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The path that the vice principal has walked



The student who interviewed and Ms. Katsumi Maeoka

We interviewed Katsumi Maeoka, who has supported many students at Nakamura since 1993. She has taught Japanese and has also served as vice principal. We chose to interview Maeoka because she has worked at Nakamura for many years and has a friendly and approachable personality.

We asked Maeoka why she wanted to become a teacher and about her experiences as a teacher. She told us that she had admired teachers since she was a child. Although she was very shy at the time, seeing teachers teaching lively and enthusiastically in front of their students made her think, "I want to become a teacher, too." On the first day she stood in front of a class as a teacher, she was so nervous that she could hardly hear her own voice. Even so, she continued her career as a teacher because of her students.

She says that the most rewarding part of being a teacher is seeing students move on to the future they have chosen. Maeoka said, "The students at Nakamura are truly wonderful." She is often inspired by their ability to listen carefully to others and their willingness to keep learning.

Things She Struggled With

When Maeoka was a student, she was not good at sports. However, she tried volleyball and tennis in college. With encouragement from the people around her, she gradually began to enjoy them.

Because of this experience, her advice to students who struggle with their studies is especially meaningful. She says, "The things you struggle with have the greatest potential for growth." Instead of avoiding something because it is difficult, she believes it is important to give it a try, even for just five or ten minutes.

Maeoka herself struggled with math, but by studying a little every morning, she eventually experienced the joy of being able to solve problems.

What She Wants High School Students to Learn

Finally, when we asked what she wants high school students to develop during their high school years, she said, "Read lots of books." Her words, "Developing the ability to think through reading will become a valuable asset for your future," left a strong impression on us.

Maeoka has watched over the growth of many students throughout her career. Her warm words showed how deeply she cares about her students. Keeping her words, "The things you struggle with have the greatest potential for growth," in our minds, we also want to challenge ourselves in many different ways.

By Akari Ban,Miko Saito, Miri Yamaguchi, Kaho Miyashita, Haruka Umemura, Kiki Tanabe, Koyori Miyairi, Ayano Hiyoshi, Yumika Shinagawa, Rin Onishi

New teachers who chose lively Nakamura

We asked a few questions to Kawano Hanaka, Hirota Junpei, and Kawa Takuya, who joined Nakamura this fiscal year.

Q1: Why did you choose Nakamura?

Ms. Kawano: There's a warm atmosphere between students and teachers.

Mr. Hirota: Because it was a lively, bustling, fun and cheerful school. I found out by looking at the homepage.

Mr. Kawa: Someone introduced me to it.

While the answers varied among the teachers, it became clear that the positive atmosphere and appeal of the school were the main reasons for choosing Nakamura.



From the left, they are Ms. Kawano, Mr. Hirota and Mr. Kawa.

Q2: Things I liked about coming to Nakamura.

Ms. Kawano: Students answer questions and participate in class.

Mr. Hirota: Quoridor. It is the library in Nakamura.

Mr. Kawa: Not only students but also teachers enjoy it.

Teachers value both the lively school atmosphere and the students' active joyful participation.

Q3: What are the qualities of Nakamura students?

Ms. Kawano: The students often greet the teacher, if they know them. The students often notice changes in the teachers.

Mr. Hirota: The students are obedient because the school motto is part of who they are.

Q4: Exciting events,fun events

Ms. Kawano: The dance club at the Kiyosumi Festival

Mr. Hirota: Athletic Festival

Mr. Kawa: Kiyosumi Festival

Although the teachers' responses varied, we found that all of them enjoyed or looked forward to events where teachers and students worked as one.

By Sumire Nakamura, Kyoka Yamazaki, Rinon Ishikawa, Saki Kitamura, Towa Kitamura, Yuina Toda, Kano Takizawa, Chisato Sakata and Sena Sakata

STUDENT EVENTS

More than the victory



The Red Team performs during the cheer competition

The effort and teamwork behind the Red Team

In May, Nakamura's Sports Day was held. One of the event's special features is the "Cheering Competition." Each team, led mainly by sixth-year students, creates a seven-minute story based on a theme of its choosing, and performs it through dancing and acting.

This year, the Red Team won the competition with the theme "Taiji," which means "facing yourself." I interviewed Jun Matsunaga, the leader of the Red Team.


Red Team captain Jun Matsunaga

What did you put the most effort into and what was difficult about preparing for the Cheering Competition?

We worked really hard on the fan and umbrella parts. We wanted to make them look beautiful, so we paid close attention to the movements. The most difficult part was bringing the younger students together. Some of them were not good at dancing and we did not have much time, so I tried to make sure that everyone could perform together smoothly.

