



DOKKYO TIMES

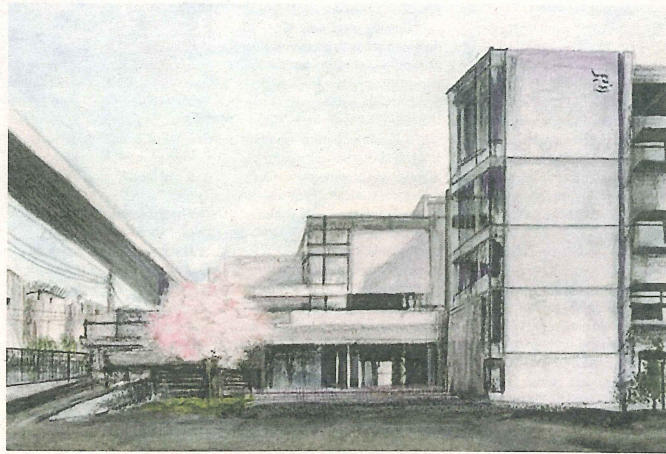
Special Edition

June 2017

Dokkyo proud of long history and tradition

The history of Dokkyo Junior & Senior High School dates back to 1883. The name "Dokkyo" is short for "Doitsugaku Kyokai" or the German Studies Association. In the middle of 19th century, Japan decided to model itself after Germany in the field of medicine. The German Studies Association was established for the purpose of bringing German culture into Japan. Amane Nishi, who is now called "the father of Western philosophy in Japan" and the person who translated the word "philosophy" into "tetsugaku," was the first principal of the school that was the predecessor of Dokkyo Junior & Senior High School.

After World War II, as the Japanese legal and educational systems were shifting from German ways to American ways, there was a time when Dokkyo had difficulty surviving. Teiyu Amano, the first full-fledged researcher of Kantian philosophy and the minister of education in the third Yoshida Cabinet, became the 13th principal. Edu-



A painting by Tatsuki Kunii depicts one of Dokkyo's buildings. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

cating students with a rich sense of humanity as the main goal, he laid the educational foundation of Dokkyo Junior & Senior High School.

For more than 130 years since

its establishment, Dokkyo has made many contributions to the growth of Japan, sending many excellent graduates into medical, legal or educational circles. The education based on high

ideals and a firm philosophy has been passed down through generations and remains today.

The Dokkyo Times interviewed Principal Kazuo Watanabe about his educational values.

Interview with Principal Watanabe

What is the ideal type of a Dokkyo student?

> Simply speaking, it is said to be a "model student in society."

What is an ideal Dokkyo student like in your mind?

> It can be summed up with the 13th principal's words. He said, "Model students at school are limited, but all Dokkyo students can be model students in society." Beyond academic excellence, the way of thinking, how we solve problems and even behavioral principles matter to model students in society. And a more important thing is concrete actions based on all these.

How can we be model stu-

dents in society?

> First you must learn the basics of how to live in society, and this requires honesty, punctuality and grit. So I hope all of you make good use of your "Dokkyo Pocket Diary" (獨協手帳) to make a plan and look back on your day.

Second, cooperativeness is also important. Based on that, you can go on to the third step, which is to gain knowledge of society. Not only by studying in a classroom with books, but also learning from experience is important. This is the basis of Dokkyo's education policy. The fourth step is taking actions based on the right social knowl-

edge. Any action you take is not only for yourself, but for everybody in society, including you. People who can do this are model students in society. Dokkyo raises students to be model students in society through many programs after they enter Dokkyo Junior & Senior High School.

How do you like Dokkyo as a teacher?

> First of all, I have liked Dokkyo's atmosphere since I started here. Of course there were hardships, but students' growth over six years is always hopeful.

Second, Dokkyo students mostly treat one another, includ-



Reporters conduct an interview with Principal Kazuo Watanabe. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

ing fellow students and teachers, with respect. Teachers also treat students with respect. When I was a Japanese teacher, I was always working on how to make my students understand deeply and how to open their eyes to society and their future. And they responded to that. Excellent students and excellent teachers have traditionally made this a good atmosphere.

