

# America Long-term Study Abroad Program Resumes



It has been 3 months since I arrived in America. As I enjoy my days here, the thing I value most is the time I spend with my host family.

Right after we started school, the school closed down for a while, which was a tough experience for me. But through it all my host family has been so supportive, giving me many reasons to smile. Even when I hesitate to tell them how I actually feel, when I decide to be brave and speak up, they are kind and accepting. They really treat me like family. Honoring each other's opinions and having a thankful attitude is so important.

I am looking forward to growing more.

Haruna Takahashi (Becky) Tennessee



My time at school in Florida started three weeks ago, and every day seems to have something exciting and new to discover. School starts at 7:20 AM and finishes at 2:20 PM. Each class is taught in a different classroom, with some classes mixing students from different grade levels, and I love all the interaction with different people. In our cooking class, most of the class is a year or two younger than me, and people thought I was their age. In PE, we always train with weights in the training room with a teacher supervising. The classes here are so different from Japan, and I am having a lot of fun.

Kyoka Wada (Brenda) Florida



The America Long-term Study Abroad program was postponed last year for six students due to conditions caused by Covid-19 in America and Japan and because of prohibitions on travel. However, they were finally able to depart for their designated destinations along with two more students for this year (Haru Takahira and Miyu Takano).

Current government policies required them to begin their time in America with a two-week quarantine at their host homes, and there are many other situations requiring extra patience from the students compared to a typical study abroad experience. Nevertheless, the students are enjoying their time at school and interacting with the residents of the eight different states they are located in, from Minnesota in the north to Florida in the south.

The selection process for the next program starting in summer 2022 is already underway, and the MeySen Study Abroad Program will continue despite the challenges of Covid-19.

## AWAY WE LEARN Face to Face with Business Sponsors

Last July, MeySen invited members of businesses whose donations have funded the scholarships for the A Way We Learn program for a face-to-face meeting with the students. This school year saw 80 companies support the growth of MeySen students who will be going out into different parts of the globe.



A list of supporting businesses can be found here



## Bible verse

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (ESV)

聖書



## MeySen's Core Values

In this series, we introduce the values and ideas that we share and esteem among all of our staff.

Part 2

## Integrity & Truth

Speaking Truth and Serving Faithfully



Principal Daniel Fanger

In this issue, I will introduce our second core value: *integrity*. We summarized this concept in four practical points, so the teachers can better apply it to their work:

### 1. Be honest, even when honesty is not easy

We are easily tempted to not be completely honest when reporting, to be deceptive, or tell the story partially, leaving out details that make us look bad, but this is not pleasing to God. God wants us to be honest in our communication. Take courage, be honest, and apologize. This will prevent you from making the same mistake again, and cause people to trust you.

It is also not pleasing to God for us to turn a blind eye when we observe something wrong in a person. Think about how you would want to be addressed, and with kindness and gentleness, address them about it with the purpose of helping them.

*Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.* (Proverbs 12:19, 22)

### 2. Love righteousness and keep away from things that are evil and perverse

We human beings tend to do things to benefit ourselves even when we know something is not right. We also are less likely to do something good when it does not directly benefit us. However, God is not pleased with this kind of attitude.

Success is short lived for people and businesses when things are not right before God, even though at times it may seem like things are going well for them. Injustice will eventually be brought to light, causing the ones involved to lose credibility. The more we try and hide or make excuses, the more trust we will lose. Do not be tempted by the momentary gain or loss

that is right in front of you. True success comes from living right before God.

*The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.* (Proverbs 11:3)

*No one is established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved.* (Proverbs 12:3)

### 3. Using a "just measure" / being faithful

The Bible talks about a "just measure." It is used in two ways, one being "to judge or evaluate someone fairly," and the second, "doing a fair job."

*You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.* (Leviticus 19:15)

It also means the following: when evaluating someone, do so fairly and without discrimination. Remember that you will be judged according to the same standard you use with others, so do not be quick to criticize. When correcting another's mistake, do so with mercy and truthfulness.

*A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.* (Proverbs 11:1)

In ancient times, people used scales or a balance for weighing goods they were selling, so they would receive the correct amount. The Bible teaches not to use unbalanced scales as a trick or scam.

At MeySen, we often talk to our staff about giving back more to our students than what was paid for in tuition, more than a "just weight." When parents entrust us with their children, we not only meet their expectations, but do all we

can to exceed their expectations. We believe this too is pleasing to God.

### 4. Let the thoughts of our hearts, our words, and our actions be pleasing to God

The God of heaven, our creator, knows everything about us. Even when no one else sees or knows what we do, he knows all of our words, our thoughts, and the motivations of our hearts. Even if our dishonesty and lies remain hidden from people, we will one day face God to give an account. Be mindful of this, and act in a way that is pleasing to God every day.

*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.* (Proverbs 15:3)

*The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

I encourage all of you to think on these four things and apply them to your life. Be completely honest and forthcoming, even when it does not benefit you. Deal with others' faults in a gentle and kind manner, thinking about how they would best receive it. Do not participate in evil (speaking badly about others, bullying, deceiving, stealing, or any type of wrongful behavior.) Remember that God knows everything in our hearts, and live pleasing to him. When you are asked to do a job, do not just reluctantly do the minimum, but offer up the best quality work you can. If we can do these things, we will not only save ourselves trouble and sadness, but also give pleasure to God and to the people around us. Let us live lives of integrity.



