

## **Akita Inaka School Guidelines (2022)**

### **How to get to school from the share houses**

- 1) Local bus – it takes 30 minutes and costs 300 yen per trip. Bus is paid at boarding and can accept only coins. Location and timetable will be given on the first day after the opening ceremony.
- 2) Bicycles (provided free of charge for each house and each student) – it takes about 25minutes to get to school on the bicycle.
- 3) AIS car pick up/drop off – it takes 10 minutes and cost per person is 200 yen per trip (subject to the driver and car availability). Money is paid at the boarding to the driver.

### **Classes start and finish time**

Classes starts at **9:20 am** (local bus arrives at school at 9:12 am) and finishes at **12:35 pm**. Each class is 45 minutes with 5 minutes breaks in between.

### **Lunch**

- Students will have the option to bring their own lunch (prepare at home or buy before school). Please note there are no shops around the school so you can visit shops only in the town before coming to the school.
- For those who would like to order a bento lunch box (costs usually 550-600 Yen), a list of options will be provided on the first day. Orders have to be made a day before by 18:00 pm. No late orders will be accepted and no changes allowed once the order is placed. Bento will be available at 12:35 pm when the classes will finish.
- We were not allowed to install a vending machine at school, hence the only drinks available for purchase will be water at 100 yen per bottle (lower price than a vending machine or convenience store).

### **House rules**

- Please respect sharing the house with others and keep it clean and tidy at all times.
- As a general rule, dishes are to be washed immediately after eating, not the next day (in case if another person would like to cook or use the kitchen).
- No food or drinks are allowed in tatami rooms (tatami gets permanently damaged even after a bit of water is spilt and cannot be cleaned).
- Please make sure to segregate the garbage into designated bags (bags with red or orange writing) and check when are the dates for each garbage items (it will be explained during the first day in detail).
- No friends are allowed to stay overnight in the share houses
- No pets are allowed
- In case of any problems (water, electricity) or damage (tatami) please immediately contact AIS and someone will take care of it. Do not try to fix anything yourself.
- Please close the windows in case of rainy days, especially when leaving the house (rain will permanently damage tatami and floor)
- Please keep the bicycles in the garage in case of rain.

### **After classes activities**

Activities may be changed due to variety of reasons (weather, COVID, provider reasons). AIS will do its best to either reschedule or replace (in case of cancelled activities). In case of cancellation, there are no refunds available but another activity will be provided depending on the availability.

### **Cultural differences**

Please respect the local culture. Since you are in Japan, only local rules and laws will apply. It is the students' responsibility to learn or ask about the local customs.

### **COVID procedure**

In case if one or more students are tested positive for COVID, the local health center procedure will be applied (it may change but as of September 2022 it is as per below):

- People tested positive will be quarantined for 10 days at the share house
- People tested negative and without symptoms but being in close contact with positive ones, will be quarantined for 5 days (they will be allowed to do necessary daily shopping)
- During quarantine all activities will be cancelled (re-scheduled where possible) with no refunds available
- During quarantine classes will be held online

### **Others**

#### **LINE group chats**

There will be 2 group chats created. Once for matters related to the course activities and classes as well as general school announcements. Another one for social chat, photos and videos sharing.

Students are responsible for regular LINE chat checking related to the activities and announcements and not posting private, social posts on the general school announcements group.

#### **ATM/credit cards payments**

Usually not accepted. Most shops will accept only cash. Even major convenience stores' (Lawson, Family Mart, 7eleven) ATMs may or may not allow cash withdrawals (the same shop in Tokyo will allow while in the countryside it will not). The biggest problems are for students with Mastercards or having cards from local banks that are not international big banks well known in Japan.

We advise bringing enough cash (depends on the person but minimum daily food budget recommended is 2000 Yen, while most students spend 3000 Yen per day).

**Contact person and contact details**

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LINE chat (provided separately)