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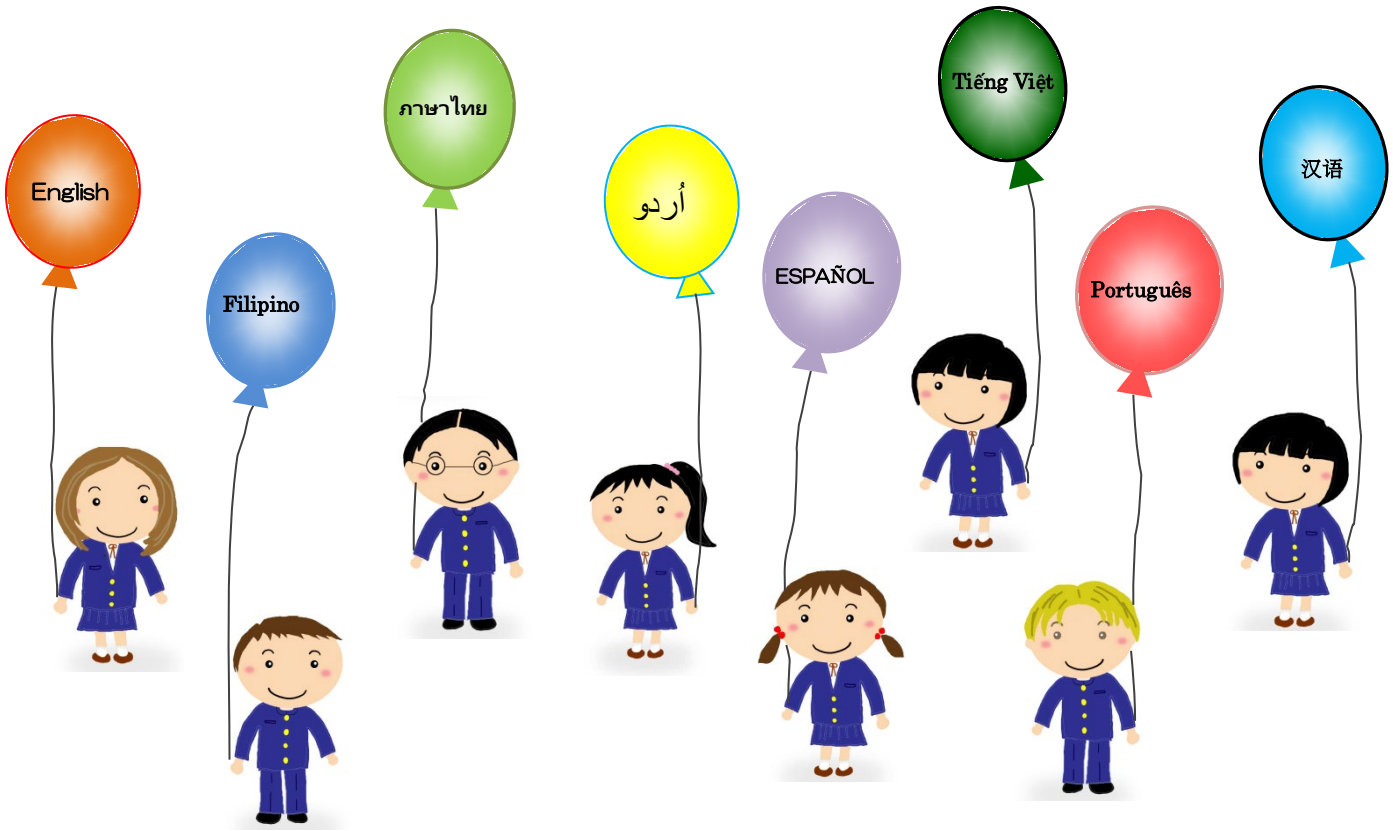
Guidance for Entering High School in Multiple Languages



