

The Japan Times

International Schools Directory

Classroom at Marist Brothers International School MARIST BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Columbia International School pupils show off their harvest. COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Tokyo International School students TOKYO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Yokohama International School students help with community service. YOKOHAMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Yokohama International School pupils make rice balls. YOKOHAMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The diversity of international schools in Japan

Kris Kosaka

INA WORLD increasingly interlaced by globalization, international mindedness is an essential component in cultivating global citizens, and a part of any modern educational system. Yet a meaningful concept of internationalism cannot be taught in discrete lessons between quadratics and poetry. Internationalism is a mindset and schools in Japan are striving for a true spirit of cooperation between cultures and communities. For international schools here, that means starting with Japan.

As Craig Couatts, headmaster at Yokohama International School (YIS), founded in the Yamate area 91 years ago, explained: "There have been many changes in Japan as it has opened up to foreign countries through trade, immigration and tourism, and we have an opportunity to support that within Yokohama and beyond. Just as we want our community to learn about Japanese culture and appreciate all our host country has to offer, we like to share our own cultures and contribute to the globalization that is happening everywhere around us, including Japan."

International schools across Japan follow this lead in a multitude of pathways. Columbia International School in Saitama Prefecture, a day and boarding school offering Canada's Ontario curriculum, offers this

definition, "Internationalism at Columbia International School is about building community," said CIS principal Barrie McCliggott. "It's our aim to make students active participants in society at a range of levels from local to global, and to instill in them a sense of concern and awareness for the world around them. Reflected in our school-wide learning goals is the underlying purpose that every student will leave us with an understanding of what it means to be a global citizen and equipped with the skills to become influential members of their communities in the future."

International educational institutions in Japan are increasingly aware of their impact on their wider communities and by relation, Japan as a whole. As Marist Brothers International School Head of School, Marijana Munro, explained: "Clearly the world is becoming increasingly globalized. The growth of international schools is highly symbolic of this change. Generally speaking, our school community reflects both the 'nomadic' nature of professional life in the world today, and a growing desire of many Japanese parents to support the success of their children in a 'global society.' For geographic and political reasons, Japan has historically benefited from its isolation, and there's inarguably a lingering resistance to elements of 'internationalism' by some Japanese, but I think there is also a growing realization that a more open and dynamic approach is needed. What that

might look like, I'm not sure, but I am sure that Japanese students who graduate from international schools have a real impact on a changing Japan. It's a cliché, but they are like thousands of little pebbles in a big pond — the ripples spread wide and far." Munro added: "We strive not only to respect all cultures, but to also 'build bridges' between cultures. That's not just educational jargon or some sort of utopian sales pitch — we have shown time and time again, in the school and wider community, that we want to make a difference."

In order to connect, many international schools take their learning outside of the classroom and into their local communities. For Tokyo International School (TIS), that means participating in local matsuri (festivals), community service with visits to entertain the elderly at Furukawabashi Hospital and neighborhood clean ups. TIS also incorporates experiential learning into their curriculum with field trips to museums, rice planting and harvesting, as well as trips to various places in Japan from Yakushima, Kagoshima Prefecture, to Shizuoka. As Head of School, Lorraine Izzard, concluded, "We are proud of our engagement with the Japanese community, not just because it cements our position in the local community, but because of the many meaningful opportunities it provides for our international students and their families during their time in Japan."

At YIS, students engage in service learn-

ing opportunities to create a wider worldview by working with two local NPO's, Chiku Centre and Sanagitachi. As Couatts explained: "Both of these organizations work with local homeless and destitute people, providing them with physical and emotional support, food, clothing and most importantly human contact. As a school we work closely with both these organizations to provide resources in terms of food and supplies and also by getting involved personally through the giving of our time. The benefits are absolutely seen on both sides. It is hoped our connection with those in need and the organizations themselves make a difference to their lives and purpose. However, it is just as beneficial for our community, which gains greater understanding of the diversity of the community we live in, the issues they face and how to help. We very often think we know what others need without actually asking them and this is what we are teaching our community to do: interact, gain understanding and then take action."

