

テーマ:～私が日本に学校を作るなら～

「日本にこんな学校があったらいいな」と思うことを、海外生・帰国生ならではの視点で自由に書いてください。

What schools should offer is solely education, is what everyone thinks. With the increasing pressure of getting into top-ranked universities, adults focus on a higher level of academics above all. As a returnee from China, I feel the Japanese style of “blending with others” is killing the strength of the youth. Rather than promoting individuality like the Chinese education style, the current Japanese system pressures students to conform, sacrificing creativity and personal growth. Therefore schools should adopt new approaches that encourage self-expression, critical thinking and diversity.

Creating individualized learning paths that serve to each student’s strength will help emphasize self-expression. Instead of the current curriculum where students do not get the freedom to express themselves in their studies, students should have the opportunity to explore fields that genuinely interest them. For example, long-term projects such as research papers where students choose the topics themselves will allow them to explore the topic deeply and initiate creativity. Additionally, entrepreneurial programs in schools can help in developing self-confidence, motivating students to take initiative. Both these programs teach students how to think unconventionally, take risks and responsibilities and come up with solutions based on the problems which are all essential for personal and professional reasons. When I went to an international school in China, large portions of classes were not lectures but projects and activities that encouraged communication and creative thinking. These classes made me express my own thoughts and advanced my leadership skills. By recognizing individual talents, schools can help students pave one’s own ways rather than simply following a predetermined path.

Creating an environment where critical thinking and open debate are encouraged will also help in creating a diverse environment. The main focus in many Japanese classrooms are memorization, leaving little room for students to analyze the information presented to them. Many tests are knowledge-based, lacking thought provoking questions. For example, debate competitions are a common activity done in classrooms outside Japan that develop these skills. Debating requires students to analyze multiple perspectives, construct logical arguments, and respond thoughtfully to opposing views, enhancing individual skills. As another example, model UN is a popular way of knowing about international issues and enhancing critical thinking skills. Model UN requires students to analyze complex issues, research, and propose realistic solutions during debates and negotiations. Though it is not a common practice in Japan, it helps in enhancing skills crucial for academic and professional successes. By making students conduct these debates that provokes their thoughts and encourages discussions of those thoughts will promote individuality.

In conclusion, by shifting focus from conformity to individuality, my proposed school will be able to enhance self-expression and diversity. These changes in the curriculum will not only prepare students for academic success but also equip them with skills needed for the professions such as presentation skills and analytical judgment. Emphasizing individuality in education will allow for students to carve their own paths, bringing up a generation of innovative and independent thinkers which is beneficial to the society due to their creativity.