By Toshiyuki Hagiwara and Ayato Sato

Event

Overseas program broadens horizons

At Dokkyo, from the seventh through the 12th grade, English classes are scheduled for seven hours a week, focusing on the balanced development of the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Besides these regular classes, there are unique programs designed to nurture interest in English.

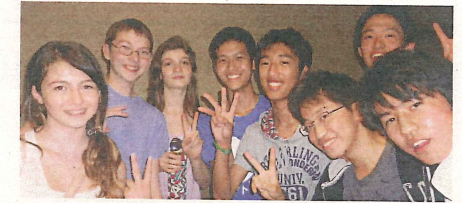
One of them is "Domestic Mini Studies" for seventh and eighth graders, where they spend several days during their summer vacations attending lectures given by people from English speaking countries. Students are able to learn through communicating in English in various activities and come to like the language.

Additionally, there is a program for students to visit British Hills in Fukushima Prefecture. It is designed for ninth graders and sees 20 to 40 Dokkyo participants every year. British Hills is an English language study facility where buildings and facilities have been reproduced in British style. Students can experience British life through the cuisine, sports, culture, manners and more.

These in-country English experience programs are very valuable opportunities for junior high school students, as they can actually have an opportunity to use the English they have studied at school.

Following these programs, students are ready to go overseas. Tenth-grade students can take part in a homestay program in Seattle on the West Coast of the U.S. for about two weeks. The aim is not only to improve their English skills, but also to expand their views through interacting with local students. They also have a chance to attend lectures given by Japanese people working in the U.S. and meet local university students. Before the participants depart for Seattle in late July, they go through preparatory sessions such as English conversation lessons and intercultural workshops.

There is another group of students that will take a trip to Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world. On this trip, the students can have a wide variety of scientific experiences while sleeping in tents in the wilderness and about 20 stu-



Dokkyo students pose with members of their host families. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

dents participate each year.

Here is an essay written by one of the homestay participants.

The three most surprising things about my homestay

There were many things that made me glad that I was in the program. Among them, I'd like to mention a few things that I found remarkable.

First, my English skills improved. I was nervous about talking to foreigners and I had to use English all the time. However as I spoke in English, I found myself gradually getting used to it. This was very good for me.

Second, I met a lot of people. In Japan, my contact is limited to Japanese people, but talking with

people in a different country expanded my horizons. After all, I think that it is very important to talk with various people and learn about their countries.

Lastly, I experienced a totally different culture. I learned that cars drive on the right side of the road and the lanes are very wide. Also, American shopping malls are much bigger compared to those in Japan. It was a nice experience to visit America.

After the homestay, my English skills got much better and my ability to communicate with other people in the world improved because English can be used in many parts of the world.

By Haruki Tsukada and Fumiya Ikegami

Dokkyo Festival showcases music, dance, fun and charity

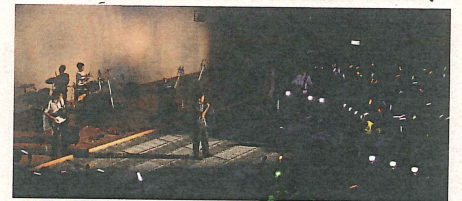
The Dokkyo Festival is held at the end of every September. It is very popular and enjoys a good reputation. Every year, people come up the steep slope from Gokokuji Station to our school.

Most of the guests are students from other schools and perspective young boys looking to attend Dokkyo in the next academic year. Feedback from guests includes such comments as, "the Dokkyo Festival is creative," or "Dokkyo students are courteous and polite." Every year, the festival

committee chooses a theme for the event. Last year's theme was "hyakkaryouran." It means that each student should express themselves in their own way.

The Dokkyo Festival has various events such as the "chuyasai," the first evening party and "koyasai," the second evening party. These give students the chance to perform their songs and dances. It is exciting and a lot of fun. Visitors can experience many things, such as riding on vehicles that students made, or trying club activities such as archery.

Dokkyo students are passionate about contributing to society through the school festival, raising funds for charity. Last year they had a donation box for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic winners. This was prompted when they found out that in Rio de Janeiro



Dokkyo Festival wraps up with the second evening party. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

in 2016, the prize money that winners received in the Olympics and Paralympics was not equal. Olympic winners won ¥5,000,000, ¥2,000,000 and ¥1,000,000 for gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively, whereas Paralympic winners only received ¥1,500,000, ¥1,000,000 and ¥700,000. The school festival's executive committee thought that this was un-

fair and wanted to raise money to donate.