Thanks to globalization, internationally minded education is now the norm, and each school is carving out their own definition. "Citizenship is about creating community; global citizenship is about extending those boundaries beyond nations and including multiple perspectives. If students learn a sense of global interdependence and responsibility and develop global citizenship skills — then they will be successful in all that they do," McCliggott added.

International Schools Directory

Below is a list of **international schools** with their contact information and brief descriptions, categorized as “**preschools and kindergartens**,” “**kindergarten to grade 12**” and “**post secondary institutions**.”

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Tokyo Minato

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Website www.kspacetokyo.org

Sakura Valley Montessori Childcare

Tokyo Setagaya

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Tel 03-3701-1319 **E-mail** contact@sakuravalley.com
Fax 03-3701-1319 **Website** www.sakuravalley.com

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12



Canadian Academy (Pre-K – Grade 12)

Hyogo Kobe

Serving the Kansai area since 1913, we have 600 students representing 33 nationalities. CA is accredited by CIS and WASC. CA is also an IBO World School that offers the Diploma, Middle Years and Primary Years Programmes. Dormitory available.



Data

Address 4-1 Koyo-cho Naka, Higashinada-ku, Kobe 658-0032
Tel 078-857-0100 **E-mail** admissions@canacad.ac.jp
Fax 078-857-3250 **Website** www.canacad.ac.jp

Canadian International School

Tokyo Shinagawa

Canadian International School (CIS) is a fully accredited Canadian school offering facilities for fine arts, science, physical education and technology education. Graduates of CIS are eligible for entrance to Canadian and other universities.



Data

Address 5-8-20 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001
Tel 03-5793-1392 **E-mail** study@cisjapan.net
Fax 03-5793-3559 **Website** cisjapan.net/

Columbia International School

Saitama Tokorozawa

Known as the best ESL/university matriculation school offering a boarding program for both local and international students. Alumni have been building careers at leading universities and colleges in Canada, US, UK and Japan. Ontario MOE (Canada) and WASC accredited



Data

Address 153 Matsugo, Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama 359-0027
Tel 04-2946-1911 **E-mail** admissions@columbia-ca.co.jp
Fax 04-2946-1955 **Website** www.columbia-ca.co.jp

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HIROO GAKUEN International Course Tokyo Minato

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Data	
Address	5-1-14 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047
Tel	03-3444-7272
E-mail	kokusai@hiroogakuen.ed.jp
Fax	03-3444-7192
Website	hiroogaku.jp/a/

Tokyo International School Tokyo Minato

Located in central Tokyo, TIS is authorized by the IB and accredited by CIS and NEASC. Our 330+ co-educational and multinational student body (Kindergarten to Middle School, 4-14 years) receive tuition in English with daily Japanese. Convenient bus service offered.



Data	
Address	2-13-6 Minami Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047
Tel	03-5484-1160
E-mail	admissions@tokyois.com
Fax	03-5484-1139
Website	www.tokyois.com

K. International School Tokyo (KIST) Tokyo Koto

A pre-K to G12 co-educational school founded in 1997 with 600 students representing 50 nationalities. Fully authorized as an IB World School to offer the PYP, MYP and DP. Graduates in 2015 achieved an average DP score of 36 points.



Data	
Address	1-5-15 Shirakawa, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0021
Tel	03-3642-9993 (English) 03-3642-9992 (Japanese)
E-mail	info@kist.ed.jp
Fax	03-3642-9994
Website	www.kist.ed.jp

Yoyogi International School Tokyo Shibuya

Yoyogi International School prepares every student to successfully move onto all education systems in the world with our unique and original curriculum that is developed incorporating the philosophies of the International Baccalaureate, UK National Curriculum, US Common Core State Standards.



