Higashihiroshima Global Class: Frequently Asked Questions（Q＆A）

Ⅰ The Purpose of the Global Class

1. Why is Higashihiroshima City establishing the Global Class?

Higashihiroshima City is promoting community development based on global standards as part of its vision of becoming a "Next-Generation Academic City." In recent years, the number of foreign residents has increased, creating more opportunities for interaction with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Against this background, it is important to create an educational environment where children can understand diverse cultures and values, respect one another, and learn and grow together. Therefore, Higashihiroshima City has designated Takamigaoka Elementary School as its model school for international education and will establish the Global Class beginning in the 2027 academic year.

2. What skills and qualities does the Global Class aim to develop?

Through communication in English, students will deepen their understanding of diverse cultures and values while developing the ability to work collaboratively with people from different backgrounds to address various challenges.

The program also aims to nurture children who can think independently, take initiative, and play active roles in both their local and global communities.

3. Why was Takamigaoka Elementary School selected as the model school?

Takamigaoka Elementary School has actively promoted international education and intercultural exchange activities for many years. In addition, factors such as its educational environment and facilities were comprehensively considered in selecting the school as the model site for this initiative.

The educational practices developed through the Global Class will be shared throughout the school to enhance education for all students at Takamigaoka Elementary School. In the future, these practices are also expected to contribute to improving education throughout Higashihiroshima City.

4. What are the future plans for establishing the Global Class?

The Global Class is planned not as a one-year initiative, but as a six-year elementary school program.

The first Global Class will open as one first-grade class in the 2027 academic year. Thereafter, a new first-grade Global Class will be added each year, gradually expanding the program to additional grade levels.

By the 2032 academic year, the school plans to establish one Global Class in each grade from first through sixth grade.

5. Will students outside the Global Class also have opportunities to learn about international education at Takamigaoka Elementary School?

Takamigaoka Elementary School is designated as a model school for international education throughout the entire school. Therefore, all students will have opportunities to learn through interactions with people from diverse backgrounds.

The school will expand opportunities for students to interact with Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), international students, and others. Students will also learn about their own culture and local community while deepening their understanding of diverse cultures and values.

In addition to foreign language activities and English classes, international perspectives will be incorporated into subjects such as Living Environment Studies and the Period for Integrated Studies. Through these efforts, all students will be able to develop broad global perspectives.

Ⅱ The Global Class Program

6. How is the Global Class different from a regular class?

The Global Class utilizes the Special Curriculum School System to provide subject learning through English as a means of communication, as well as learning activities that promote multicultural coexistence.

＊The Special Curriculum School System allows schools designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to implement a curriculum that differs from the national Course of Study.

7. Which subjects will students learn in English?

In the 2027 school year, first-grade students will learn Music, Arts and Crafts, and Physical Education classes in English. Instruction will be provided in an enjoyable and developmentally appropriate manner, taking into account each child's stage of development and learning progress. From second grade onward, additional subjects may gradually be included based on educational outcomes and students' needs.

8. What will students learn in the "Multicultural Coexistence Learning" program?

Through *Multicultural Coexistence Learning*, students will deepen their understanding of their own culture and local community while learning about diverse cultures and values. Students will explore some content from Japanese Language and Living Environment Studies in greater depth and from broader perspectives.

To support learning in the Global Class, students will also participate in simple English communication activities. Through interactions with classmates and teachers, they will develop foundational communication skills.

9. How is the Global Class staffed?

A Japanese homeroom teacher will lead the class, while working closely with teachers who have expertise in English education and in supporting children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Together, they will support each student's learning and development.

In classes that incorporate English, Japanese teachers and Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) will provide instruction through team teaching. While helping students become comfortable communicating in English, teachers will also provide support in Japanese as needed to ensure a solid understanding of the subject content.

10. What will school life and school events be like in the Global Class?

Students in the Global Class will participate in school events such as the Cultural Festival and Sports Day, as well as grade-level activities, together with students from other classes.

The program values connections not only within the class but also across other grade levels and the entire school. Students will have many opportunities to learn, interact, and grow together with classmates from different classes and grade levels.

11. Will learning through English affect students' understanding of lessons or their academic progress?

In the Global Class, understanding the subject content is always the highest priority. In first grade, English will primarily be used in Music, Arts and Crafts, and Physical Education classes, with Japanese teachers and ALTs working together to support students' learning.