After finishing your final Sports Day, what kind of experience was it for you?

It was the best. Everyone had given up some of their study time to practice, so I felt that I had to make all of our efforts worthwhile. I was nervous because the Red Team performed first. However, my classmates encouraged me and we were able to win. I was really happy about that.

What message would you like to give to the younger students?

The sixth-year Sports Day was really challenging and sometimes I even wondered why I had become the team leader. However, in the end, it will definitely become a wonderful memory, so I want them to give it their best and have no regrets.

After hearing Matsunaga's thoughts, I learned about the preparation process and the ideas behind the performance. It made me realize how important it is for everyone to work together and feel that they are creating something as a team. I hope that in the future all the students will continue to work together to create a truly memorable Cheering Competition.

By Yuri Koshikawa, Iroha Kodama, Alice Miura, Kurumi Tokubuchi, Mie Matsubayashi, Kaho Miyamura, Hanna Kondo, Yuzuki Nakahara, and Haruna Fujii

Nakamura Oyaji-no-Kai

"I'm sure everyone has heard of PTAs, or Parent-Teacher Associations. But what about Oyaji-no-Kai and the work it does to support the students and staff at Nakamura Gakuen. Let's take a look at the role Nakamura's Oyaji-no-Kai plays in school life, including the Oyaji-land special event at the Kiyosumi Festival. Nakamura Oyaji-no-Kai, literally "Fathers' Club" or "Dads'Club,"is the official fathers'association of Nakamura Junior & Senior Girls' High School. It is a group of parents (some 400 strong) who work to support students and staff, with the aim of making school life better. They usually meet once a month, and their involvement includes cleaning the school campus, setting up and assisting at school ceremonies, festivals and open days, and offering general support throughout the school year.

We interviewed three members of the Oyaji-no-Kai.

Q: What is the best part of your work?

A: We love to see the students smile. The members want to make students and parents happy. Preparing for the school events is hard work. But the Oyaji-no-Kai members work tirelessly to bring a smile to the students' faces.

Q2: The school environment

A: Parents often find it difficult to stay involved with school life after their children graduate. At Nakamura Gakuen, the Oyaji-no-Kai provides a way to remain connected to the school. The students look responsible and independent during school events. Seeing the students' dedication deeply moves the volunteers.

The members have a message for new parents. Some people think a parents' group is hard work or that such groups are too formal. But the Nakamura Oyaji-no-Kai is very casual.Members often go out for drinks after their meetings. So, new parents do not need to worry. All members have jobs. So joining events or cleanups is completely optional. The activities also give parents a chance to support the school community. The Oyaji-no-Kai welcomes everyone.



Oyaji-no-kai members PHOTO BY JYOZI SUGIMURA

Lastly, let's talk about Oyaji-land, the group's special event at the Kiyosumi Festival. Oyaji-land is held every year in the e-room on the first floor of the New Building. Visitors can play various games, including target shooting (100 yen), the banana game and reaction games. There are many kinds of prizes and everyone gets a participation prize, so everyone wins something at Oyaji-land. Oyaji-land is very popular among the Nakamura Gakuen students.The event is very exciting and loud. You can certainly hear students enjoying themselves at Oyaji-land. The event is just another example of how Oyaji-no-Kai always works hard for the students at Nakamura.

By Ran Kikuchi, Mio Shibata, Yurina Taguchi, Sarasa Takizawa, Nao Kubota, Minako Furuya, Shiori Morisaki, Aya Furuya

STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Power of the Kiyosumi Festival

Nakamura's Kiyosumi Festival is an important event for the school's students, and it can be a deciding factor for some candidates considering entering the school. Just what is the drawing power of the Kiyosumi Festival? We conducted a questionnaire among students and based on the results, we summarized what they enjoyed at the festival and what they would like to change.

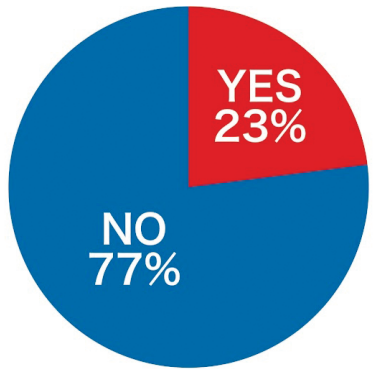
We asked about popular performance 72 out of 90 respondents (80.0%) cited "each class's performance," and almost all the students had experienced the festival. Next, in order of popularity, came "club activities" (35 respondents, 38.9%) and "food and drink(16 respondents, 17.8%)," and many students enjoyed these, and there were other voices that mentioned "decorations in the school," "seeing the seniors' show" and "after-darkfestival."