MeySen Academy Newsletter フレンズ

No.196  
AUTUMN  
2021  
ENGLISH EDITION



Cover: On Father's Open House, you will hear children calling out to their fathers everywhere: "Papa! This way," or, "Let's have lunch, dad!" It is a special day for K4 and K5 students when they can have time with their fathers who generally are unable to attend Kindergarten events due to their busy schedule.

Published by: MeySen Academy Schools  
www.meysen.ac.jp  
Publication Date: October 19, 2021



Friends is the MeySen Academy newsletter and publishes the latest news on everything that is happening at MeySen Academy, from Kangaroo Club to High School and MeySen Alumni. You can read it on our website too.

## Message from an Alumna

Takamori Icho Class teacher  
Ms  
Hinano Haraguchi  
Takamori 37th Graduating Class



My name is Hinano Haraguchi, and I am the homeroom teacher for this year's Icho class at Takamori. I graduated from Takamori Friends Club, went on the America Study Trip in 8th grade, and continued at MeySen through high school.

When I was in 5th grade and my little brother was born, I started thinking about becoming a kindergarten teacher. I always loved little children, and taking care of my

little brother and playing with him gave me a sense of joy and satisfaction. When I was considering which career options would be the most fulfilling, I heard about my aunt wanting to become a childcare worker. This inspired me to pursue becoming an educator, but when I was struggling in trying to decide how to proceed, I remembered how much fun I had at MeySen and the very kind smiles of my teachers at the time. I naturally began to

desire to be in that same position myself, to be a teacher and give back what I had received.

There are days when I feel disappointed at my lack of expertise, but the students help me daily with their energy and smiles. As I continue working here, I want to be able to encourage these bright, open-minded young ones in their abundant possibilities, be inspired along with them, and enable them to have new experiences.

Takamori Nara Class teacher  
Ms  
Chiharu Kikuchi



Ms Chiharu was my K4 teacher



▲ With friends and leaders on the last day of the Island Lake Camp during the America Study Trip in 8th grade

# Fantastic Fall at MeySen!

Though the last few years have brought longer summers and shorter autumn seasons, one can sense the arrival of fall: the cooler breeze in the morning and evenings, the noise of the autumn insects, or even seeing the fresh caught saury (a type of fish) being sold at the grocery stores.

We hope you are enjoying this short but beautiful season in nature with all of the sights, sounds, and smells it brings. Enjoy the fall events at MeySen too: the sweet potato dig, the bonfire, Thanksgiving party, and Jamboree!

Kids digging up sweet potatoes



Premier School roasting sweet potatoes at the Bonfire



Friends Club and Premier Elementary younger grades' Jamboree



## MeySen Students Excel at English Contest

On September 11, the screening for the 10th St. Ursula Eichi School English Contest was held by St. Ursula High School. The contest was held by video to prevent the spread of Covid-19, so students were not able to speak in front of an audience. Five MeySen students were chosen to enter the main contest out of 58 candidates that had passed the preliminary.

Recitation gives students the opportunity to develop and strengthen their ability to focus, as well as helping them build confidence to speak in front of an audience.

MeySen students, the 2021 school year is already half gone. Let's continue to have fun, stay confident, and hold on to our goals—not only for English studies but also for sports, music, and each of our personal areas of interest.

### Grand Prix Winners

I feel like all of my work and study has been recognized and it makes me so happy.

I'll keep on studying English.



**Ursula Eichi Award**  
Shion Saito (Ariel)  
Maruyama Premier 6B



**Tohoku Broadcasting Award**  
Luna Koizumi (Luna)  
Maruyama Friends Club 4th Grade

Airi Miyazaki (Madison)  
Maruyama Friends Club 2nd Grade



First Prize in Recitation Division B

Sakura Ito (Sue)  
Maruyama High School 9th Grade



First Prize in Recitation Division C

Kaon Kudo (Jill)  
Takamori Premier 6B



Special Supporter Award

I would like to introduce my Friends Club teacher, Mr. Judah. Mr. Judah plays with us a lot during play time before Friends Club. When we play tag, we run as fast as we can, but Mr. Judah still catches us—he's so fast! When he teaches us in class, he is easy to understand, and even though I am not good at English, class is a lot of fun. Sometimes he uses dinosaur or animal toys to make us laugh.

Mr. Judah is very athletic and can even do backflips! I want to be like Mr. Judah.



Yuto Tatsumi (Spencer)  
Maruyama Friends Club 2nd Grade

## My teacher

My class teacher, Ms. Casey, is funny and kind. When we don't understand something in class, Ms. Casey takes time to explain it to us. She also plays quizzes and games with us in class, and we have a lot of fun learning.

Ms. Casey was my teacher in 4th Grade too, and I am excited have another year with Ms. Casey as my teacher.