The curriculum content will be the same as that of regular classes. Teachers will carefully monitor each student's level of understanding and provide appropriate support throughout the learning process.

12. Will there be class reassignments?

The Global Class is designed as a six-year program throughout elementary school. Students will remain with the same classmates and grow together over time.

The school will carefully monitor each student's well-being and provide support to ensure they feel secure at school and can build positive relationships with others.

13. Can a student transfer from the Global Class to a regular class?

Because the Global Class is designed as a six-year program, students are generally expected to continue in the class throughout their elementary school years.

The school will provide ongoing support while carefully monitoring each student's learning and school life. If difficulties arise, the school will work closely with parents and guardians to consider appropriate support and responses.

14. Are there plans to establish a Global Class at the junior high school level?

While it is important to consider how learning in elementary school can be connected to junior high school, expansion of the program to junior high schools is still under consideration.

For now, the focus is on implementing the elementary school program successfully and evaluating its outcomes and challenges before determining future directions.

15. If my child commutes from outside the school district, can we still participate in PTA and community activities?

Takamigaoka Elementary School places great importance on educational activities that involve collaboration among the school, families, and the local community. Students in the Global Class will also participate as members of the school community.

Even if your child commutes from outside the school district, we hope that you will actively participate as a member of the school community and work together with the school, the PTA, and the local community to support school activities.

Ⅲ Eligibility and Application Requirements

16. Who is eligible to apply for the Global Class?

Applicants for the 2027 Global Class must be children entering the first grade of elementary school in the 2027 academic year who designate the Global Class as their first choice. Residents of Higashihiroshima City may apply regardless of their school district. However, parents or guardians are responsible for transportation if their child commutes from outside the school district.

17. Is English proficiency required for admission to the Global Class?

No prior English proficiency is required. Children with no prior experience learning English are welcome to apply.

To foster an environment where Japanese students and students with international backgrounds learn together, the Global Class includes a Multicultural Category for returnee children and foreign-national children. Applicants in the Multicultural Category will participate in a brief interview to help determine what Japanese language instruction or support may be needed after enrollment.

18. How many students will be admitted to the Global Class?

The Global Class will consist of one class of approximately 26 students, recruited from across Higashihiroshima City.

The class will include:

- Approximately 20 students under the General Category
  (Including 10 priority spaces for students residing in the Takamigaoka Elementary School district)
- Approximately 6 students under the Multicultural Category
  (Returnee children and foreign-national children)

Total enrollment: approximately 26 students.

19. How will students be selected if the number of applicants exceeds the available spaces?

If the number of applicants exceeds the available spaces, admission will be determined through a public lottery.

Information regarding the number of applicants and whether a lottery will be held will be announced on the website of the Instruction Division, Higashihiroshima City Board of Education after 4:30 P.M. on November 13, 2026.

If a lottery is required, it will be held at 3:00 p.m. on November 18, 2026, in Conference Room 201 of the North Building, Higashihiroshima City Hall. Parents or guardians of applicants are requested to attend. Please note that some applicants may not be admitted as a result of the lottery.

20. If a lottery is held for the General Category, can applicants living in the Takamigaoka Elementary School district enter the lottery twice?

Applicants residing in the Takamigaoka Elementary School district will draw a lottery ticket only once, just like all other applicants.

The selection process will first determine admission for approximately ten students under the district priority category. Students who are not selected through the priority category will then be included in the lottery for the remaining approximately ten places in the General Category. As a result, applicants living in the district are considered for both the priority category and the General Category, but the same lottery ticket is used throughout the process.

21. If vacancies occur in the General Category, will additional students be recruited?

The Global Class is designed as a six-year elementary school program. Therefore, even if vacancies occur due to students transferring out or other reasons, no additional recruitment will be conducted under the General Category. The class will continue through sixth grade without filling those vacancies.

22. What is the "Multicultural Category"?

The Multicultural Category is intended for returnee children and foreign-national children who meet the following criteria.