In addition, last year, there were activities for visitors to better understand what life is like for disabled people. They could have a wheelchair ride experience and we also held a blind soccer match for festival visitors.

By Kaito Ono, Michio Moriya and Daisuke Ieshin



A booth with a donation box for Paralympic athletes. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Club

Club activities

Dokkyo Junior & Senior High School has 18 sports clubs, 11 cultural clubs and three associations.

In Dokkyo, junior and senior high school students do club activities together. There are many advantages of this. Doing club activities together has a good effect on both older and younger students.

Junior high school students can be exposed to higher levels of skill and knowledge as soon as they join a club. Also junior high school students can casually talk to high school students and become friends with them because senior students are very kind to them. On the other hand, coaching is difficult and a chal-

lenge for high school students, but they can develop good skills and take pleasure in helping others. And the most important thing is that students can establish a relationship with graduates who are former members of club activities and improve their communication skills.

Joining a club is essential for Dokkyo students. When students do fun things, they can enjoy a rich school life for six years.

This newspaper is going to look at Dokkyo's drama club, railway research club and baseball team. Both the drama club and the railway research club have received many prizes and awards. The baseball team has long traditions such as "marugari" (shaven heads).

Baseball team

The Dokkyo baseball team practices under the guidance that has been passed down from seniors to juniors.

"Each player should practice very hard and cooperate with each other. That is what Dokkyo baseball is." This is the motto that is passed down from generation to generation in the club.

Their baseball diamond is very small, but they work hard to use it efficiently and won three games in the East Tokyo Tournament in 2016. Their goal this year is to get to the fourth round and go even further beyond it.

Only three clubs have been introduced here but there are many others and they enjoy their activities very much.



The strong bonds among players are the baseball team's greatest asset. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Students as facilitators on Green Network Committee

In addition to these clubs, Dokkyo is proud to have unique committees. One of them is the Green Network Committee.

The school has been focusing on practical environmental education such as constructing a biotope, a schoolyard forest and a roof garden. Management of a biotope and cultivation of plants on the roof are carried out by students on the Green Network Committee. In the rooftop crop garden, they plant bitter ground watermelons, melons and other items. In addition, tadpoles and firefly larvae are raised in the biotope.



The Green Network Committee worked with younger children. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

This year, the committee expanded their work and involved local elementary school students by providing them with educational programs. They also helped to make a new biotope at the elementary school.

By Shuntaro Nagai

Drama club

The Dokkyo drama club went on a trip to a drama festival in South Korea as a representative of high school drama clubs from Japan. Students from Dokkyo performed a play on Aug. 16, 2015. Mr. Yanagimoto, a Japanese teacher at Dokkyo, wrote the drama for the club.

The performance by Dokkyo was the second time in the past six years the club participated. The year 2015 was the 70th anniversary after World War II, and

the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and South Korea. The Dokkyo drama club's performance drew a lot of laughter with their action-comedy play in South Korea in the memorial year.



Students perform in a play. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Railway research club receives prize

The Dokkyo railway research club received "The Best Prize Chosen by Students" and "The Special Prize by the Chief Director" at the national convention of model trains in 2015. Out of nearly 150 schools, the club won third place. The convention champion is invited to the European scale convention, but the next convention is expected to be hard to win.



Young children enjoy a ride on a miniature train. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

By Asahi Shimizu, Shota Fujino, Shun Shibata and Taichi Nakamura

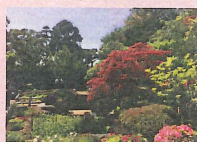
Dokkyo neighborhood part of school life

Around Dokkyo are many historical places and buildings.

One of them is Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo. It is often used for weddings. The Kuroda family lived in the area where Chinzanso currently stands in the Edo Period, but in 1878 the Yamagata family bought the area and made a garden. In 1952, a wedding hall was built and in 1992 it was made into a hotel. Now, the hotel's garden is open to public. The garden's pagoda is registered as a national tangible cultural property.

