Ritsumeikan
Junior and
Senior High School

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Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School was founded in 1905. With over a century of continuous education at Ritsumeikan, we liken our instruction to an illuminating spirit shining bright into our students’ lives. We encourage them to be vigorous and purposeful in their study, so each individual is able to fulfill his or her destiny. After World War II, we built a new school with “freedom and innovation” as the school motto and “peace and democracy” as our educational philosophy. Currently, we are establishing our own distinctive character, such as strengthening our integrated school system from primary school to university, and implementing international education. Since 2002, we have been designated as a Super Science High School (SSH) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. We continue to be dedicated to the research and development of science education. In addition, we are working on more advanced challenges in the internationalization in this field, for example, by hosting an International Science Fair. Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School has had 40,000 graduates since its inception and it is continually growing with a present student body of approximately 1,700 students. My desire is for this school to educate many students who foster and follow the spirit of the founder of the school, Mr. Kojuro Nakagawa, so they will be able to contribute greatly to their society and the international community in the future.

A Message from the Principal, Mr. Hiroshi Tanaka

Ritsumeikan, as an institute of education and research, pledges to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development in Japan and throughout the world, in keeping with the spirit of this Charter.

Ritsumeikan, as a Japanese institution located in the Asia Pacific region, is committed to sincerely reflecting upon its history and to building an institution where many cultures coexist in the spirit of international mutual understanding. Ritsumeikan will build relationships of trust, through research and education, as well as sports and cultural activities, and establish its roots in the local community, to create an academic institution open to international society. Ritsumeikan will strive to strengthen links with society and promote its institutional development by fully utilizing the characteristics of a private academic institution, the participation of its faculty, staff and students, and the support of alumni and parents, while respecting the principles of autonomy, democracy, transparency, non-violence and justice.

Ritsumeikan will pursue the creation of universal values based on academic freedom and search for solutions to the pressing issues facing humankind, with its educational endeavors based on its founding spirit and educational ideals, bearing in mind “to believe in the future, to live for the future.” Ritsumeikan will foster learning and the development of individual talents in order to nurture just and ethical global citizens. Ritsumeikan, as a Japanese institution located in the Asia Pacific region, is committed to sincerely reflecting upon its history and to building an institution where many cultures coexist in the spirit of international mutual understanding. Ritsumeikan will build relationships of trust, through research and education, as well as sports and cultural activities, and establish its roots in the local community, to create an academic institution open to international society.

Ritsumeikan Charter

Ritsumeikan traces its roots to Prince Saionji’s private academy of the same name, established in 1869. It was officially founded in 1900 by his protégé, Kojuro Nakagawa, as the Kyoto Hosei Gakko (Kyoto School of Law and Politics), later to take on the name “Ritsumeikan”. The name is derived from a passage in the JInxin chapter of the Discourses of Mencius, and means “a place to establish one’s destiny through cultivating one’s mind.” Ritsumeikan’s founding ideals are “freedom and innovation” and reflecting upon its wartime experience, it committed itself to a core educational philosophy of “peace and democracy” after World War II. Ritsumeikan has faced the challenges of the times by pursuing an independent path to rise above adversity and has become the comprehensive private educational institution that it is today through extensive cooperation and support from both within and outside Japan.

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Ritsumeikan Junior High School is committed not only to achieving academic excellence but also strives to help students reach their full potential athletically, artistically and honorably through various school events and extra-curricular activities. By being engaged in the learning environment and seeking a deeper awareness of the global community around them, students will discover their future goals.

Senior High School

A course that provides solid basic academic skills, with the “ability to learn independently” which is helpful when applied to academic studying.

Integrated Course

A course that provides graduates from the Ritsumeikan Primary School with the means to develop higher academic skills, which will further enhance upon their rich learning that was acquired in primary school.

Advanced Course

A course that provides advanced level science and mathematics and focuses on preparing students wishing to pursue tertiary education in Medical Science. This will better enable them to compete for entry into universities with medical schools.

Ritsumeikan Junior High School is committed not only to achieving academic excellence but also strives to help students reach their full potential athletically, artistically and honorably through various school events and extra-curricular activities. By being engaged in the learning environment and seeking a deeper awareness of the global community around them, students will discover their future goals.

A course that further improves student development and acquisition of academic skills with their application in their formal studies.

Medical Science Course (MSC)

A course that supports students who have the goal of becoming physicians, pharmacists, and researchers in the medical world. Our goal is to enhance their ability to enter competitive medical/science and mathematics universities.

