



# THE CRANE



## VALUES

### INTEGRITY

To foster honest, ethical behavior and high academic standards in students of all ages.

### GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

To develop empathy, intercultural understanding, and a sense of shared humanity, preparing them to contribute meaningfully anywhere in the world

### INCLUSION

Respect, and appreciation for diverse cultures and perspectives within a genuinely international environment



## January 2026



## PEACE



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear HIS Community,

Happy New Year, and welcome back to the second semester. I hope you had a good winter break and time to rest with family and friends. We are happy to begin learning together again.

A new semester is a good time to focus on growth. This term, we will continue using our PEACE statement in daily learning. This means creating positive and inclusive classrooms, engaging lessons, student responsibility, a strong community, and high standards for learning. You will see this in lessons, assessments, and how we support student well-being.

We are also working on feedback from our recent CIS and IB school visit. The visitors shared many positive things about our school, especially our caring community and focus on students. They also gave us ideas to improve, such as better curriculum planning, assessment, and using data to support learning. Our teachers and coordinators will work together on these goals, and we will share updates with families.

Belonging and student voice will continue to be very important. We want every student to feel safe, respected, and supported. Advisory time, counseling, and activities help with this. Please talk with your child about their goals for this semester and how we can work together to help them succeed.

Thank you for your support of Hiroshima International School. We look forward to a great semester of learning and community together.





## MESSAGE FROM PYP COORDINATOR

We were delighted to welcome students back to school after a relaxing winter break. January has been a positive and energetic start to the year, with students returning refreshed and ready to re-engage with their learning.

In Grade 1/2, students are learning about light and sound through hands-on activities. They made creative hand puppets to help show what they learned. Grade 3/4R shared their learning in a wonderful assembly. Students showed their multiplication skills, talked about their Unit of Inquiry, and performed role-plays about solving conflicts. It was great to see both learning and teamwork. Grade 5 students have started meeting guest speakers to prepare for the PYP Exhibition. These talks have been very interesting and helpful. Thank you to all guest speakers for supporting our students. EC/KG students are learning about celebrations in different cultures. They enjoyed sharing stories about holidays in Japan and other countries. Grade 3/4C students are also learning about solving problems peacefully and made posters to show their ideas.



We also had snowfall in January, which brought lots of fun and excitement, especially for younger students. As the weather stays cold, please make sure children dress warmly. If your child is sick, please keep them home until they feel better.

Student reports will be shared this month. These help families see learning progress and growth. If you have any questions, teachers are happy to talk with you.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with Hiroshima International School. We look forward to more learning together.



## MESSAGE FROM MYP COORDINATOR

It has been a busy month for MYP students as they finished projects, presentations, and assessments from Semester 1. Families can now view Semester 1 reports on Toddle. These reports show subject progress and include a student reflection. We encourage parents to read the reflection with their child and talk about teacher comments and next steps.

If you have questions about the reports, you are welcome to join our upcoming Coffee Morning (details coming soon). We will also hold Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences in the first week of March, which will be another good time to talk with teachers.

We are excited to start a new “Skills Practice” program for MYP students on Toddle this month. These short sessions help students practice skills in Math, Science, English reading, and writing. The activities are based on ISA test results and use an AI tutor to guide learning. Each session is about 30 minutes. Students are asked to complete one session each CRANES cycle. Students can get teacher help during FLEX time on S days.

Families who would like to learn more about ISA and see how Skills Practice works can join the Coffee Morning (details coming soon).

As we begin the second semester, we encourage students and parents to work together on learning, well-being, and positive behavior as we continue building the IB Learner Profile.







## Counseling Corner

It's been lovely to welcome students back as they settle into their routines and reconnect with their learning communities. In SEE this month, students are exploring self-awareness and attention skills, beginning with mindfulness and observation. They are learning to notice their emotions, behaviors, and surroundings with greater intention, helping to build strong foundations for emotional regulation, focus, and social awareness.

Alongside classroom learning, I continue to offer individual counseling across all grades, supporting students with emotional well-being, peer relationships, organization, and academic challenges. I also welcome conversations with parents, whether you'd like to check in about your child's development, navigate a current concern, or think together about how best to support them at this stage.

