

Craft Design, which gives me insight into my future

Tochigi Prefectural Ashikaga High School 3rd year Manami Goto

January, 2025

Did you know that the motif of our school's emblem is "Pistacia chinensis Bunge", which symbolizes the tree of academia? Without this class, it would have been hard for me to completely find pride in my school, and even my Japanese identity. The following is an explanation of my experiences in the elective art class "Craft Design" and what I have learned from it.

1. Craft Design: An elective subject in the third year that gives students an authentic experience.

Craft Design is an engaging class taught by Mr. Noguchi, where students can learn about Japanese culture by experiencing the genuine beauty of traditional Japanese crafts. This class aims to develop students' knowledge of our country's culture and to help them share it with people from other countries.

2. What I learned in Craft Design

I tried indigo dyeing, making a wooden spoon and making traditional Japanese paper from scratch. By listening to, watching, and working with real materials, I have gained profound knowledge in an authentic way. I learned that taking care of plants by our hands was vital to make the best paper. I was surprised to see the growth of Kozo plants every week. I also learned that the spirit of Japanese towards crafts was sophisticated and thought I needed to keep it in my mind. In conclusion, Craft Design is beneficial for students who seek not only to deepen their knowledge of Japanese craftsmanship but also to make new discoveries within themselves, preparing them to venture out into the world beyond Ashikaga City.

