study based on a full-time, part-time or correspondence basis. Each curriculum is based on either a general, specialized, or comprehensive department of study.

Some schools offer a fixed curriculum for each grade level, while some other schools allow students to choose courses according to their own needs.

(3) Points to consider when deciding on a school and a department

1. Think about your future potential and possibilities when considering your abilities, aptitude, interests, and concerns.
2. Think about the types of jobs that interest you or may suit you best.
3. Think about what you want to learn and explore in school.
4. Research the characteristics and academic content of the schools and departments that interest you.

2. Outline of public senior high schools**(1) Public senior high schools available to applicants for the 2018 school year**

There are 57 schools (including one branch school) that are open to all applicants for the school year beginning in April 2018. There are full-time, part-time and correspondence courses being offered to all applicants. Each of these courses is scheduled at different times of the day and has different methods of learning.

Course	Schools that offer General Education Course	Schools that offer Vocational Course									Schools that offer Comprehensive or Integrated Course
		Agriculture	Industry	Commercial	Fisheries	Home economics	Nursing	Information	Welfare	Others	
Full-time	32	5	8	7	1	6	1	1	3	9	7
Part-time	9		2	1							1
Correspondence	2										

(Each number represents the number of schools)

● Full-time course (Zen nichi sei)

Classes in the full-time course are held in the daytime just like in junior high school. The standard number of class hours for one full-time course per week is 30 (one class hour corresponds to 50 minutes), including special activities. One school year includes 35 weeks.

●Part-time course (Teiji sei)

Classes in the part-time course are conducted at different times than the full-time course. Part-time courses accommodate various students who cannot attend courses during the day, including those working daytime, truant students, those who have transferred from the full-time course, and foreign students in need of Japanese language assistance.

The majority of these schools offer the general department. Some schools offer a vocational-education department, such as the mechanical and traffic engineering, architect and technology departments at Yokkaichi Kogyo High School, the information-business department at Hokusei High School, and the manufacturing-engineering department at Ise Manabi High School.

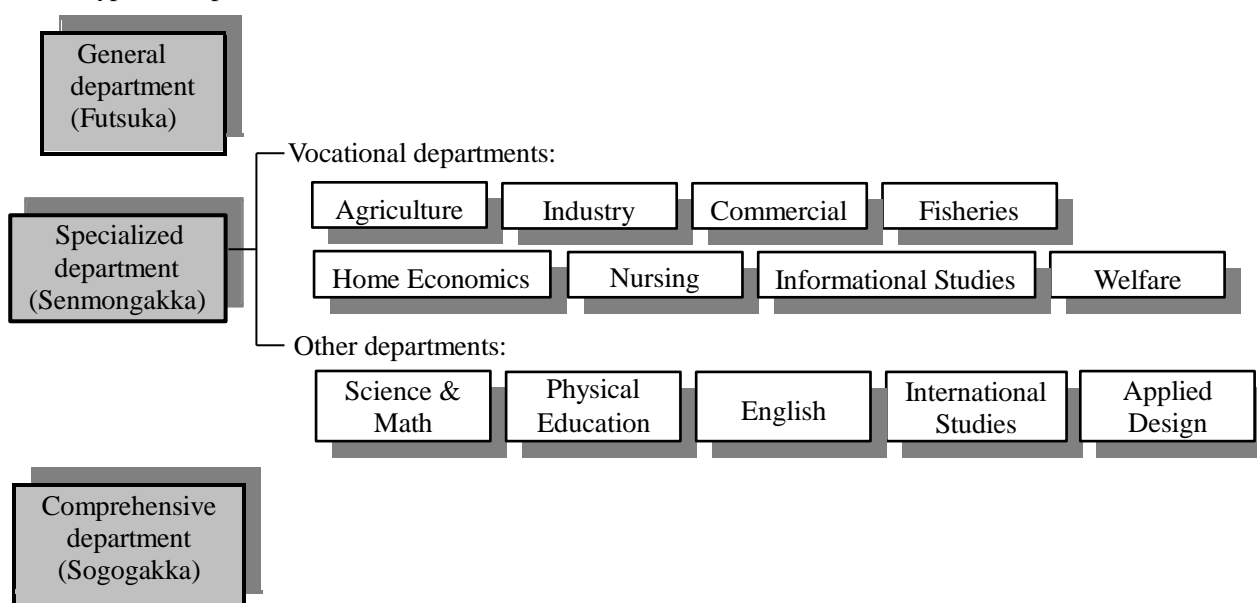
The schools that offer part-time and full-time courses include Mie Yume Gakuen High School (the first public part-time high school in the nation to set up a comprehensive department), Hokusei High School and Ise Manabi High School. (Both Hokusei and Ise Manabi High Schools allow students to attend both daytime and nighttime classes as well as gain course credit regardless of their grade.)