Another historic spot is St. Mary's Cathedral, or Tokyo Catholic Sekiguchi Church. In 1877, Pierre Marie Osout tried to buy the area. But the Meiji government did not allow foreigners to buy land. So a Japanese Christian instead of him bought the land. In 1888 the Takagi family built a French school in the area. At the same time, he built a small church. Now the church is one of most beautiful examples of modern architecture.

Last but not the least, there are many hills around Dokkyo. The most famous of all is Tanukiza-



Chinzanso's lush garden is an urban oasis. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

ka. The students from Gokokuji Station have to climb up this hill every morning. The slope starts out smooth in the beginning, but it gets precipitous and very steep as one goes up.

When people climb up the hill, they can see a cemetery on the left. When a gymnasium on the right comes in sight, it means they are close to the school and the hill is almost at an end. Members of Dokkyo's sports clubs use the slope, doing the "Slope Dash" there. Additionally, some students often do the Slope Dash in the morning, but they do it not for training, but to be in time for school.

By Gendo Mori and Seitaro Igawa

OB

Interview with actor Gaku Hamada, a graduate from Dokkyo

Dokkyo has such a long history that quite a few celebrities have come out of the school. One of them is Gaku Hamada, a popular young TV actor. He kindly spared his time to be interviewed by our reporters.

What do you remember from your time at Dokkyo?

When I was 9 years old sometimes people made fun of me because I was an actor. I didn't feel good. So I decided to have a fresh start and take the entrance examination to enter Dokkyo Junior High School. There I met kind friends who treated me just like an ordinary student. Those little events in recess are some of my best memories now.

Later in adult life, one of my friends said, "When we were junior high school students, in fact, I watched all of your dramas and movies, but I held off talking about it at school so as to not make you stand out." I felt his kindness once again.

You were a student and an actor at the same time, how did that help you?

I learned common sense from Dokkyo. So I can use my com-

mon sense now. For example, being polite and buying train tickets.

What skills did you learn at Dokkyo?

I played rugby and learned to be mentally tough and not to be scared of anything. So now I do not get nervous when I work alongside great famous actors.

What are some memories you have with Dokkyo teachers?

I was undecided whether I should move on to high school or keep on working as an actor. Then, Mr. Isobe talked with me about the matter again and again. His advice helped me greatly.

Also, one time I drew a controversial support flag for sports day. My homeroom teacher was Ms. Tanaka and she let us use the flag. Ms. Tanaka was a very kind teacher.

What is a good memory you have of rugby summer camp?

One day, it was raining and there were puddles of water on the ground. My teammate said he would jump into the puddle. I thought he would just splash with his feet, but he completely



Actor Gaku Hamada, a former Dokkyo student, speaks to our reporters. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

jumped into the puddle of water and rolled about in it. His whole body was wet! I couldn't stop laughing.

Comments from writers:

Through this interview, Mr. Hamada expressed his real love for Dokkyo, something that would make Dokkyo students happy and proud of their

school. Gaku Hamada had difficulty deciding whether to enter high school, or work as an actor. After he talked with his head coach about it, he finally made a decision by himself. He set a good example of making an important decision by himself.

By Yusuke Tsuge and So Yoden

book world." We had second-hand books about this theme, and lots of decorations in the library to make it reflect the world.

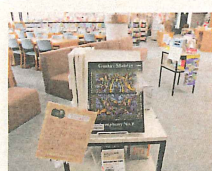
There was also a special workshop where participants learned how to make and bind a book.

By Ryoma Omata and Ryoma Yamada

Dokkyo's state-of-the-art library

One feature Dokkyo is proud of is its library. It has a well-lit room and colorful displays. The very helpful staff gives students advice whenever they need it. It is a place to rest and relax, as well as a place to study. So many students want to use the library to study that they can hardly find seats right before exam season!

The school library has CDs, DVDs as well as over 100,000 books. Not only does it have



The library has a huge collection of foreign books. DOKKYO JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

academic books, it also has the latest popular books for young people, too. For students, up to five items may be borrowed for two weeks at a time. There is also a computer room in the library. We can use various software including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Students can use the library and the computer room during breaks and after school. The library is open until 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Every year we have a book sleeve contest for freshmen. Each student selects a book, and makes a book sleeve to advertise the book. There are gold, silver, and bronze prizes for the outstanding works.

During the yearly school festival, there is a secondhand book market in the library. In 2016, the concept was "in a

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