Our Art for Mental Health after-school club is now underway, offering PYP students a creative space to express emotions, build connections, and develop confidence. This club is led in collaboration with Hinano, one of our Grade 11 students who is passionate about mental health and exploring a future pathway in counseling.

### University & College Counseling

Our Grade 12 students are beginning to receive university decisions. Congratulations to those who have already received offers, and encouragement to those who are still waiting or finalizing applications as we approach upcoming deadlines.

Grade 11 students have completed interest and career surveys and are now beginning individualized roadmap meetings with Takako sensei and me. These conversations help clarify goals and guide next steps as we build toward application preparation, including personal statements, recommendations, and extracurricular planning.

Last week, Grade 10 students were introduced to key college concepts, including how to research programs and understand prerequisite requirements. This early exposure allows them to be intentional and tailor their courses for their DP years to suit their future goals.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. Your engagement and support play an important role in your children's well-being and future planning. As always, please feel free to reach out should you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's well-being.





# Open Campus

## Discover Hiroshima International School



**Open Campus Event**

Join us for an informative day where families can explore our international curriculum and discover the supportive community that makes our school unique. Meet the teachers and learn about our admissions process firsthand.

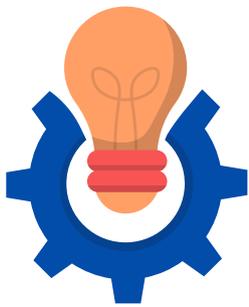


Register now to secure your spot and learn more about our school community and programs!  
**Next Open Campus Day:**

- Monday, February 23 (National Holiday) 2月23日 (祝・月)

Experience actual lessons during a regular school day  
実際の授業をご覧ください：  
Reception opens at 9:45  
Open Campus starts at 10:00 and finishes at 12:00  
受付開始 9:45  
オープンキャンパス開始 10:00 終了12:00 予定





# What is new?

## Makerspace

We are excited to share that our new Makerspace is officially ready and will soon be in use by students across the school.

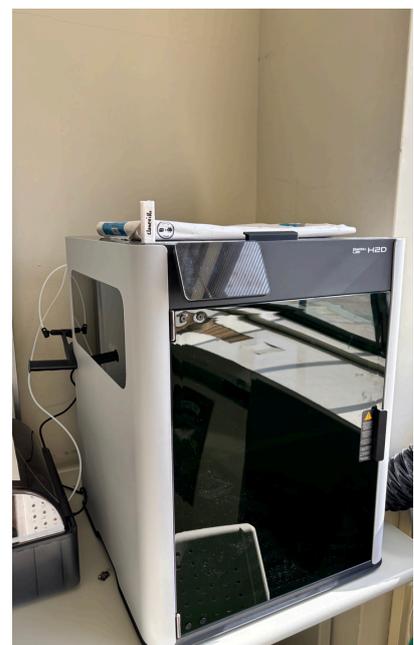
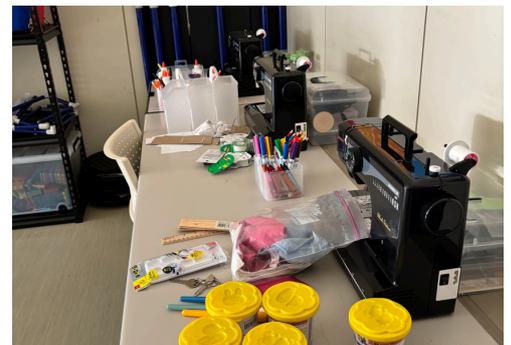
A Makerspace is a hands-on learning environment where students design, build, experiment, and solve real-world problems using a variety of tools, materials, and technologies. It supports creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation, and connects closely to our science, design, technology, and inquiry-based learning across PYP, MYP, and DP.

In the Makerspace, students may:

- Build prototypes and models
- Explore engineering and design challenges
- Use tools and materials to test ideas
- Work collaboratively on creative projects
- Apply problem-solving skills in authentic ways

This space encourages students to take risks, think creatively, and learn through doing, which are essential skills for the future.

We are very excited about the opportunities this will bring to our learning community and look forward to sharing student projects with you in the coming months.





## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



We are proud to share that Hiroshima International School, Moyuru Nakamori, earned a Gold Award in Japan's prestigious Chemistry Grand Prix (化学グランプリ), a national chemistry competition organized by the Chemical Society of Japan. Only 15 students nationwide received Gold this year, placing our student among the top young chemistry scholars in the country. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!



Thank you to our HIS community for your generous donations during the Christmas charity drive. A special thank you to STUCO for organizing the effort. The local orphanage was extremely grateful to receive the art supplies for the children, which will support creativity and joy in their daily activities.

We are proud to share that JJ recently had the opportunity to present a vision he has been passionate about for many years, the creation of a youth center, directly to former Prime Minister Kishida. JJ also met with the Vice Mayor of Hiroshima City to discuss the project and its potential impact on young people in our community. As a result of these meaningful conversations, we are now preparing to move forward with a grant application in April to help bring this vision to life. This is a wonderful example of student agency, leadership, and real-world impact in action at HIS.





## Parent Focus Understanding Assessment

Parents often see grades and scores, but the philosophy behind assessment in an IB school is quite different from what many of us experienced growing up. At HIS, we use standards-based learning to understand what students know, understand, and can do. The goal is to give clearer information about learning, not to compare students to one another.

### What does “criteria” mean in PYP, MYP, and DP

Across all IB programs, learning is measured through clearly defined criteria. These describe the skills and understandings students should demonstrate by the end of a unit.

- In the PYP, criteria help teachers look at inquiry skills, communication, concepts, and the development of the learner profile.
- In the MYP, each subject has four assessment criteria, which guide everything from writing and problem solving to collaboration and reflection.
- In the DP, criteria are used for internal assessments and coursework, so students know exactly what high-quality work looks like.

Criteria help students understand the expectations and take ownership of their learning.

### How feedback helps students grow

Feedback is one of the most powerful tools in learning. Instead of simply receiving a grade, students receive specific information about what they did well and what they can improve. This allows them to focus on the next step rather than feeling defined by a score. Good feedback is timely, clear, and actionable, giving students a path forward.

### Why reassessment and reflection matter

Learning does not happen in a straight line. Reassessment gives students a chance to show new understanding after additional practice, feedback, or support. Reflection, which is built into all IB programs, helps students think about what strategies worked, what challenges they faced, and what they might try next. These habits build resilience and encourage a growth mindset.

### What parents can look for in student work

When you look at your child’s assignments, projects, or assessments, here are helpful things to notice:

- Is the criterion or rubric included?
- Is there feedback that explains strengths and next steps?
- Can your child explain what they were trying to show or improve?
- Do you see evidence of revision or reflection?

These elements show that your child is learning how to think deeply, take ownership, and build confidence as a learner. If you ever have questions about how learning is assessed at HIS, please reach out to your child’s teacher or coordinator. We are always happy to help you understand the process and how it supports high-quality learning.





# LEARN ENGLISH AT HIROSHIMA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Grow Your Confidence. Find Your Voice. Join Our Community.

English Classes for Children & Adults

At Hiroshima International School, learning English is about more than words, it's about confidence, connection, and communication.



## Why Families Love Our Program



- ♥ Small, supportive classes
- 📖 Fun and meaningful lessons
- 🌍 Native English-speaking teachers
- 🎯 Focus on real-life communication
- 🕒 Flexible class times
- 💰 Affordable pricing



Our friendly native English teachers create engaging lessons where students feel comfortable speaking, learning, and growing every week.

## Program Highlights



**Children's Classes:** Learning through stories, games, speaking activities, and creativity

**Adult Classes:** Practical conversation skills for daily life, travel, and work

**All Levels Welcome**  
From beginners to advanced learners



### Join Us:

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🌐 [www.hiroshima-is.ac.jp/learn-english](http://www.hiroshima-is.ac.jp/learn-english)





SAVE THE DATE

**January 30 - Reports sent home**

**February 2 - Second Semester begins**

**February 11 - No School**

**February 23 - Regular School- MYP PP Exhibition**

**February 23 -March 4- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Mock Exams**

**March 5 (1/2day) & 6 - Parent Teacher Conferences**

**March 7-14 - Spring Break**

**April 11 - International Day**

*Save the Date*