●Correspondence course (Tsushin sei)

This course is designed for students who cannot attend school everyday. Students study course materials that are mailed to them at home. Currently, Hokusei High School and Matsusaka High School offer this option. Students are required to attend school usually twice a month, while studying textbooks and assigned course materials at home. Students mail all completed assignments to their school.

(2)Department

◎ Types of departments

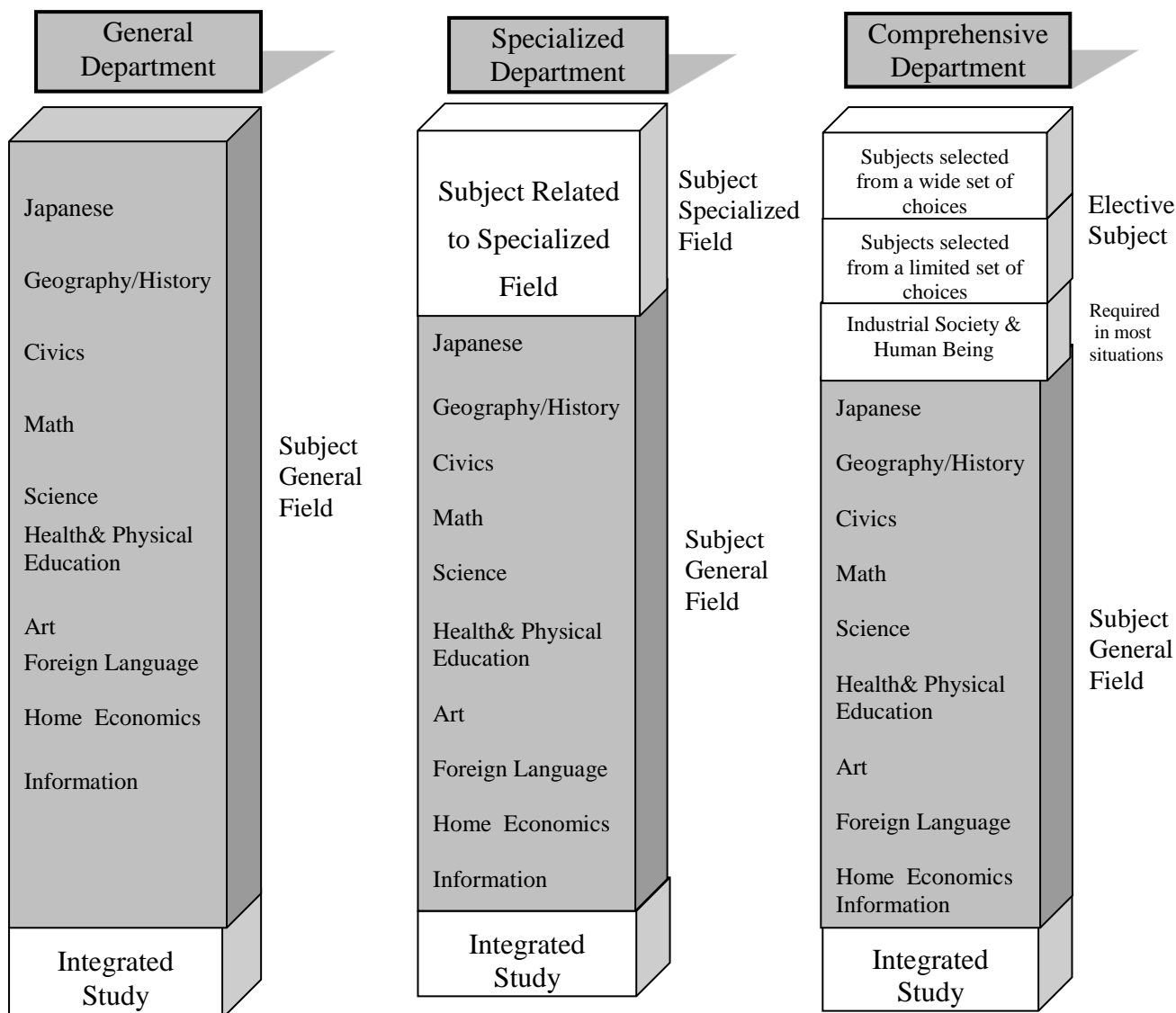


◎Features of each department

General department	This department focuses on the education of general subjects and allows students to build upon their previous education completed in junior high school.
Agricultural department	This department is designed to educate and train students who want to become farmers or agricultural engineers. It is for those students who wish to work within the agricultural industry in a specialized or skilled capacity.
Industrial department	This department is designed to develop a student's specialized skills and knowledge in technical engineering, such as with the FA system and CAD/CAM systems and computing.
Commercial department	A foundation in the skills and knowledge of commerce, students on this course study marketing, information management and corporate finance while deepening their understanding of business and improving their practical skills.
Fisheries department	This department is focused on developing a highly skilled workforce in the fishing-related industries, such as with fishing engineers or a ship's personnel. Students in this course can gain specialized knowledge and skills on fishing, fishing ships, farming and processing of marine products and ocean sports.
Home economics department	This department educates students on basic level homemaking. Students are taught specialized knowledge and skills on areas such as food, clothing, childcare, and welfare, which are all necessary to gain competence in this field.
Nursing department	This department equips students with specialized knowledge and skills for nursing. It prepares students to work successfully in medical environments, such as a hospital.
Information department	This department focuses on creating greater access to human resources, such as the sharing of helpful information to better support and assist the community. Students can gain the knowledge and skills to creatively and effectively develop, maintain, and manage network systems and multimedia.

Welfare department	This department is designed to develop successful and effective welfare field personnel. Students can gain specialized knowledge and skills on welfare, such as the welfare system and basic nursing care.