Data	
Address	1-15-12, Tomigaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0063
Tel	03-5478-6714
E-mail	info@yoyogiinternationalschool.com
Fax	03-5478-6713
Website	www.yoyogiinternationalschool.com

Marist Brothers International School Hyogo Kobe

Marist Brothers International School Mission: We educate students in a nurturing environment based on Catholic values and the traditions of the Marist Brothers. We provide a rigorous program of study that prepares our students for higher education, internationally and in Japan. Our students will gain knowledge, be effective communicators, develop good character and become responsible citizens of a global society.



Data	
Address	1-2-1 Chimori-cho, Suma-ku, Kobe 654-0072
Tel	078-732-6266
E-mail	info@marist.ac.jp
Fax	078-732-6268
Website	www.marist.ac.jp

Seisen International School Tokyo Setagaya

Seisen International School is a K-12, Catholic, all-girls school with a coed Montessori Kindergarten and Toddlers Program. Seisen offers the PYP, IGCSE and IBDP. Seisen students are self-motivated and active participants in their learning with a keen sense of social justice.



Data	
Address	1-12-15 Yoga, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-0097
Tel	03-3704-2661
E-mail	info@seisen.com
Fax	03-3701-1033
Website	www.seisen.com

Lakeland College Japan Campus Tokyo Shinjuku

Lakeland College Japan, a branch campus of an American college, is conveniently located in Shinjuku. Students can earn an accredited A.A. degree in small classes amid a multicultural student body and transfer as third-year students to the U.S. or elsewhere.



Data	
Address	5-7-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022
Tel	03-3225-0425
E-mail	asklcj@japan.lakeland.edu
Fax	03-3225-0428
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International Schools Directory

Japanese schools opening to more global worldviews

Kris Kosaka

Across the nation, dozens of Japanese schools follow an international curriculum with academic instruction in English. Schools such as Senri Kwasei Gakuin, Katoh Gakuen, Tamagawa Academy, Bunka Sugunami Canadian International School; with Super Global High Schools and the IB dual-language diploma topping educational news, it's an exciting time for Japanese schools and internationally minded reform.

Yet reform will mean little unless Japanese teachers receive training in how to incorporate a global mindset in Japanese classrooms. Carol Inugai-Dixon, former language and learning manager of the International Baccalaureate (IB) and current visiting professor at the University of Tsukuba, is creating just such a program. Inugai-Dixon is leading a team to develop IB teacher training courses for Japanese teachers in Japanese. "Global mindedness, global citizenship, the local and the global — it's everywhere in Japanese education already; it's in Tsukuba's mission statement. But teachers still need specific techniques for instilling an international mindset to give them confidence and strategies as educators. The IB framework can provide that. It is also a valuable opportunity to take the mission of the IB beyond its inter-

national school and Eurocentric traditions and into the national curriculum of Japan."

Inugai-Dixon, also a consultant for the introduction of the dual-language diploma (DP) to a Tsukuba Lab school in Saitama Prefecture, Sakado Senior High School, believes the school is a perfect place to introduce the IB. "They've already got global exchanges traveling to Indonesia; individualized instruction, with each student nearly creating his or her own curriculum; it's on a farm, emphasizing nature and service; it's a perfect fit for IB already."

The IB dual-language DP is a two-year course that enables students to follow the IB philosophy and framework in both English and Japanese. Acting Diploma Coordinator at Sakado, Yuichi Kumagai, agrees that Sakado already instills internationalism. "Our curriculum and pedagogical method are already very close to the IB philosophy. While there are a lot of challenges in implementing the IB in national settings in Japan, I accept the challenge as I think it has a lot to offer. But I think there are aspects of Japanese education that could be incorporated into the IB too. For example, the PE program at our school is fantastic and all students should be offered the opportunity to experience it," Kumagai said.