By Utsunomiya University HANDS Project

Guidance for Entering High School in Multiple Languages

1. The Japanese School System

2. Types of High Schools in Tochigi Prefecture

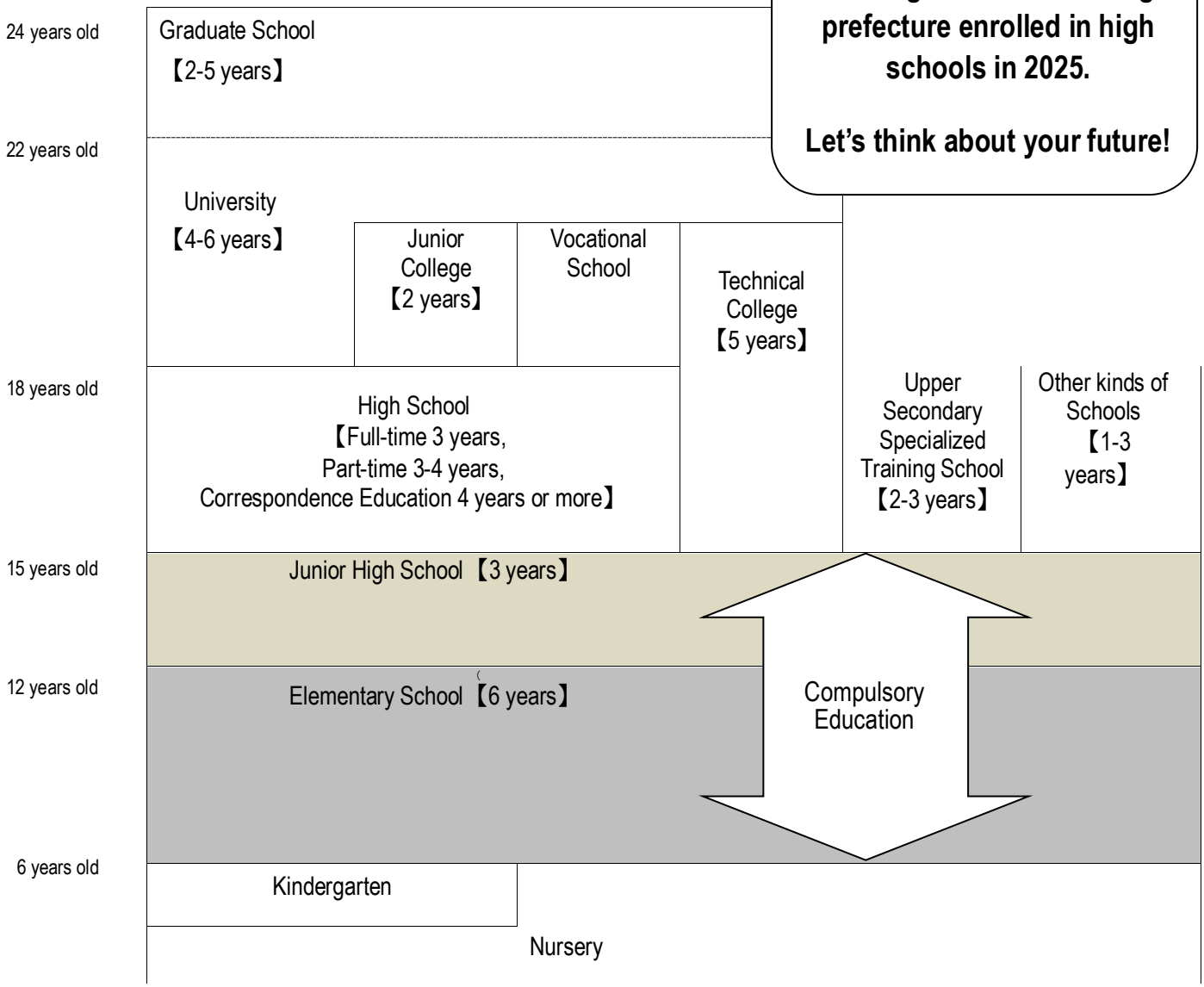
3. Tuition Fees

4. Entrance Examination

1. The Japanese School System

99.0% of the total middle school graduates in Tochigi prefecture enrolled in high schools in 2025.

Let's think about your future!



☺The difference between elementary and junior-high schools, and high schools

Compulsory education in Japan lasts from elementary through junior high school. On the other hand, high school is not compulsory and students who would like to pursue high school education must take an entrance examination. In high school, unsatisfactory grades or exceeding the maximum absence limit may put students in danger of not being promoted to the next grade, and consequently of not graduating.

☺ After graduating from high school…

Students can take an entrance examination to enter a university, junior college, vocational school or other educational institution. Since most jobs require high school graduation, students will have more chances to get a job if they graduate from high school. During the 3 years of high school education, it is important that students obtain some qualifications and think about their aptitudes and abilities.