Science & Math department	This department is designed to equip students with the skills to scientifically explore problems through the profound study of science and math.
Physical education department	This department is designed for students who are interested in athletics and physical education. Students gain specialized knowledge and skills in these fields through learning methods to improve athletic skills and abilities, as well as to promote and develop the future of sports.
English department	This department enrolls students in specialized course subjects, such as “English expressions” and “Intercultural Understanding” in order to deepen their understanding of other cultures, as well as improve their English listening and speaking abilities.
International department	This department is aimed at improving English abilities through language lab classes, classes taught with an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher), and foreign exchange programs in order to go to a university or a junior college.
Applied design department	This department educates students on the basic knowledge and skills of art, design and computing. Students can also gain specialized skills on design, computer graphics, among others.
Comprehensive department	In this department students take class subjects of their choice depending on their academic interests and goals. Students learn about various academic and career options in order to help them choose their future path.

The figure below shows the subjects taken in each department.



3. Fees, benefits and scholarships of public senior high schools

3. Fees, benefits and scholarships of public senior high schools

(1) Fees (for students of the 2018 school year):

① Outline of senior high school fees

Everyone enrolling in a public senior high school after April 2014 have to pay their fees in principle.

If you receive the high school enrollment support fund, you do not need to pay your fees. In order to receive the support fund, you are required to apply for it and meet the specific requirements. It will not be necessary to be paid back.

In case of studying again at a senior high school, even though having left school before, or if you do not meet the specific requirements but have difficulties in paying fees due to economic reasons, etc., it may be possible to receive any other support.

② Amount of fees, etc.

	Full- time	Part- time	Correspondence Course	Advanced Course
Fees	¥ 118,000/year	¥ 32,400/year	¥ 324 per credit	¥ 118,000/year
Charge for the Selection of Applicants	¥ 2,200	¥ 950		¥ 2,200
Entrance Fees	¥ 5,650	¥ 2,100		¥ 5,650

※ Charge for the Selection of Applicants and Entrance Fees mean the costs required for senior high school entrance examination.

