Evening Classes at Public Junior High Schools

Think about enrolling today!

It's never too late to learn at junior high schools that support a positive frame of mind.
Students of various ages and nationalities are hard at work on their studies.

Everyone is a classmate, from their teens to their 90s. Students are those who have not had sufficient opportunities to obtain a compulsory education. There are a number of students who attend school while working during the day. Motivation for enrolling includes feelings of wanting to “improve academic ability” or “learn how to read and write.” Three-quarters of graduates go on to high school or get jobs.

Currently, there are 31 evening classes at public junior high schools in eight prefectures. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is promoting the establishment of at least one school in each prefecture by offering a variety of support.

“Survey on Evening Classes at Public Junior High School,” Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (as of May 2014)

Fun events!

Fun athletic meets between schools
School excursions
School recitals
Evening classes at public junior high schools are the same as those during the day.

☐ There are classes every day, five days a week.
☐ Students study the same subjects as those offered at junior high schools during the day.
☐ Classes are taught by teachers that are licensed to teach at junior high schools.
☐ Once students have completed all courses of study, they will be considered as having graduated from junior high school.

Q&A on Enrolling in Evening Classes at a Public Junior High School

Q1 I had a tendency to be absent during elementary school and am worried whether I will be able to keep up with studies at evening classes. I wonder if I will be all right?

A. People that study at evening classes come from a variety of different background and academic abilities differ from person to person. Classes are offered using a number of different methods so that students can learn from what they know, including formation of classes according to each students' academic ability.

Q1 I graduated from junior high school, but did not attend school most of the time for a variety of reasons. Can I study again at evening classes?

A. If you were absent from the majority of your junior high school classes, you may be able to enroll in evening classes. Please contact the nearest junior high school where evening classes are offered or the Board of Education in the area where you live.

Reference: "The way of thinking for responding in cases where graduates of compulsory education wish to re-enroll in evening classes at public junior high school" (Notice from the Director of the Elementary and Secondary Education Planning Division, July 30, 2015).
Example of Schedule for Evening Classes at Public Junior High Schools

17:00  Arrive at school
17:25  Homeroom
17:30  1st period: Japanese
18:10  School lunch
18:40  2nd period: English
19:25  3rd period: Home economics
20:10  4th period: Math
20:50  Homeroom
21:00  Leave school

What can be learned through studies?

We did an activity in class on answering the question, “What music or movies have changed you?” I chose “My Ballad,” which we sang in music class. I always think of my fellow students at evening school when I sing these lyrics: “Even if your heart aches, no matter if you have been distressed, we are here for you. We are always looking out for you. We will help one another and live together forever.”

During a period of integrated study, we participated in a tea ceremony. It was very interesting. The tea was delicious, and we also were able to learn about koto, a traditional musical instrument of Japan. The teacher also performed a traditional Japanese dance. For foreign students, this type of diverse experience allowed us to fully learn about the tea ceremony culture and traditional spirit of Japan.

To learn more about evening classes at public junior high schools:

Japanese Government Internet TV
“It’s never too late to learn! Evening classes at a public junior high school”

(English) http://nttv.govonline.go.jp/eng/prg/prg4638.html
(Chinese) http://nttv.govonline.go.jp/eng/prg/prg4637.html
(Korean) http://nttv.govonline.go.jp/eng/prg/prg4636.htm

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
(Useful article)
“Do You Know about “Evening Classes at junior High School?” To people who were unable to study at junior high school for various reasons”

Students’ Voices

Student who was unable to attend school in the turmoil after the war

Q. What do you like about the evening classes at your junior high school?
The teachers are all nice and kindly teach us many things.
Q. What has been the most memorable part of school for you?
Athletic meets, traveling classes, school excursions.
Q. What do you want to do once you graduate?
My immediate goal is to go on to high school.
Q. What do the evening classes at junior high school mean to you?
They offer me the elements that will enrich my daily life.

If you are debating whether or not to enroll, I would recommend that you do not hesitate and enroll immediately. School is quite fun, with people from many different countries, and even if you are older, you will feel like you are in the prime of life.

Student from Japan, in his 80s (current student)

Student who came to Japan to pursue her dreams

Q. What are you working hard on most right now?
I study at night while I work.
Q. What has been the most beneficial part of evening classes for you? Kanji characters, I have also studied a lot of great things about Japan.
Q. What is your dream for the future?
I would like to be a certified care worker.
Q. What do the evening classes at junior high school mean to you?
It is like a second home, my hometown.

Since I work in nursing during the day, I take evening classes at the junior high school. People who have a dream can improve their level of education, do sports, and also study. Age does not matter. You should take evening classes because you can relax and enjoy studying.

