School life in Japan (Use of videotape)

Hello! My name is Kouji Nishimura. I’m from Kyoto in Japan. Do you know where Japan and Kyoto are? Kyoto is the oldest city in Japan. This year I have been teaching 6th graders at Higashimiyakojima elementary school. My students are still studying in Japan with a substitute teacher. I came to the US 4 weeks ago. I’m very pleased to be here at Granvill Elementary school.

Today I’d like to talk about one day of school life in my school.
I’ll introduce you to elementary school life in Japan

At first, I’ll show you the videotape. Sometimes, I’ll stop it, and explain several points.
Last of all, we’ll talk about what is different or similar between American & Japanese school life.
And then please ask me any questions.

Well, then let me show you the videotape.

Japanese students attend school all year. They get a few weeks off in the summer and winter. In the summer time, students swim for a physical education. There is a swimming pool in each school. Also we have track and field, too. They have to change into gym clothes for gym class.

In the morning, students gather at a meeting place at a certain time. Students from the same neighborhood walk together to school. They take about 10-15 minutes to go to school on foot. They have a back pack, we call that “randoseru”. When they arrive at school, they change their shoes. They change into slippers or “indoor shoes” that are usually white.

Time | Teaching | items
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10 | Ask something If they know about Japan (Guess what Japanese school life is.) |  |
20 | Show videotapes | Stop sometimes to explain video TV |
15 | Impressions Q&A | After writing their Impressions |

Created by: Koji Nishimura, Japanese Teacher Delegation – Ohio Group 2005
Here is the schedule for my 6th grade class. 6th graders have 28~29 lessons each week (1st=23).

Every Monday morning, all students and teachers have morning assembly. Also, Thursday is by the students.

In Japan, the students have a short break after each lesson. Students choose what they want to play. For example, unicycle, dodge ball, and so on.

There are 4 periods in the morning. After 4th period, we have our school lunch. Assigned students carry lunches to their classroom and distribute lunches on a tray to each classmate. We eat in our own classroom. Lunch time is 40 minutes and that includes in serving and cleaning up time.

After lunch, the students have another break like before. After lunch break, students start cleaning. We clean our classroom and parts of our school, that includes the bathrooms, halls and special rooms. We wipe the floors with rags provided by the school.

After cleaning, the children return to their classrooms for 1 or 2 more periods. Then it's time to go home. Usually my class finishes at around 4 o’clock.

What impressions do you have about school life in my school?

Do you have any questions?

- How is your school different from my school?
- How would you like to clean your classroom everyday.
- Do you think the children in my school are learning anything by cleaning their own classroom and school?
- What might they learn from this.
- How many lessons/periods do you have each week?

Today, I talked about life in my school in Japan. Hopefully you can teach some things to your parents about Japan. What do you like the best? Maybe 2 minutes. Talk to your partner. That’s all for today, thank you. See you next time!!