※ In case of a former graduate, non-certified graduation or an auditing student, different amount of costs will be required.

(2) Scholarship Benefits for Senior High School Students available to applicants for the 2018 school year

For the purpose of supporting required educational expenses other than fees, “Scholarship Benefits for Senior High School Students” are provided to low income household with high school students, etc.

The eligible persons are senior high school students’ guardians, etc., not subject to municipal taxation per income levy according to high school enrollment support fund. Application is required to receive the benefits depending on each situation of household/family.

◎ Benefits (Annual amount)

Household Status				Public	Private
Household receiving public assistance “Seikatsu Hogo” (Full/Part-time/Correspondence Course)				¥ 32,300	¥ 52,600
Municipal tax or tax exempted household ※excluding family unde “Seikatsu Hogo”	Full-time /Part-time Course	With dependent siblings from age 15 to 23 or with siblings in senior high school	No	¥ 75,800	¥ 84,000
			Yes	¥ 129,700	¥ 138,000
	Correspondence Course			¥ 36,500	¥ 38,100

(3) Loans and scholarships for the 2018 school year

“The Educational Scholarship for Senior High School Course Study in Mie Prefecture” is funded by the Mie Prefecture Board of Education

●Financial aid program for senior high school students

This program provides interest-free loans to those who cannot otherwise afford to continue their enrollment as students of senior high schools, etc. (senior or specialized vocational high schools), despite their desire to learn and progress.

○Types and amounts of scholarships:

◎Education Costs Scholarship···Monthly Amount (however, the amount will be transferred by electronic transfer at several points throughout the year)

National/Public schools	¥8,000, ¥13,000, ¥18,000, or ¥23,000
Private schools	¥20,000, ¥25,000, ¥30,000, or ¥35,000

(choose one)

◎Scholarships covering start-up costs···Only available upon school entry (only new 1st graders can apply)

National/Public schools	At school entry	¥40,000 or ¥80,000
Private schools	At school entry	¥50,000 or ¥100,000

(choose one)

○ Repayment:

- Interest-free. However, if the scholarship is not repaid by the deadline, penalties for the deadline may occur.
- Repayments shall be made within 12 years (15 years in case the total amount is over ¥1,200,000, and 18 years in case the total amount is over ¥1,850,000) starting from 6 months after the date of graduation.

And in principle these payments shall be automatically withdrawn from a specified bank account on a monthly basis.

- It is also possible to make advance or lump-sum repayments.
- When repayments become difficult due to reasons such as going to college, disease, disaster, job loss, under maternity or childcare leave, you can apply for an extension of the repayment period.

**About the Implementation of the Selection of Applicants for Public Senior High Schools
in Mie Prefecture (2018)**

1. Application requirements

For more details, please refer to the “Implementation Guideline for the Selection of Applicants for Public Senior High Schools in Mie Prefecture (2018)”

2. Types of selections of applicants

(1) The first selection: Applicants can apply to the school, department, or course that they wish to enter.

1) Content of the exam:

The exam includes one or more of the following: an interview, “a self-expression task”, a short essay or a long essay, a skill test, or a basic achievement test consisting of one or two subjects. It is up to each school to determine how they wish to conduct the exam.

2) Method of selecting successful applicants:

Applicants are selected based on application documents such as a “dossier” containing their junior high school grades and a “statement of self-recommendation” written by the applicant, in addition to the results of the exam stated in 1).

3) Date of the exam: (Thurs.) February 8 and (Fri.) February 9, 2018

4) Notification of informal admission decision: (Fri.) February 16, 2018

(Announcement of formal admission decision: (Mon.) March 19

5) Other:

- Those who receive a notification of an informal admission decision on the first selection cannot apply to the second selection.
- Those who apply to the first selection cannot apply to the special selection.

(2) Special selection: This is the selection for those who dropped out of senior high school or were not able to enter senior high school on graduation from junior high for any reason whatsoever.

1) Content of the exam:

The exam includes one or more of the following: an interview, “a self-expression task” or an essay. It is up to each school to determine how they wish to conduct the exam.

2) Method of selecting successful applicants:

Applicants are selected based on a “dossier” containing their junior high school grades and a “statement of reasons” written by the applicant, in addition to the results of the exam stated in 1).