Returnee Students	Students who: ・hold Japanese nationality as of April 1, 2027; and ・have lived overseas for at least one year after reaching two years of age. Documentation verifying the overseas residence period must be submitted. ＊Examples: ・passport ・immigration records ・enrollment certificates from overseas preschool or kindergarten ・overseas work assignment documents of a parent or guardian
Foreign-National Students	Students who hold a nationality other than Japanese as of April 1, 2027. Documentation verifying foreign nationality must be submitted. ＊Examples: ・passport ・residence card

23. Must the returnee child's one year of overseas residence be continuous?

The requirement of "one year or more" does not need to be met through one continuous period of residence overseas.

If a child has lived overseas on multiple occasions, those periods may be combined when determining eligibility.

24. If vacancies occur in the Multicultural Category, will additional students be recruited?

Yes, in some cases. Students admitted through the Multicultural Category may move away during the school year due to their family's employment or personal circumstances, which can create vacancies.

The Global Class values a learning environment in which Japanese students and students with international backgrounds learn together and experience diverse cultures and perspectives. Therefore, when vacancies occur, the school may admit returnee children or foreign-national children transferring from overseas in order to maintain this educational environment.

25. What happens if siblings in the same grade (such as twins) apply together?

Siblings in the same grade, including twins, will be treated as a single entry in the lottery.

26. What happens if siblings in different grade levels apply in future years?

Applicants with siblings in other grade levels will be considered under the same conditions as all other applicants.

Even if an older brother or sister is already enrolled in the Global Class, admission of a younger sibling is not guaranteed. If the number of applicants exceeds the available places, admission will be determined by lottery, and siblings may ultimately attend different schools. We appreciate your understanding.

27. Can we apply if we currently live outside Higashihiroshima City?

Families currently living outside Higashihiroshima City may apply if they plan to move into the city by April 1, 2027 and can provide documentation confirming the planned relocation.

Documentation verifying the intended move will be required at the time of application.

28. Are there any rules for commuting from outside the school district?

Students commuting from outside the school district must be transported under the responsibility of their parent or guardian to ensure safe travel to and from school. When using a private vehicle, parents and guardians are requested to follow the school's designated drop-off and pick-up locations, traffic routes, parking areas, and designated arrival times (7:50 - 8:10 a.m.).

29. Will there be a school bus service? Can students commute by public transportation on their own?

No school bus service is planned. Students commuting from outside the school district must be transported by their parent or guardian for safety reasons.
As a general rule, students are not permitted to commute using public transportation on their own.

30. What happens if we are no longer able to provide transportation?

If transportation becomes difficult, please consult the school or the Higashihiroshima City Board of Education as soon as possible. The situation will be reviewed, and appropriate support will be considered. However, if safe and continuous transportation cannot be ensured, the child may be asked to attend the school designated for their residential area, with the child's safety being the highest priority.

31. I would like my child to enroll in the Global Class. What is the application procedure?

To apply, please complete and submit the following documents. In principle, a parent/guardian must submit the documents in person.

① Application Survey Form
② Pledge Agreement
③ Other Supporting Documents (if applicable)

□Supporting documents may include:

- For applicants currently residing outside the city: documents verifying a planned move into Higashihiroshima City (e.g., lease agreement, housing purchase contract, building confirmation documents)
- For applicants under the Multicultural Category: documents verifying overseas residence or foreign nationality (e.g., passport, immigration records)

Submission Period	November 2, 2026 (Monday) to November 13, 2026 (Friday) at 12:00 p.m. ・Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays. ・Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ・On the final day (November 13), applications will be accepted only until 12:00 p.m.
Submission Location	〒739-8601 Higashihiroshima City Hall 8-29 Saijo Sakaemachi, Higashihiroshima, Hiroshima , Japan Higashihiroshima City Board of Education North Building, 3rd Floor. Tel: 082-420-0976

32. What should I do if I am unable to submit the application documents in person?

If a parent or guardian is unable to visit the office due to unavoidable circumstances, please contact the Instruction Division, Higashihiroshima City Board of Education in advance. After confirming the circumstances, alternative arrangements, such as submission by mail, may be made on an individual basis.

33. Who conducts the lottery? How does the lottery work?

If the number of applicants exceeds the available spaces, a public lottery will be conducted to ensure a fair selection process.

Parents or guardians will draw the lottery themselves. If you are unable to attend, please notify the Instruction Division in advance. A proxy drawing will be conducted on your behalf.

Please note that if you are absent without prior notice, your application may be treated as withdrawn.