Yamanashi Gakuin is another school currently working toward implementing the dual-language DP. As Ko Horiuchi of

Yamanashi Gakuin is working to implement dual language education. YAMANASHI GAKUIN



Yamanashi Gakuin, explained: "We believe it is significant that a school outside of the metropolitan area can provide such an educational service for local students. Yamanashi Gakuin's mission is to nurture students to become lifelong, autonomous learners, critical thinkers and caring citizens of their community, qualities that align with the IB philosophy. With the IB program, our students' academic and social skills will be strengthened and ready for an increasingly global society." Angela Rasmussen, DP coordinator, added: "What I appreciate about the dual-language diploma is that not only are students understanding the critical concepts fully in their native language, but then they can also transfer those concepts to their

second language. They are getting critical thinking and problem solving in two modes of communication which is something they cannot normally experience in a traditional Japanese educational environment."

As Inugai-Dixon concluded: "The introduction of the dual-language IB diploma program into Japanese national contexts is an important opportunity for an exchange of ideas and practices; a synergy of stable time-tested, traditional values of Japan with skills appropriate for the globalized 21st century. It has the potential to generate new ways of how we can all live together harmoniously in the constant rapid changes of the modern world. I believe this local initiative can make a global contribution."

Domestic culture, music put on international stage

The International Center for Japanese Culture (ICJC), an NPO housed at Yokohama International School, is a successful model for spreading international mindedness through the arts. Founder and Director of ICJC Joseph Gasho Amato opened the center in 2011 after starting the Japanese music program at YIS in 2003. "We promote Japanese traditional and modern culture for YIS students, our wider

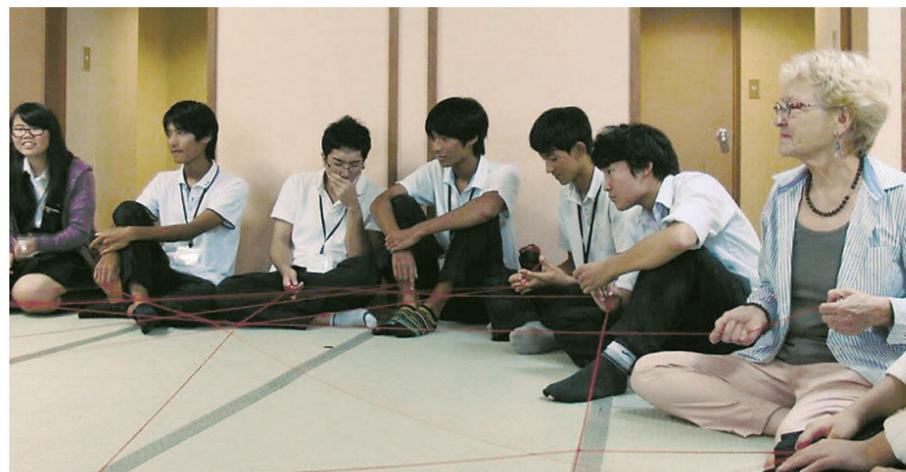
community and into the entire nation and overseas," explained Amato. Initiatives range from day trips to learn about *washi* Japanese paper with Mie Hama's Yamaboushi House in Hakone to ICJC's Friday Night Lecture series, where Japanese artists and experts from a wide range of fields discuss their work for a community audience.

"ICJC also invites local experts and artisans

from the community to lecture students during school," explains Amato, "everything from ikebana, calligraphy, tea ceremony, aikido, *kyudo* (Japanese archery), to bring in all the arts and sports Japan has to offer to our students."

The ICJC depends on grants, donations, and support from YIS, and their projects, community outreach, and lecture series

takes students and the community all over Japan and the world. Students are currently in New York to spread Japanese music and culture in America as part of their "21st Century Japanese Music Project." As Amato concluded, "What we offer here, you just can't find it anywhere, supporting and sharing Japanese arts and music culture through English." (K.K.)



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The International Schools Directory Online will be launched at the beginning of November. The website will enable searching international schools across Japan and features interviews with school representatives.