3) Date of the exam: (Thurs) February 8 and (Fri) February 9, 2018

4) Notification of informal admission decision: (Fri) February 16, 2018

(Announcement of formal admission decision: (Mon) March 19)

5) Other:

- Those who apply to the special selection cannot apply to the first selection.
- Those who receive a notification of an informal admission decision on the special selection cannot apply to the second selection.

(3) Second selection

1) Content of the exam:

• Achievement test:

- ┌ The test for full-time schools includes five subjects: Japanese, Math, Social Studies, English and Science.
- └ The test for some part-time schools includes fewer subjects.

- Some schools may conduct the achievement test including an interview, “a self-expression task”, a short or long essay, or a skill test.

2) Method of selecting successful applicants:

Applicants are selected based on a “dossier” containing grades from junior high, etc., in addition to the results of the exam stated in 1).

3) Date of the exam: (Mon) March 12, 2018

4) Announcement of Successful applicant : (Mon) March 19, 2018

5) Other:

An application change in a school, department or course can be accepted during the acceptance period of application changes, but only once.

(4) Re-application: If after the first and second selections there are still places available at the school, the school will accept re-applications.

1) At most schools, the content of the exam and method of selecting successful applicants are the same as those of the second selection.

2) Date of the exam: (Fri) March 23, 2018

3) Announcement of Successful applicants : (Tues) March 27, 2018

(5) Additional application: Part-time night schools accept additional applications if after the second application there are still places available at the school.

1) The content of the exam and method of selecting successful applicants are the same as those of the re-application.

2) Date of the exam: (Thurs) March 29, 2018

3) Announcement of Successful applicants : (Fri) March 30, 2018

(6) Selection of applicants for the special admission quota for foreign students, etc.

1) Schools, departments and courses which conduct selection of applicants for the special admission quota:

Please confirm in the “Implementation Guideline for the Selection of Applicants for Public Senior High Schools in Mie Prefecture (2018)”.

2) Number of special admission quota students:

Please see the “Implementation Guideline for the Selection of Applicants for Public Senior High Schools in Mie Prefecture (2018)”

3) Content of the exam:

Please see the “Implementation Guideline for the Selection of Applicants for Public Senior High Schools in Mie Prefecture (2018)”.

4) Method of selecting successful applicants:

Applicants are selected based on the results of the exam stated in (4) and a “dossier” containing a list of their grades from junior high.

5) Other requirements:

Applicants are required to submit a document certifying their nationality and an application form.

3. Other

At the discretion of the school principal, foreign students who apply for part-time night schools can have the entrance exam in the form of essay or interview on the second selection, the re-application or an additional application.

Please make sure to confirm the content of this section by referring to the “Implementation Guideline for the Selection of Applicants for Public Senior High Schools in Mie Prefecture (2018)”, which will be released in End of October 2017.

Schedule for the Selection of Applicants for Public Senior High Schools in Mie Prefecture (2018)

Date	Full-time schools / Part-time schools	Correspondence schools
Jan.29 th (Mon) – Feb.1 st (Thurs)	Application period for the first selection and special selection	Application period for the first selection
Feb. 8 th (Thurs) Feb. 9 th (Fri)	Exam for the first and special selections (Date differs depending on school.)	Screening for the first selection (9 th (Fri))
Feb. 14 th (Wed)	Make-up tests for the first and special selections	Additional screening for the first selection
Feb. 16 th (Fri)	Notification of informal admission decisions for the first and special selections	Notification of informal admission decisions for the first selection
Feb. 23 rd (Fri) Feb 27 th (Tues) Feb 28 th (Wed)	Application period for the second selection (Part-time schools: until Feb. 27 th (Tues))	Application period for the second selection (Feb. 23 rd (Fri)~Feb.27 th (Tues))
Mar. 5 th (Mon) Mar 6 th (Tues) Mar 7 th (Wed)	Accepting period for application changes (Part-time schools: until 6 th (Tues)) (Full-time schools: until 7 th (Wed))	Accepting period for application changes (until 6 th (Tues))
Mar. 12 th (Mon)	Exam for the second selection	Screening for the second selection
Mar. 19 th (Mon)	Announcement of successful applicants	Notification of successful applicants
	Official announcement of the re- application	
Mar.20 th (Tues) -22 nd (Thurs)	Accepting period for the additional exam for second selection and re-application	
Mar. 23 rd (Fri)	Second additional exam / re-application test	
Mar. 27 th (Tues)	Announcement of successful applicants for the additional exam and re-application test	
	Official announcement of the additional application	
Mar.27 th (Tues) -Mar.28 th (Wed)	Accepting period for the additional application (Only for part-time night schools)	
Mar.29 th (Thurs)	Additional test (Only for part-time night schools)	
Mar. 30 th (Fri)	Announcement of successful applicants for the additional test (Only for part-time night schools)	
April 3 rd (Tues)		Screening for the re-application
April 9 th (Mon)		Notification of successful applicants for the screening of the re-application

