

# SECRETS OF JAPANESE EDUCATION

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## **Annotation**

The article discusses the Japanese education system, pedagogical skills in schools and preschools, and the achievements of the Japanese education system.

**Keywords:** education, kanji, hiragana, katakana, hayku

## **Аннотация**

В статье рассматривается японская система образования, педагогическое мастерство в школах и дошкольных учреждениях, достижения японской системы образования.

**Ключевые слова:** образование, кандзи, хирагана, катакана, хайку.

Japanese children are globally more proficient in numeracy and literacy. At this point, the question arises, what is the secret of the uniqueness of Japanese school education and its unique system? How long will it take you to multiply 25 by 36? A minute, maybe. And how about multiplying 123 by 321? It takes more than a minute, of course. So how long does it take Japanese children to complete these tasks? In Japan, any child, even five years old, can do it. They don't know numbers by heart. Instead, they use the game method. The secret is simple, teaching in the country depends on the quality of the lessons, not the quantity.

Now we will give you an example of a simple math lesson: The class teacher starts the lesson with the usual greeting and the students are asked if they know how to solve the problems of the previous lesson. The previous lesson will teach how to solve equations with multiple functions and teach fifth graders how to approach these math problems.

The Japanese say that if you teach yourself, you will remember 90% of what you learn. If teachers only stand and lecture, students remember much less - for example, 40 percent of the information, so it is very useful to discuss problems and

teach each other. From this besides, there is very little rest time and it is important to keep them busy.

Japanese parents know how difficult it can be for their children to learn all the characters and use them in written communication. However, thanks to a high-quality approach to teaching, by the time they leave elementary school, Japanese children already know 1,000 kanji (hieroglyphic) characters. By age 15, when they finish compulsory education, they know an additional 1,130 (hieroglyphs). In addition to kanji, Japan has two alphabets, hiragana and katakana. Each set contains 46 characters. Combined with the precise points used to modify the original sounds, these symbols are sufficient to represent all the sounds of modern Japanese. Hiragana is used in combination with kanji to write simple Japanese words. Katakana is used to write words from other languages, foreign people and places, sounds and cries of animals.

Japan's public education system is a national pride in this country, a traditional style that has helped Japanese students easily outperform their counterparts around the world. The Japanese school system consists of: 6 years of elementary school, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of high school and 4 years of university.

Gimukyoiku (compulsory education) lasts 9 years: 6 years in shougakkou (elementary school) and 3 years in chugakku (middle school). Kougaku (high school) although not compulsory, secondary school enrollment is still very high: over 96% in urban areas and close to 100%. Most schools operate on a three-term system with new

school years starting each April. With the exception of the lower grades of elementary school, the daytime high school day lasts 6 hours, making it the longest school day in the world. Even after school, there are a number of exercises and other homework for children. Weekends last 6 weeks in summer and about 2 weeks in winter and spring. There is often homework on these weekends. In primary education, in most cases, one teacher teaches all subjects in each grade. The number of students in one class is usually 40.

However, in the past, due to the rapid growth of the population, this number was very high, i.e. 50 students per class. The subjects they teach include Japanese, math, social studies, music, handicrafts, physical education, and home economics (learning basic cooking and sewing skills). The number of primary schools increased and English language teaching began. Information technology has been used to further improve education and many schools have access to the Internet. Students learn shodo (calligraphy) and haiku (some sources also explore traditional Japanese arts such as hokku). Haiku is a form of poetry developed in Japan approximately 400 years ago and has a poetic form of 17 syllables. Simple words are used to convey deep feelings to the readers. Almost all high schools require their students to wear a school uniform. In elementary and middle schools, lunch is served on a standardized menu and eaten in the classroom. Thus, students and teachers build good relationships while eating together. Students don't miss classes or come late to school in Japan. Students studying in Japan have a strong sense of love that belongs to the school, they never feel like outsiders towards the school. In Japan, students are actually happier at school (85 percent of them). Their teachers rarely wait for students to settle down before classes begin.

Students spend an average of 235 minutes a week in regular math classes (in other countries, the average is 218), but they spend less time in language and science classes - 205 and 165 a week, respectively ( in other countries, this indicator is on average 215 and 200 minutes per week). Most Japanese school children participate in various activities after school where they learn more than they do at school, and some spend time at home or elsewhere. Preschool education is very important to Japan. Research shows that students who enroll in preschool tend to do better at age 15. In the Japanese education system, school years are 6-3-3-4: segmented by 6-year primary school; 3 years high school; 3-year secondary special school; and 4 years of university.

However, the government has announced that it intends to amend the Education Act to allow schools to merge the 6-3 split between primary and secondary schools and create an integrated curriculum. The main purpose of this

change is to enable primary and secondary schools to pool or share their resources, especially in the training of specialist secondary school teachers for primary schools. However, many private schools offer a six-year program that includes high school. Specialized schools may offer a five-year program consisting of high school and two years of college. There are two options for higher education: secondary (two years) and university (four years). Primary school (from 6 years) and secondary school (3 years), that is, until nine years of education is compulsory.

This system, implemented by the School Education Act of March 1947 after World War II, has its origins in the American 6-3-3 and 4-year university model. However, many other features of the Japanese education system are based on European models.

Compulsory education includes primary and secondary school. A break from the past, today in modern public schools in Japan, mostly (more than 99% of elementary schools) work. The Japanese school year begins in April, and students attend school three times in addition to short spring and winter breaks and a one-month summer vacation.

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