2. Types of High Schools in Tochigi Prefecture

There are public high schools (*koritsu-koko*) and private high schools (*shiritsu-koko*). Regarding public education, there are full-time schools (*zennichi-sei*), part-time schools (*teiji-sei*) and correspondence education (*tsushin-sei*).
When it comes to the high school courses of study, there are general courses (*futsu-ka*), vocational courses (*senmon-gakka*) and integrated courses (*sogo-gakka*).

(1) Full-time schools, part-time schools, correspondence education (examples based on prefectural schools)

	Full-time Schools (*zennichi-sei*) (54 schools)	Part-time Schools (*teiji-sei*) (7 schools)		Correspondence Education (*tsushin-sei*) (2 Schools)
Days Time & class	Monday – Friday 45 - 50 min. class 6 - 7 periods	Everyday (from afternoon until evening*) 45 min. class, 4 - 6 periods	Monday – Friday Flex high school morning / afternoon / evening schooling system, 45 min. class, 4 - 6 periods	Individual study & have your assignments checked by teachers. Attending school several times a month to study.
Required years to graduate	3 years	3 or more than 3 years		
Courses of study (see next page)	General *(futsu-ka)* Vocational *(senmon-gakka)* Integrated *(sogo-gakka)*	General *(futsu-ka)* Vocational 「Industry」 「Commerce」 *(senmon-gakka)*	General *(futsu-ka)*	General *(futsu-ka)*
Others		School meal available	Only evening, school meal available	

* One part-time high school offers classes starting in the morning: Kanuma Karyo High School.

☺ When you choose the school and course of study, also …

(1) Think about your future, interests, abilities and personality, and explore your possibilities.
(2) Think about your future professional career.
(3) Think about what you would like to learn in high school.
(4) Find a university you wish to enter, its curriculum and course of study.
(5) Find the future course you would like to pursue after graduation.

☺ When you make a decision on the school and course of study…

First, think about your future course of study by yourself. Then talk about your decision with your parents. Finally, ask your teachers for advice! Collect as much useful information as possible by attending open campuses and participating in a school information session (especially for private schools) during summer vacation and the second semester of this academic year. The application for private high schools should be done on your own and before hand online or directly in the junior high school .

(2) Features of each course of study in public high schools in Tochigi prefecture

General (*futsu-ka*)		This program offers mainly core subjects. In most general courses, 2nd grade students are divided into liberal arts (*bunkei*) and science and mathematics (*rikei*), or into various courses.
Vocational (*senmon-gakka*)	Commerce	Students learn about logistics and commercial distribution, accounting, and obtain business computer skills and English conversation skills.
	Industry	Students are trained in mechanical and electrical techniques, architecture and computer programming.
	Agriculture	Students receive training in agricultural management, biotechnology, food science, agricultural and civil engineering, and gardening.
	Fisheries	Students learn sea and river fish, and shellfish farming, and fish processing and distribution. There is only one high school in Tochigi prefecture (Bato high school).
	Home economics	This specialization offers several fields such as fashion design, life planning, food culture, nutrition, life culture, among others. Students gain knowledge and skills through technical training.
	Welfare	Students learn nursing clinical skills and how the social welfare system works.
	Science & maths	Students specialize in science and mathematics. Oyama High School is the only school in Tochigi Prefecture offering this program (from the second year).
	Physical education	Students obtain specialized knowledge of sports and improve athletic skills. There is only one high school in Tochigi prefecture (Oyama Minami high school).
Integrated (*sogo-gakka*)		Credit-based classes. Students choose subjects, according to their interests.

☺**Most of these vocational fields offer different courses, through which students can obtain various qualifications.**