Note: “Special selection” stated in the table above is the selection conducted by the following six high schools:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Akebono Gakuen High School (full-time) | • Yokkaichi Industrial High School (part-time) |
| 2) Hokusei High School (part-time) | • Iino High School (part-time) |
| 3) Mie Yume Gakuen High School (part-time) | • Ise Manabi High School (part-time) |

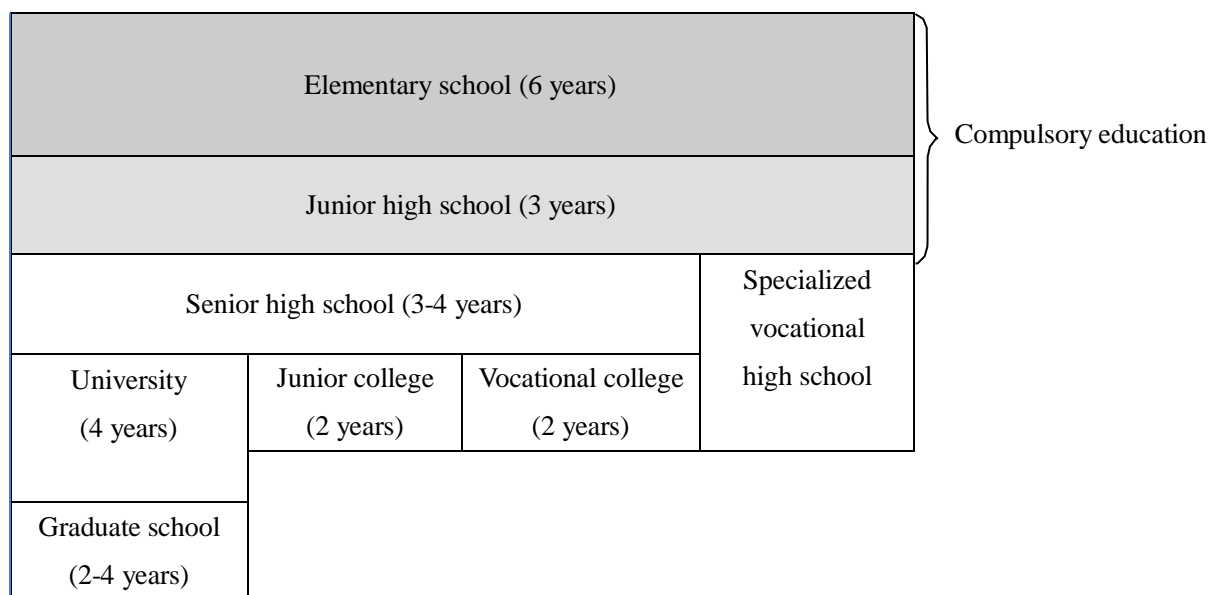
B. Q&A

Edited by Mie International Exchange Foundation (MIEF)

Q1. What is the education system in Japan?

A1. The chart below shows Japan's education system. In Japan, more than 95% of junior high graduates continue on to senior high school. Elementary school education and junior high school education are both compulsory.

6 years old

**Q2. What are the merits of graduating from high school?**

A2. Senior high school graduates are eligible to apply to universities, junior colleges or vocational colleges. Senior high school graduates have an advantage over junior high graduates in getting a job, as some companies do not employ those without a senior high school diploma.

Q3. Who can go to senior high school?

