

## **High School: Japan vs. America**

*Written by Mr. Bill*

Good morning, UNAN! Today is Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

There are many differences between public high school in Japan and public high school in America. To be honest, I think there are more differences than similarities. First of all, the school year in Japan starts in April and ends in March. However, in America, the school year starts in September and ends in June. Summer vacation in Japan is about one month long, but during this break students often come to school for club activities or team practice. In America, summer vacation is two months long, and students and teachers do not go to school during this time.

Another difference is that high school in Japan is three years long, from age 15 to 18. But in America, high school is four years long, from age 14 to 18. High schools in America are also relatively large compared to those in Japan. For example, UNAN has about 960 students. On the other hand, the high school that I graduated from in New York City had about 3,400 students. However, class sizes in America are smaller than class sizes in Japan. In Japan, there are 40 students in one class, while there are about 30 in American classrooms.

The biggest difference is how students take classes. In Japan, students stay in their homerooms with the same classmates all day. They clean, eat, and study in their homerooms, and teachers move from classroom to classroom to teach their lessons. However, in America, each teacher has his or her own classroom where they stay for most of the day. The students are the ones who travel to different classrooms throughout the day, and each class is made up of a different group of students. Therefore, every student has an individual schedule.

While there are many more differences between high school in Japan and America, one thing is the same. Being in high school is like being a part of a family, where teachers and students work together to help prepare them for their futures. It is a place for students to learn and grow academically and individually.