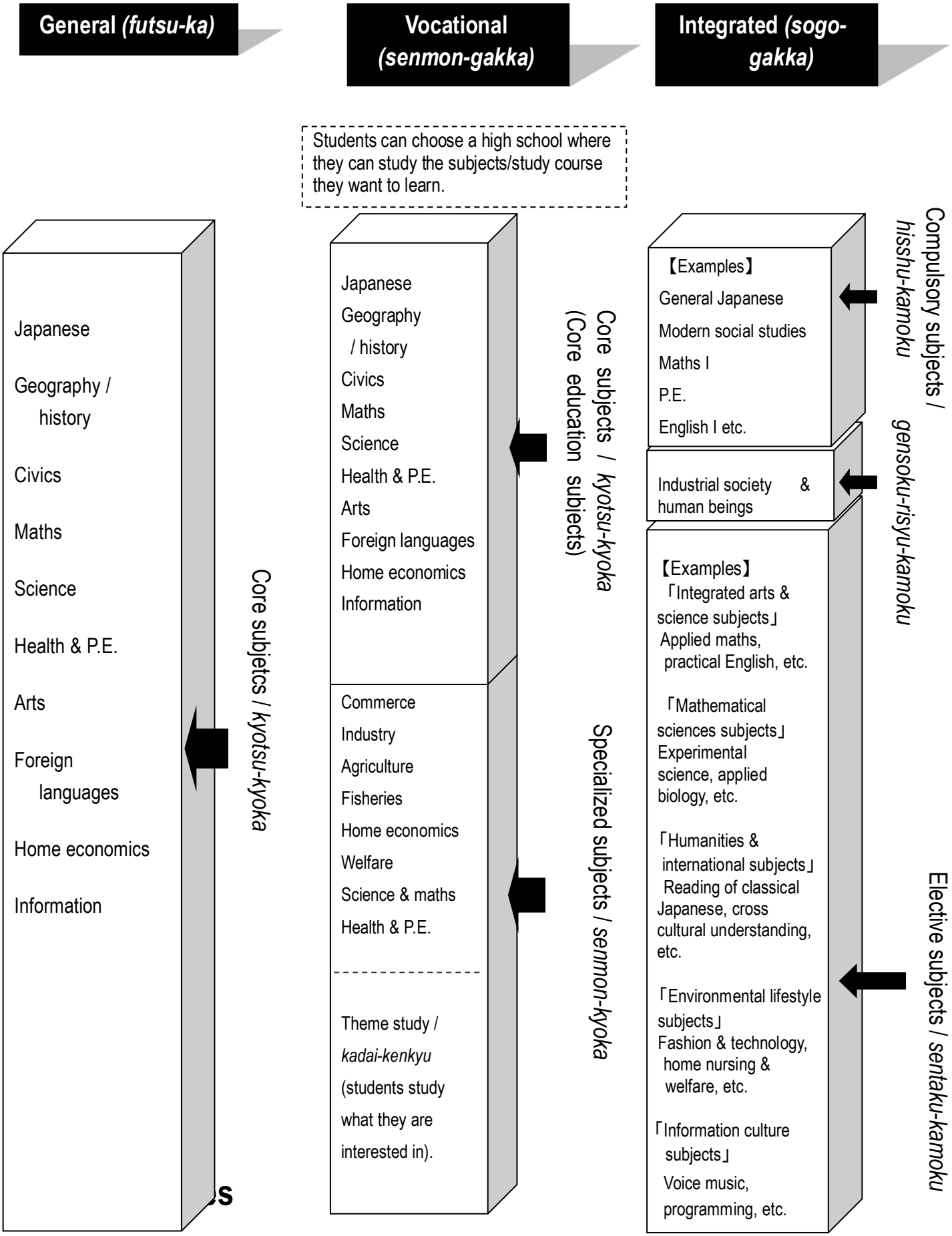
☺**Classes are conducted in Japanese at high schools in Japan. There is hardly any language support available.**

☺**Public high schools in Tochigi Prefecture are undergoing restructuring, some of which may be merging or changing departments. Ask your middle school teacher for the latest information on public high schools in your area of residence.**

☺**If you would like to know more information on the features of private high schools, please check the pamphlet of the school you are interested in. There are private long-distance schools and private part-time schools, as well.**

See the next page! ➡

(3) Subjects available on: General *(futsu-ka)*, Vocational *(senmon-ka)*, Integrated *(sogo-gakka)*



(1) Fees for entering high school

There is a wide difference between public *(koritsu-koko)* and private *(shiritsu-koko)* high schools.

	Public *(koritsu)*			Private *(shiritsu)*
Course	Full-time	Part-time (credits)	Correspondence (credits)	Full-time （example）
Examination fee	2,200 yen	950 yen	None	12,000 yen - 20,000 yen
Entrance fee	5,650 yen	2,100 yen	500 yen	100,000 yen - 200,000 yen
Uniform, gym clothes,etc.	40,000 yen - 60,000 yen	from 15,000 yen	None	70,000 yen -150,000 yen
Facility expansion fee	None	None	None	from 100,000 yen
Approximate Total	from 50,000 yen	from 18,000 yen	500 yen	from 300,000 yen

The school fees for private education vary from school to school. If you need more detail or the latest information on private high schools, please check the schools pamphlets carefully.

The cost of the uniforms varies according to the school (both public and private high schools).