A3. Anyone who is over the age of 15 and graduated from junior high either in Japan or in a foreign country is qualified to go to senior high school. Also, there are cases where students who did not graduate from junior high were allowed to take the senior high school entrance exam after their special circumstances were taken into consideration. As all high school applicants are required to take this exam, please ask your teachers for more details such as the testing period, subjects covered, required procedures and special measures, etc.

Q4. What types of senior high schools are there?

A4. There are four types of high schools. Examples of each are listed as follows. For more details, refer to the pamphlet “Gakko Annai”, which is available at every school.

[Example of Typical High School]

	Full-Time	Day Part-time	Night Part-Time	Correspondence ☆1
School days/hours	Everyday ☆2 8:30a.m-3:30p.m.	Everyday ☆2 Classes that are from 8:30a.m-4:30p.m can be chosen.	Everyday ☆2 5: 30p.m-9:30p.m.	Two sessions per month at the actual school.
Daily schedule	Six 50 minute classes	Eight 45 minute classes. (Four in the morning and the afternoon)	Four 45 minute classes	Six hours (4 in the morning / 2 in the afternoon)
Years required to graduate	3 years	3-4 years	3-4 years	3-4 years
Departments Available ☆3	General, Industrial, Commercial, etc. ☆4	General, Information-Business, Comprehensive	General, System-engineering, Manufacturing- Engineering	General
Other			School meals are provided	
	“Credit-system high school”, where students choose their own classes and make their own schedule, is also available.			

Each school will be slightly different. For more information, please check with the school directly.

- ☆ 1. This type of school is designed for students who cannot go to school every day. Students are required to attend sessions at the actual school and send in their assignments and reports in by mail.
- ☆ 2. “Everyday” means all days except the following days:
Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, spring holidays, summer holidays, winter holidays and other school holidays.
- ☆ 3. Department available means the classes are divided according to the focus in the studies.
- ☆ 4. All day schools have a variety of departments available to choose either from the above or from including fisheries, agriculture, home economics, science/mathematics, welfare and comprehensive. Some schools also offer specialized courses within their general department offerings.

Q5. Please explain school uniforms.

A5. In many schools, uniform are required as part of the school rules. However, high schools that offer part-time and correspondence courses rarely require them. Uniforms can be bought right before school begins. They usually cost about ¥ 40,000.

Q6. How much are school fees (required educational expenses)?

A6. In addition to the designated school fees, some expenses (“school expenses”) are required at senior high schools. School expenses include instruction and learning material fees, annual fees and PTA membership fees. The amount of school fees differs depending on each school. For further information, please ask each school’s teacher.

Q7. What is the scholarship?

A7. This program is to lend school expenses to students having financial difficulties. Mie Prefectural Board of Education offers the scholarship program to provide interest-free loans, which students will repay it separately after graduating schools. For public senior high schools, you can choose the amount of loans (8,000 yen, 13,000 yen or 18,000 yen per month).

This application is possible in times of the 3rd grade of a junior high school. For further information, please ask each school.

Other forms of financial aid available to students are listed below.

Loan	Amounts/Repayment methods	Conditions for applicants	Inquiry
National education loans	Up to ¥3.5 million per student. Limited use. Repayment shall be made within 15 years at 1.81% annual interest rate. A child with single mother or single father, families with annual income (earnings) not more than ¥2 million (¥1.22 million), and families with three or more children with annual income (earnings) not more than ¥5 million (¥3.46 million) shall have repayments due within 18 years at 1.41% annual interest rate.	Registered as Foreigners that have been recorded in the basic register set forth in the Basic Resident Registration Law Limited to those with a certain income level. Need a guarantee charge or cosigner. In case interpreter is needed, it should come from a third party. A written pledge or oath from the interpreter is required.	Japan Finance Corporation Tsu Branch National Consumer Tel: 059-227-5211 Or call Education loan centre 0570-008656 (weekly 9:00-21:00; Saturday 9:00-17:00) http://www.jfc.go.jp/
Welfare loan for life and education	Up to ¥35,000/month— senior high school students. Up to ¥35,000/month— specialized vocational high school students.(*) (*).Up to 35,000 yen within three years of beginning. After that, it is up to 60,000 yen Up to ¥500,000 for the cost of preparation for school education. Repayment shall be made within 10 years starting from 6 months after graduation. No interest charged. The amount of loan per month may be increased up to 1.5 times depending on the condition.	Eligible to those who have lived in their current residence for 6 months or longer, or are likely to acquire permanent or special permanent residency status. An application screening by social workers in the community or the social welfare council is required. Limited to those with a certain income level. No cosigner required.	Mie Prefectural Social Welfare Council: 059-226-1118 Or your local social welfare council office.