Introduction to the Kiyosumi Festival

Insights from Your Voices

On the other hand, only about 23% of the total answered "yes" to the question "Is there anything new you want at the Kiyosumi Festival?" while about 77% of the students answered "no." Although many students are satisfied with the current it, new requests have also been received. In addition, there were voices that wanted a relaxation of the rules on makeup and the dress code during the festival, as well as what can be brought into the festival, especially smartphone use, and "miseinenn no syuchou " limited to the day, and the desire to make the Kiyosumi Festival more exciting from the perspective of each student wasconveyed. The opportunities to participate beyond the boundaries of grades and club activities suggest ways to strengthen the connection between the Kiyosumi Festival and students, and enrich the annual event from next year onward.



Do you have request for the Kiyosumi Festival?

By Kana Sengoku,Yuzuha Kinose, Airi Suzuki, Riko Nakagawa, Yuzuki Sasaki, Kaho Harada, Zushi Kanon, and Akina Tsuji

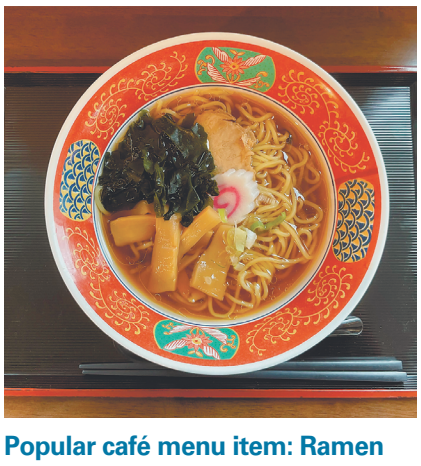
Kiyosumi Festival's café menu

Every year, our school holds a cultural festival called the "Kiyosumi Festival."

The festival, which always attracts large crowds, features various events organized by each class and club. Among these events, the festival café where visitors can enjoy the menu from the café that's usually open on campus is a popular attraction every year. We interviewed Mr. Hariu, a Japanese teacher, about this year's recommended menu items and special features. He is the chair prson of the Kiyosumi Festival committee and is also in charge of the café menu. Last year, there were three items on the menu: curry (550 yen), soy sauce ramen (550 yen) and udon (500 yen).



Popular café menu item: Curry rice



Popular café menu item: Ramen

According to Mr. Hariu, these popular menu items are also served on regular school days and are enjoyed by many people. We were told that all the menu items were very popular last year and quickly sold out. We were also told that these items are on the cultural festival menu because they can be served quickly so that many visitors can enjoy a hot meal.

This year, as in previous years, the three "favorites" curry, soy sauce ramen and udon will be available.

However, prices may be subject to change due to rising costs. Meal tickets can be purchased at the reception desk in the new building. Once your number is called over the PA on the first floor of the building, customers can pick up their meal. In addition, the café plans to increase the number of staff to reduce congestion and it is also reportedly considering introducing cashless payment options.



Mr. Hariu, Chairperson of the Kiyosumi Festival Exective Committee

One of the main attractions of the Kiyosumi Festival Café is that you can enjoy popular dishes that are usually available at school in the special atmosphere of the cultural festival. Preparations are underway to make sure that as many people as possible can enjoy the café this year. We hope you will visit the Kiyosumi Festival, enjoy the delicious food and experience the lively atmosphere that can only be found at a school festival.

By Rio Fukazawa, Yua Tanaka, Ella Chen Martland, Mei Abe, Miou Kimoto, Mako Enoki, Ayane Nakazawa, Yui Sakai, and Nagisa Hirano

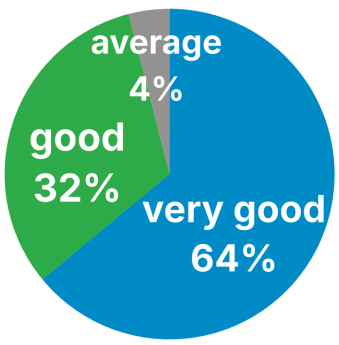
STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Investigating First-Year Students Café Experiences

In May, a café experience was held for first-year students, and we dropped in to ask them what they thought about the experience and what they found attractive about the café.

Café Experience

The students had fun eating and chatting with their friends. Outside the usual formality of the classroom, they were able to enjoy a meal together. Every table was filled with fun and laughter.



Answers to "What did you think about the café menu?"

Many students enjoyed talking with their friends while eating. They also liked the relaxed atmosphere of the cafe. Some students said that they wanted to try different meals next time

What Did Students Think?

In the online survey, we asked, "What did you think about the café menu?" and about 64% of the students answered "very good" while 32% answered "good."

When we also asked how often they want to use the café, more than half of the students said, "I want to use it again."