(2) Annual fees

	Public high school			Private high school
	Full-time	Part-time (credits)	Correspondence (credits)	Full-time
Tuition fees	9,900 yen/ a month (Full-time) ※2			from 300,000 yen**※２**
Texts, materials	10,000 - 70,000 yen (depending on school and department)			
Others **※1**	from 130,000 yen	from 30,000 yen	10,000 yen	from 250,000 yen
School lunches	None	Depending on school	None	None

※１ PTA membership dues, student council fee, etc. These fees may differ at each school. In many high schools 1st grade students start saving for the school trip. In general, specialized departments require annual practical training fees of tens of thousands of yen.

※２ High school students are eligible for a national grant called the High School Education Support Grant. The grant amount is ¥118,000 per year for public high schools and up to ¥457,200 per year for private high schools and similar institutions.

(3) Other expenses

＊Club activities fees

When students join some club activities, any costs associated will be the family responsibility, for example the costs of uniforms, tournament participation fees, etc.

＊Transportation fees

If students live in a remote area and use public transportation, it is advisable to get a commuter pass.

(4) In case of financial difficulties in paying the school expenses

＊Scholarships

There is a loan system for high school students who would like to study but have financial difficulties.

There are government and private funded scholarships. In addition, some scholarships are required to be repaid once students get a job. Scholarship screening is based on the students' academic records or performance and family income. In order to apply to scholarships, students need to prepare several papers. Those who are interested must seek advice from the junior high school or high school teachers.

☺ After students entered high school…

Unlike elementary and junior high school, which are compulsory, in high school, students cannot return to school after dropping out. If students have a problem, they should talk to their current homeroom teacher and other teachers such as the teachers of junior high school.

☺ The formalities (online application, Self-Expression Form, preparation of examination fee, etc.) of the entrance examination are provided by each junior high school.
Get ready the whole documentation before the submission deadline.

Most private schools in Tochigi prefecture only accept online applications for the entrance examination. Ask your school teacher for further information regarding the entrance examination procedures for the school you are interested in.

For public high schools, the junior high school teachers will submit application on your behalf.

4. Entrance Examination

(1) Types of entrance examination for Tochigi prefectural high schools

	Requirement	Examination
General Selection (*ippan-senbatsu*)	Those who graduated (or are expected to graduate) from Japanese junior high school or foreign residents with 9 years of schooling overseas.	① Written examination/ *gakuryoku-kensa* (5 subjects) ② Student information sheet/ *chosa-sho* (school records, club activities, etc.). Some schools have practical exams.
Special Selection *(tokusyoku-senbatsu)*	Those who graduated (or are expected to graduate) from Japanese junior high school or foreign residents with 9 years of schooling overseas, must fulfill the high school requirements	①Written examination/ gakuryoku-kensa (5 subjects) ②Student information sheet/ *chosa-sho* ③Self-Expression Form/ *jiko-hyogen sheet* ④School-specific assessments (e.g. interviews/ *mensetsu,* essay writing/ *sakubun*, *shoronbun,* presentation)
Special Admission Measures for Foreign Students	Students with a total period of residence in Japan of six years or less.	①Written examination/ gakuryoku-kensa (Mathematics and English) ②Student information sheet/ *chosa-sho* ③Statement of purpose/ *shigan-riyu-sho* ④Interviews/ *mensetsu* Some schools have school-specific assessments (e.g. essay writing/ *sakubun*, *shoronbun* or Japanese)

＊ If you would like to take the Special Admission Measures for Foreign Students, please seek advice from your homeroom teacher.

Differences between public and private high school on entrance examination

<table>
<tr><td>Public high school</td><td colspan="2">Students can take the entrance exam for only one full-time or part-time high school (all exams are held on the same day).</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Private high school