Loan/Scholarship	Amounts/Repayment methods	Conditions for applicants	Inquiry
Welfare loan for child with single mother or single father (☆)	<<Scholastic funds>> ★National, Public high schools ¥27,000/month for attending school from home. ¥34,500/month for boarding students. ★Private schools ¥45,000/month for attending school from home. ¥52,500/month for boarding students. <<The funds for school preparation >> ★National, Public high schools Up to ¥150,000 for attending school from home. ¥160,000 for boarding students. ★Private schools Up to ¥410,000 for attending school from home. Up to 420,000 for boarding students. Repayment shall be made within 6 months and 10 years from graduation. (No interest charged.)	Foreign residents who have lived in their current residence for 6 months or longer and are likely to acquire a permanent residency status. Maybe applied to child with single mother or an orphan child. (For low income household, a guarantor might be needed)	Mie Prefectural Government, Health/Welfare Department, Child Bureau, Child/Family Section, Support Group for Families Raising Children: 059-224-2271 http://www.pref.mie.lg.jp/D1KODOMO/000117812.htm Mie Prefectural Government Health/Welfare Office Municipal Health/Welfare Offices
Loan for Traffic-Accident Orphans	Choice from ¥20,000, ¥30,000 or ¥40,000/month. Choice from ¥200,000, ¥400,000 or ¥600,000 for a lump sum at school entry. Repayment shall be made within 20 years. (No interest charged.)	Senior high school students whose parent died in a traffic accident, or is not able to work due to a serious handicap caused by a traffic accident. Special permanent residents, permanent residents and long term residents who can stay in Japan until the completion of repayment. Except for students studying abroad.	Public interest incorporated Foundation for Traffic-Accident Orphans, Scholarship Division: 03-3556-0773 Toll-free 0120-52-1286 http://www.kotsuiji.com
Ashinaga Loan	¥25,000 for public school students. ¥30,000 for private school students, etc. Repayment shall be made within 20 years. (No interest charged.) Repayment is postponed if students go to university.	Permanent residency status and resident status is required. Except for foreign students. Senior high school students whose parent died of a disease, a disaster (except for a traffic accident on the road), suicide, etc, or is not able to work due to serious handicap.	Ashinaga Financial aid Society 03-3221-0888 Free dial: 0120-77-8565 http://www.ashinaga.org

(☆) This financial aid may be reduced in case of receiving any other financial aid.

Q8. What are the differences between junior high and senior high schools?

A8. Advancing through the grades and graduating are more difficult at the high school level.

Students who are frequently absent or have low grades sometimes find themselves unable to proceed to the next grade or graduate. If you have any difficulties with studying, it is important that you ask your teachers for help.

Q9. What should I do to prepare for entering senior high school?

A9. Please follow the advice below.

1. Study hard.

This is a given. In order to pass the entrance exam, you need to study. One of the best things you can do is to regularly review and study at home and school everyday. You can also try some practice high school exams. It will also be beneficial to ask your teachers for advice on how to study effectively. Some volunteer groups also help students to study.

2. Consult with your teachers.

Junior high school students are able to consult with their homeroom teachers.

Make sure that you state your preferences at the beginning of any consultations.

3. Choose the schools you want to go to early on.

Try to decide which schools you want to go to six months before the entrance exams are set to begin.

4. Visit the high schools.

You are advised to visit as many schools as you can in order to help you decide which one you want to go to. Many senior high schools set days aside for tours and offer a chance to experience life at their school for a day.

Q10. What do senior high school students do in addition to going to classes?

A10. Throughout the school year, high school students participate in fun events such as sports days, cultural festivals, and school trips. After school, they can stay and participate in club activities. There are a variety of clubs which are engaging in sports, music, art and other activities.