Global Learning Course (GLC)

*Starts in 2013. A course that promotes international education, world citizenship, and multicultural understanding. It will be offered for students who want to take active roles in the global society of the 21st century.

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A course that provides advanced level science and mathematics and focuses on preparing students wishing to pursue tertiary education in Medical Science. This will better enable them to compete for entry into universities with medical schools.

A course that fosters advanced science and mathematics learning in cooperation with the university, including international education through exchanges with science schools located overseas.

A course that promotes international education, world citizenship, and multicultural understanding. It will be offered for students who want to take active roles in the global society of the 21st century.

High school is a period for determining the path you will follow and fostering the necessary skills to reach your full potential. Students can choose from one of three courses offered: General, Super Science, and Global at Grade 11 or Medical Science at Grade 10. Ritsumeikan Senior High School is committed to seeing that their students strive for academic excellence, nurturing a deeper awareness of the international community by collaborating on different projects with students from around the world and building necessary interpersonal skills to develop the whole person in preparation for personal fulfillment and contribution to society.
With the slogan “from Ritsumeikan to the World” we act as a gateway into the world, we have been utilizing education to promote international understanding among visiting organizations, with the aim of cross cultural understanding, using local Kyoto culture as a foundation. In cooperation with the regional community, our main aim is to develop students with resources who will be able to enter the 21st century as cosmopolitans who possess solid language skills and strong leadership capabilities within the international community.

Students have many opportunities to participate in overseas programs such as the World Youth Meeting (WYM), Asian Students Exchange Program (ASEP) and exchanges with sister schools or short-term/exchange programs such as Youth for Understanding (YFU). American Field Service (AFS), Program of International Educational Exchange (PIEE) or Japan Foundation for Intercultural Exchange (JFIE). Students also participate with other local senior high schools in the Kansai High School Model United Nations held every June.

The Rits Mentor Program is our own volunteering organization that was organized with the intent of improving English proficiency and building leadership skills by providing care and hospitality to visitors and international students from overseas. The Volunteer Training Participation is where the best students from an in-house International Essay Contest are sent overseas to experience specific volunteering activities and to expand their international understanding.

We have established our Super Science Course with the intent of promoting advanced levels of science and mathematics abilities with the cooperation between the high school and Ritsumeikan University Biwako-Kusatsu Campus, as well as incorporating international exchanges. Our core focus is on mathematics and science, including the introduction of university level content. Collaborative lectures with Ritsumeikan University professors, starting with an “Introduction to the Most Advanced Scientific Research”, and “SR Center Training” will be conducted. Through this opportunity, high school students will become familiar with university campus life. Students participating in this program will be exposed to a university learning environment in order to encourage their curiosity and develop their understanding, so they may discover their own research themes. The students use private facilities at Ritsumeikan University Biwako-Kusatsu Campus, where they receive all kinds of inspiration, through the feeling of being in the most advanced research environment and university atmosphere. In addition, we hope they will broaden their personal outlook of the world after experiencing international exchange programs with other high school students from overseas.

Decision making skills and other problem solving techniques will be used to consider solutions to problems now facing humanity, such as environmental problems and bioethics. Such skills and techniques are required for future specialists of science and technology. We hope as they acquire the above skills and techniques, it will also instill firm ethical and moral values for both a local and global outlook.

Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School

Science & Math Education

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Overseas Partner Schools

- Australian Science and Mathematics School (Australia), Mahidol Wittayanusorn School (Thailand), Korea Science Academy of KAIST (Korea), The Affiliated High School of Peking University (China), The High School Affiliated to BeiHang University (China), NUS High School of Mathematics and Science (Singapore), Cumborne Science & International Academy (United Kingdom), Kaohsiung Senior High School (Taiwan), Fort Richmond Collegiate (Canada)
There are 13 sports-oriented clubs and 4 arts-oriented clubs for junior high school. Some junior high school students are allowed to participate in high school sports.

For the high school, there are 21 sports-oriented clubs, 6 arts-oriented clubs, and 2 special committees, whose activities strive to achieve high goals. Both schools share the same facilities to participate in activities.

Students develop lifelong friendships forged by participating in these activities throughout the year.
Established in April 2006. It is part of a 12 Year Education Program from primary school to university in conjunction with Ritsumeikan Junior High School and Senior High School. Rits Primary School offers a competitive curriculum and encourages its students to reach their full potential in a respective and supportive learning environment.

Due to our growth and success, Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School will be relocating to a new, state of the art campus in Nagaoka-kyo in Kyoto Prefecture in September 2014.