★ Each high school names differently its entrance examination, which differs from school to school.</td><td colspan="2">Students can apply to many high schools as they need（schools have different examination dates）</td></tr>
<tr><td>Exclusive acceptance / *tangan*</td><td>Students have to enter the school once their application is accepted. It is not possible to apply to other high schools after acceptance.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Multiple acceptance / *Heigan*</td><td>Students could refrain from entering the school, even if they were already accepted. Students can also apply to a public high school.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">＊Students with outstanding academic records or sport achievements, may have an opportunity to take a special examination, which is considered to be generally as an exclusive acceptance (*tangan)* (if students pass the entrance examination, they may be exempted from tuition-fee payment or tuition-fee partial reduction).</td></tr>
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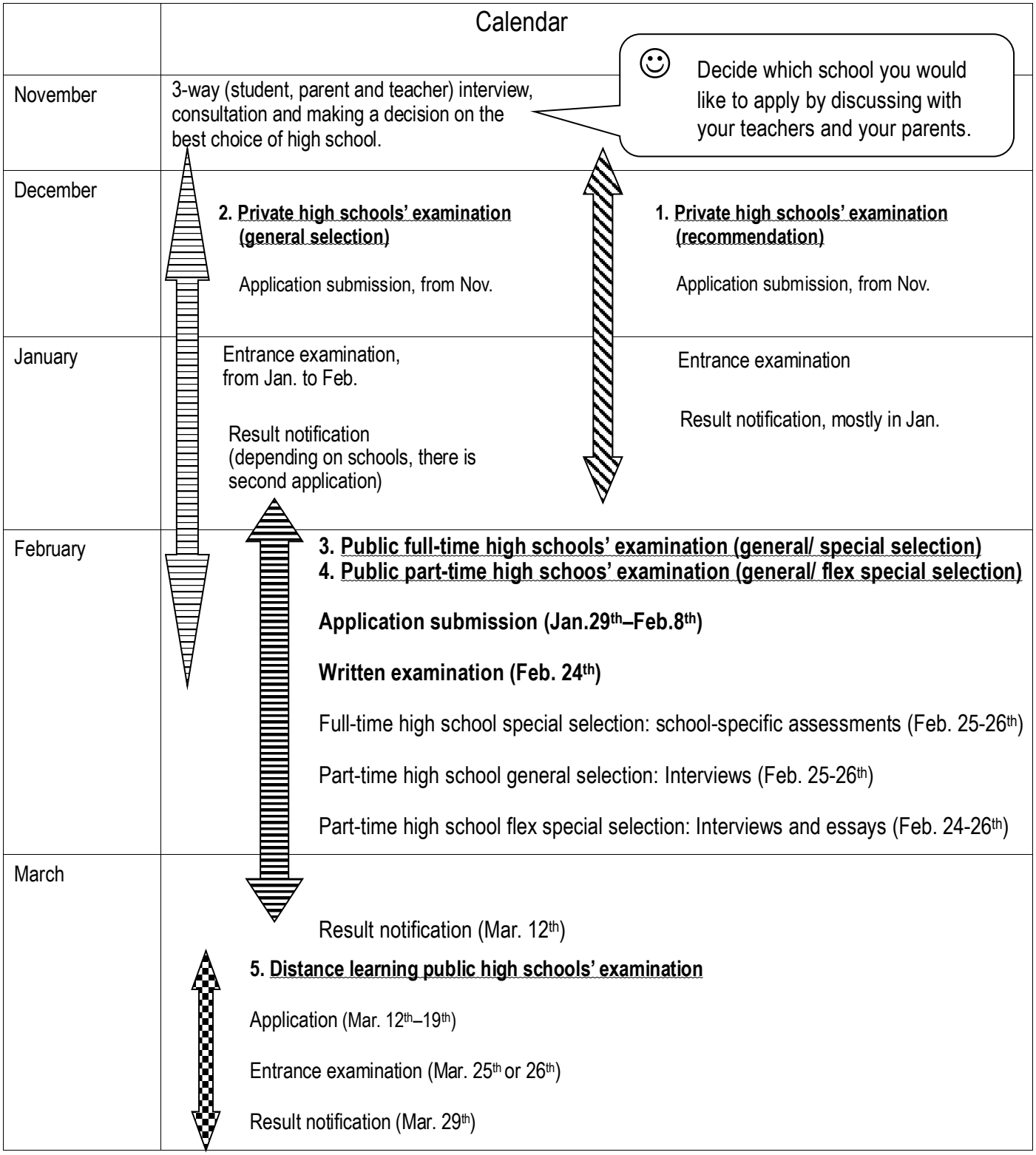
(2) Schedule for the Entrance Examination to Private and Public High Schools in Tochigi Prefecture (2026~2027)



1) Application period for Special Admission Measures for Foreign Students, etc.: September 14 (Mon) – October 13 (Tue), 3:00 p.m.

After this deadline, please consult the Tochigi Prefectural Board of Education through your junior high school as soon as possible.

2) Correspondence-based high schools also offer an entrance examination in February. In this case, you cannot apply to both a full-time or part-time high school and a correspondence-based high school.

3) Additional recruitment and make-up examinations are also available.