Student from the Philippines, in her 30s (current student)

Student who could not attend school in the turmoil after the war

Q. What do you like about the evening classes at your junior high school?
You can learn no matter how old you are.
Q. What do you want to do once you graduate?
I want to gain qualifications as a care helper. If I am healthy enough, I would also like to go on to high school and study psychology.
Q. What is the best part of enrolling in evening classes?
Every day is fun.
Q. What do the evening classes at junior high school mean to you?
It is a place where I can shine.

I was not able to study at school because of the war. Studies should be done when people are young. People who are afforded the opportunity to study now should learn so they have no regrets.

Student from the Korean Peninsula, in her 70s (current student)

Student who could not attend school because of an injury

Q. What are you working hard on most right now?
I have been studying every day to get into high school.
Q. What has been the most beneficial part of evening classes for you?
I have studied hard and achieved the pre-second grade level in the practical mathematics test and pre-second grade level in the English-proficiency tests.
Q. What is your dream for the future?
I would like to be a high school teacher in the future and educate students so that they will be able to contribute to society.
Q. What is the best part of enrolling in evening classes?
I have been able to make friends with many people from different countries and talk to people of various ages.

I think my life is being enriched at these evening classes at junior high school. Please come to evening classes if you would like to study.

Student from Japan, in her 10s (current student)

Student who did not attend school due to his family situation

Q. What did you like about the evening classes at your junior high school?
The entire school was warm and it felt like I was part of a family.
Q. What was the most beneficial part of evening classes for you?
Understanding the importance of communicating with people.
Q. What is your dream for the future?
I would like to start up my own company.
Q. What do the evening classes at junior high school mean to you?
It is another home.

I would like you to move forward without giving up. The junior high evening school was my first experience with formal schooling. Everything is new and every day is a day of discovery. You only live once. There is also not a lot of time to learn. Become attached to school through evening classes at junior high school.

Student from Japan, in her 30s (graduate)
If you are interested in attending evening classes at a public junior high school:

First, please contact the Board of Education in the municipality where you live or the nearest junior high school where evening classes are offered.

There are also junior high schools that offer evening class tours and opportunities to attend the evening classes.

Chiba Prefecture
Ichikawa City Board of Education 047-383-9261
Ohsu Junior High School 047-377-6883

Tokyo
Sumida City Board of Education 03-5606-3032
Bunka Junior High School 03-3617-1562
Ota City Board of Education 03-5744-1429
Kojiya Junior High School 03-3741-4340
Setagaya City Board of Education 03-5432-2853
Mishuku Junior High School 03-3424-5255
Arakawa City Board of Education 03-3862-2803
Adachi City Board of Education 03-3880-5969
Adachi 4th Junior High School 03-3887-1466
Katsushika City Board of Education 03-5654-8457
Futaba Junior High School 03-3602-7979

Kanagawa Prefecture
Kawasaki City Board of Education 044-844-3722
Nishinakagawa Junior High School 044-777-2239
Yokohama City Board of Education 045-871-4449
Maita Junior High School 045-713-9750

Kyoto Prefecture
Kyoto City Board of Education 075-213-5622
Rakuyu Junior High School 075-821-2196

Osaka Prefecture
Sakai City Board of Education 072-228-7436
Tonobaba Junior High School 072-221-0755

Kansai Prefecture
Kishiwada City Board of Education 072-423-9607
Kishiki Junior High School 072-438-653
Osaka City Board of Education 06-6208-9187
Tennoji Junior High School 06-6771-2757
Tenma Junior High School 06-6312-8462
Fuminosato Junior High School 06-6621-0790
Higashikuno Junior High School 06-6752-2889
Higashi-Osaka City Board of Education 06-4309-3271
Choei Junior High School 06-6783-0766
Fuse Junior High School 06-6722-6850
Yao City Board of Education 072-924-3891
Yao Junior High School 072-998-9551
Moriguchi City Board of Education 06-6995-3151
Satsuki Gakuen 06-6991-0637
Toyonaka City Board of Education 06-6859-2553
Toyonaka Dai-yon Junior High School 06-6863-6744

Hyogo Prefecture
Kobe City Board of Education 078-322-5763
Maruyama Junior High School, Nishin Branch 078-736-2521
Hyogo Junior High School, Kita Branch 078-577-4390
Amagasaki City Board of Education 06-6489-6738
Seiyo Junior High School, Kinjo Branch 06-6482-5438

Nara Prefecture
Nara City Board of Education 0742-34-4763
Kasuga Junior High School 0742-62-2629
Tenri City Board of Education 0743-63-1001
Kita Junior High School 0743-63-5793
Kashiwara City Board of Education 0744-29-5912
Unebi Junior High School 0744-24-9460

Hiroshima Prefecture
Hiroshima City Board of Education 082-504-2469
Kanon Junior High School 082-292-7707
Futaba Junior High School 082-262-3599

Please access the websites of each Board of Education and school from the website of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology: (http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shotou/yukan/1364960.htm)