Virtual Town Hall
Sunday, August 16, 2020

6:30  Principal’s Greeting

6:35 - 7:05  2020-21 School Year Plan

7:05 - 7:30  Q & A
Welcome Back!

We are excited to begin another year with you!

Keisho Center teachers and staff have been working hard this summer to prepare for our classes. In 2020-21, we will welcome 104 students in nine homerooms.

We want to express our gratitude to you for your continued commitment to Keisho Center and your partnership in these uncertain times. Thank you for your support!
Distance Learning

Keisho Center will begin the school year under our distance learning plan.

- Zoom classes will meet between 9:00-12:30 for 2.0-2.5 hours each Saturday.
- The exact length of each class will vary according to the ages and needs of each group.
- We will follow the published 2020-21 calendar.
Homerooms

All students will remain in the same homerooms as last school year. Homeroom teachers may change based on student needs.

Maintaining students in the same homerooms will lessen disruptions and aid communication between teachers, students, and parents.

During distance learning, activities that were traditionally taught during Target Class will be incorporated into instruction in the homeroom class.
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<th>Masayo sensei</th>
<th>Yayoi sensei</th>
<th>Tomomi sensei</th>
<th>Ebisawa sensei</th>
<th>Mina sensei</th>
<th>Ayumi sensei</th>
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<td>Uguisu 鶯</td>
<td>Wakatake 若竹</td>
<td>Asagi 浅葱</td>
<td>Toki 鴞</td>
<td>Rindo 竜胆</td>
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Team-taught: Tomomi Akane Mina with Miho sensei
Distance Learning

We are planning distance learning classes according to the following schedule:

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Tuition

Tuition will remain $1,400 per student with discounts for siblings and those that pay for the entire year in-full.

Although the number of instructional hours has been reduced, staff hours for training, lesson prep, and one-on-one/small group instruction has increased.

Also, we anticipate significant increased operating costs when in-person classes resume including purchasing PPE, renting additional classroom space, and frequent disinfection required by Norwood School.
Return to In-Person Classes

Our ultimate goal is the safe return of all Keisho Center students and staff to in-person classes at Norwood School.

We will follow public health guidelines and Norwood School’s reopening plan to determine when it is safe to hold in-person classes. At this time, we cannot predict when we will return to in-person classes.
Hybrid Program

When we restart in-person classes, we will begin with our hybrid program.

- Prioritize in-person instruction for younger students.
- Older students will rotate between in-person classes at Norwood School and distance learning.
- Staggered drop-off and pick-up times.
- Health checks for all staff and students.
- We will enforce social distancing rules, use of PPE, and disinfection of all spaces.
Hybrid Program

We are planning hybrid program classes according to the following schedule:
Online Etiquette

It’s important that students practice good digital citizenship. Keisho Center ask all students to follow these rules:

- Use a laptop or desktop for online lessons.
- Keep cameras on at all times.

For students that do not have access to a laptop or desktop, please contact us at info@keisho.org. We may have resources that we can lend to families.
Question

How long will we do distance learning?

Answer

As with all other schools, we cannot predict with certainty when we will reopen.

We know we will have distance learning activities through October 3rd. In October, the Board of Directors will make a decision about whether it’s safe to transition to the hybrid plan.
Question
How will you know when it’s safe to return?

Answer
Keisho Center will follow the guidance of state of Maryland and Montgomery County as well as Norwood School’s plan.

We will make the decision to restart in-person classes when it is safe for students and staff to do so. Health and safety is our #1 priority.
Question

Why will students stay in the same homeroom from last year?

Answer

Friendships are an important aspect of the Keisho experience. Teachers want to provide an atmosphere where students can feel connections and be emotionally secure while physically being away from each other. Since classes begin virtually, we believe it is best for students to be in the same groups in which they already know each other.
Question

Why won’t Keisho have target classes during distance learning?

Answer

Target classes focus on specific language skills. Students are assigned to a target class based on their Japanese language proficiency. Because target classes are skill-based, it will be difficult and probably ineffective if we have to stop in the middle of the year when Keisho goes back to in-person classes.

By offering electives, students can find areas that they want to work on or review. It will be okay to stop the electives in the middle of the year. (Cont’d.)
Question

Why won’t Keisho have target classes during distance learning?

Answer (continued)

Elective activities will allow students to practice and develop language skills while having fun and playing games.

For example: Pokemon Center (to review Katakana), Kanji practice, speech and conversation, kotowaza, word games (to build vocabulary), and virtual field trips.

For Seiran class, teachers are thinking of embedding lessons for the AP Japanese exam after January.
Question

What special activities are planned during distance learning?

Answer

- Elective activities for all students each week: cooking lessons, conversation, virtual field trips, kanji class, story time
- Combined class projects
- Guest speakers
- Keisho graduate visits to online classes
- Virtual Keisho Japan Bowl
Question

Will we have proficiency tests this year?

Answer

- The JLPT is cancelled this year.
- For now, the Kanji Kentei test is scheduled for January 30, 2021.
- No changes have been announced regarding the NJE. The NJE is a U.S.-based exam and is taken online. It’s likely the NJE will be administered.
Question

Will we have family responsibilities this year?

Answer

- Common Room and Library duties are suspended this year.
- When in-person classes resume, the Health Services Team will screen students and staff before entering the building and coordinate drop-off/pick-up each week. We are recruiting three additional parents to join the Health Services Team.
- We may ask willing parents to do hallway duty when in-person classes resume.
Question

Will the adult class continue this year?

Answer

- Yes! Coreen-sensei will continue to teach the class online this school year.
- Please contact info@keisho.org and CC coreen.endo-davis@keisho.org if you are interested in taking the adult class.
Question

When will we receive the tuition invoice for 2020-21?

Answer

You will receive a tuition invoice in August. Please look for an email from accounting@keisho.org in the next two weeks.
Please feel free to ask any questions by “raising your hand.”
ありがとう
15th Anniversary