Rino Ito (Samantha)  
Takamori Friends Club 6th Grade



## Literary Activities at MeySen Kindergarten

Building students' literary skills by introducing kanji in sentences

If you take a look inside a classroom at MeySen, you may be surprised at the amount of writing in kanji you find. At MeySen Kindergarten, rather than simplifying words into phonetic kana, teachers present words in their kanji written form to students, the same way they would be used by adults. On the white board, you will often see terms written in kanji such as *rules*, *hydration* in the summer, or *joint-practice* before events.

For beginning readers, words are generally spelled in hiragana, which only convey sound and not meaning. But young children actually enjoy learning kanji, which convey meaning and have interesting shapes. They are not required to write them, but through daily use and exposure they quickly learn to read kanji. Sentences read in the Kindergarten such as the words to songs or Bible verses are written including the kanji and kana. For example, writing, "MeySen is fun" in kanji [明泉は楽しい] is much easier to read than writing it entirely in hiragana [めい・せ・ん・は・たの・し・し], which is what would normally be written for children. The second must be sounded

out individually, while the first, written in kanji, conveys the meaning immediately and smoothly. Through reading kanji and kana combined in writing, kindergarten students learn reading comprehension in the same way as adults, gaining kanji reading and comprehension skills at the same time.

MeySen has created its own picture books combining kanji and kana in writing, and without phonetic kana written above the kanji as a reading crutch (a general practice in Japanese books written for children). Students read one book a month, learning literary skills while having fun.



Picture book learning material created with kanji and kana combined in the writing



Vice Principal Jun Tsuji

## Friends Square Presentation Ceremony

The new hall, Friends Square, at Maruyama campus was finished in March of last year, and after a year and a half of postponement, a presentation ceremony was finally held on September 25. Ms. Yuko Yoneda, who has been involved with "Choir Largo," MeySen's choir circle, was asked to MC the event. Ms. Yoneda's report on the completion of Friends Square was followed with moving musical performances by tenor Junichi Sato, and soprano Ryuko Iwase, both of whom are familiar faces at MeySen.

One of the alumni who attended the ceremony

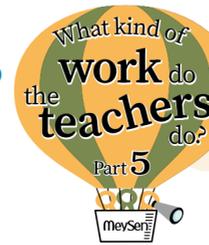
commented, "This reminded me of how much love and care I received during my time at kindergarten and elementary school, and it made me feel very happy. I want the next generation to have this same experience, and would like to help MeySen keep caring for children like I was cared for."

The ceremony was an especially heart-felt and warming experience for everyone who attended, particularly in the midst of the pressure and anxiety brought on by the situation with Covid-19.

※Those who donated towards the building of Friends Square were invited to the ceremony



Speech by John Broman, Chairman of the Board, expressing gratitude to all in attendance



## Introducing MeySen's English Department Support Team

### A year in the English Department Support Team

#### October - January

New teachers arrive in Japan to prepare for work in the new school year (beginning in April), and start living in Sendai. It is a busy time of the year assisting the teachers with their visa applications and preparing their apartments, welcoming them when they arrive at the airport, and assisting them with their living needs.

Christmas is an important time of the year for the English staff to be with family. The Support teachers help them with purchasing flight tickets and applying for re-entry permits when they return to their country for the holidays.



▲ Preparing the apartment for a new teacher

#### February - March

It takes time to adjust to living in a new country and experiencing Japanese culture and ways, and sometimes teachers get sick because of the change in environment, or get the flu during flu season. Support teachers help the English staff with hospital and clinic visits, sometimes even several times in a day.

It is also the busiest time of the year, as some English teachers who are retiring and returning to their home country will need help with moving arrangements and leaving Japan.



▲ Showing the new teachers around the campus that arrived in September. Mr. Josh was teaching English at Takamori Friends Club until last year, but now works as part of the English Department Support Team.

#### April - September

The teachers clean and sort through the appliances after the English teachers have moved out, as well as help with arranging trips to return to their country or relocating inside of Japan.

### From Josh DeVinney

One of the biggest parts of my job is my involvement in recruiting and helping our new teachers join their teams. For international applicants, I'm heavily involved in the interview process, and once they're hired, I work with them on preparing their work visas and anything else that is involved in them moving to Japan. I arrange to give our new teachers the best arrival experience possible, which starts with meeting them at the airport, and continues on with multiple tours and orientations as they adjust to their departments, the school, and Japan as a whole.

I love my job because I can really help support the teachers, and the school as a whole, so we can create a great experience for our students!



From left to right: Josh DeVinney, Shigeharu Sakuma (Robert, Takamori Friends Club 24th Graduating Class), Megumi Link, Rumi Fegan (Rosa, Takamori Friends Club 23rd Graduating Class)

Having experienced living and working abroad ourselves, we want to support the teachers that come from abroad to work at MeySen in a way so that, as much as possible, their life in Japan is comfortable, and they can stay for a long time.

▲ Mr. Sakuma helps teachers to obtain their Japanese driving license, checking the sites for Premier School events and making reservations, as well as managing the schedule on event days.

## MeySen Academy Website Update

In September, MeySen's website was given a whole new look. Take a look at pictures from the air capturing the nature-rich campus and enthusiastic students.



www.meysen.ac.jp