34. Can I decline admission after being selected? If so, what is the procedure?

Students selected through the lottery are expected to enroll in the Global Class. However, if enrollment becomes difficult due to relocation or family circumstances, please contact the Instruction Division by phone by the deadline below.

Withdrawal Notification Deadline	November 20, 2026 (Friday) by 4:00 p.m.
Contact Information	〒739-8601 8-29 Saijo Sakaemachi, Higashihiroshima, Hiroshima 739-8601, Japan Higashihiroshima City Board of Education North Building, 3rd Floor, Higashihiroshima City Hall ℡ 082-420-0976
Required Submission	"Notice of Admission Approval" ※Please return the physical document either by registered mail or by hand delivery to the office.

35. Will there be a waiting list if admitted students withdraw?

If places become available due to withdrawals, applicants on the waiting list will be offered admission in the order determined by the lottery. Admission offers will be made between November 24 and November 30, 2026, until 4:00 p.m.

Eligible applicants will be contacted by the Instruction Division by phone.

36. Are there any procedures after admission is confirmed?

After admission is confirmed, the Instruction Division will send a *Notice of Admission Approval*. Parents/guardians must complete and submit the following documents between November 19 and November 27, 2026:

① Admission Registration Form

② Request for Change of Designated School Assignment
(Required only for students residing outside the attendance area of Takamigaoka Elementary School)

*Both forms will be sent with the Notice of Admission Approval.

Applicants admitted under the Multicultural Category (Returnee Students and Foreign-National Students) are required to participate in a parent-child interview (approximately 30 minutes) when submitting their admission documents.

Please contact the Instruction Division in advance to schedule an appointment. Parents/guardians should attend the interview together with their child at the Board of Education office.

37. What will be discussed during the parent-child interview for the Multicultural Category?

The interview is conducted to better understand the child's background and to provide appropriate support for learning and school life after enrollment.

Topics may include:

・Languages commonly spoken at home
・The child's reading and writing abilities in those languages
・Experiences in preschool, kindergarten, or childcare settings
・The child's ability to communicate in Japanese
・Any accommodations or support needed for school life

38. Are there any procedures to complete at Takamigaoka Elementary School before enrollment?

A New Student and Global Class Orientation Meeting will be held at Takamigaoka Elementary School on the afternoon of January 29, 2027. School staff will provide important information at that time, so attendance is required.

39. Could you explain the overall enrollment process?

A flowchart outlining the enrollment procedures has been prepared. Please refer to it for details

【Flow of Admission to the Higashihiroshima Global Class】

Attend an Information Session and Trial Lesson
※If unable to attend, parents/guardians must receive an explanation from the Higashihiroshima City Board of Education in-person.

Submit the Application Survey Form and other required documents
Application Period: November 2nd (Mon.) to November 13th (Fri.) at 12:00 p.m.

Check the Application Status（Higashihiroshima City Board of Education Website）
Available from: After 4:30 p.m. on November 13th (Fri.)

If the Number of Applicants Exceeds Capacity

Public Lottery
- **Date and Time:** November 18th (Wed.), 3:00 p.m.
- **Venue:** Conference Room 201, North Building, Higashihiroshima City Hall

If Not Selected:
(A waiting-list position will be assigned.)
If vacancies arise, applicants may be offered admission according to their waiting-list position.

Waiting-List Admissions
If a vacancy occurs, admission may be offered to applicants on the waiting list.

If the Number of Applicants Does Not Exceed Capacity
- Admission is confirmed without a lotterv.

If Selected:
- Admission is confirmed.

Receive the Notice of Admission Approval
- The Instruction Division will send a *Notice of Admission Approval* together with an *Admission Registration Form* and other required documents.
- Complete the required paperwork.

If You Wish to Decline Admission

Contact the Instruction Division by Phone
Deadline: November 20th (Fri.), 4:00 p.m.　**Tel**: 082-420-0976

Submit Admission Registration Documents
Submission Period: November 19th (Thu.) to November 27th (Fri.)
- Applicants in the Multicultural Category are required to participate in a parent-child interview (approximately 30 minutes) when submitting their admission documents.

Orientation for Newly Enrolled Global Class Students
Date: Afternoon of January 29th (Fri.)　**Venue:** Takamigaoka Elementary School

Start of the Global Class
Students will begin the Global Class program upon entering elementary school in April 2027.