Impressions from first-graders

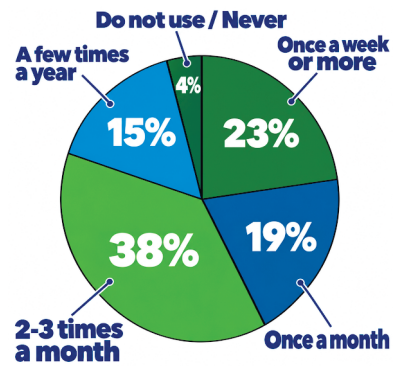
Some students said it was fun to eat together with everyone.

Others said it didn't cost much to eat as much as they wanted.

And it was convenient when they forgot their lunch. Also,



First-year students enjoying their meals Photo by Mari Furuhashi



many students felt it was a good to have a balanced meal and that there were many good opinions.

We asked first - year junior high school students how often they go to café. About 60% of them go regulary, especially "2-3 times a month"(38%) and more than once a week"(23%). From this survey, we can see that the café is familiar place for many students.

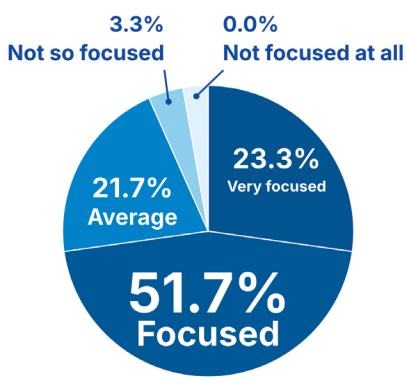
What We Found

From the results of the questionarie, we realized that many first-year students are really satisfied with the café. It is not only a place where students can enjoy delicious food, but also where students can relax with their friends. It will be open during the Kiyosumi Festival in October, so please feel free to pop in!

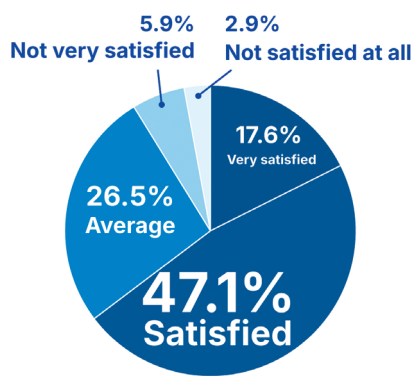
By Rino Nakayama, Ayane Hatai, Lily Komatsu, Rikako Nakagawa, Ai Ou, Rio Kawata, Lisa Martland, Yumiri Ohira, and Haruna Yamaura

The Study Camp for high school students

Nakamura High School offers a study camp. It is four nights and five days of intense study, concentration and hard work. It is held in Makuhari in late July for high school students in the Advanced Course, and those in the Inquiry and International Course who wish to participate. During the camp, students spend their days studying from 8:00 a.m. until as late as 11:35 p.m. They are divided by each grade level and academic track (humanities or sciences) to attend classes and engage in self-study, building the foundation for their summer studies.



How focused were you?



How satisfied were you?

Survey results

Among the students who participated in this year's Study Camp, about 70% reported being able to concentrate and 65% expressed satisfaction with the program, which is an indication that the Study Camp is highly regarded by students. Furthermore, it is evident that student attitudes toward studying changed before and after participation, including increased motivation and less resistance to studying. Regarding the question, "What items do you recommend bringing for this program?"

Many students said, it was pretty cold because of the air conditioning, so they suggested bringing a jacket. Also, there were a lot of opinions about study supplies. Therefore, we hope this survey will help future participants.



During the studying at the Study Camp. PHOTO BY RIN YOSHIMINE

Interview to Yuki Nagano

Yuki Nagano, who is the director of the Study Camp, stated that the greatest benefit of this program is that participants can experience studying 10 hours a day for a university entrance exam in the first and second years of high school. He also mentioned that this experience can bolster their motivation not only for the period of the camp but also for the whole of the summer holidays. However, he told us that one disadvantage is that some students stop studying after finishing the camp because they are satisfied with their studies. Therefore, he said that it is important to make use of this experience. Also, he wants students to work on their studies effectively during the self-study times. Moreover, from his perspective, students have to get enough sleep, and concentrate on their studies while resisting the temptation to use social media and talk with their friends.

In conclusion, we learned that the Study Camp provides valuable opportunities not only for developing the ability to study but also for developing a willingness to learn independently and strengthen one's powers of concentration.

By Kanon Asano, Miwa Ogiwara, Nonoka Shibasaki, Yuna Nozawa, Jyuka Harada, Asumi Matsunaga, Maya Takayanagi, and Koa Fujishiro