

My name is John and I am a third year high school studying design in Isshiki High school. I am from The Philippines and came in Japan when I was in my First year of junior high school. At that time, the only Japanese words I know was “good morning”, “good afternoon” and “goodbye”. I also did not understand the lessons even though I was attending classes and did not have any friends. I told myself that I have to make friends no matter how shameful it is. I did self-studying on katakana, way of speaking and others. My teacher told me, “It will be fun in the part-time Isshiki class because there is a lot of foreign students who study in that school”. However, I had interest in the design department of the daytime class of Isshiki High school so I went ahead and did the entrance exam.

The Life design department was not limited to the female, even though there are only four (4) males in this department, it is a fun course. The design department has two courses, the fashion design and the food design. I belong to the fashion design and during the classes we make clothes like the yukata, jinbei, skirts, shirts, and hime-kimono (small size clothes). We were taught in the school on wearing the yukata by ourselves. On the other hand, the food design course focuses on cooking a variety of dishes. Although the courses have difficult examinations but I am sure you can also do it.

I had five (5) re-examinations when I was in my first year of high school. I studied hard because I was determined to graduate together with my batch mates and as a result, I passed all the retakes and did not had any re-examinations when I was in my second year. During my second year, I was very excited about having my first time school field trip in Okinawa. Unfortunately, it was cancelled because of the new corona virus.

The teachers together with my parents and myself will decide whether which university I will be attending in the future. The school will help you in giving insights and activities like “Open campus” about different universities. During this time, you can attend seminars to the universities and vocational schools that you are interested in. During the open campus, I went to the vocational school for the cosmetology because I wanted to be a beautician and I was given advices by my seniors. I was really amazed and it was an enjoyable experience.

During the latter half of my second year of high school, I was a little confused whether to proceed in university or seek employment. I asked for advises to my teachers and parents and I was told that “You can proceed in university but it will be quite difficult”. I was still contemplating during my third year of high school however, I decided to start seeking for employment. My relatives in The Philippines has ceased to work because of the new corona virus. I pondered, “I have to help them”. And until now, I study with my utmost effort for the employment examinations.

Although I have still a lot to things to learn here in Japan, I still have fun discovering new things. Students who arrived in Japan during Elementary, it will be easier but continue to do your best. On the other hand, to students who arrived in Japan during Junior High School, it will be quite difficult but do your utmost effort. I also have moments when feel like giving up and thought that “Japanese is very hard”. I did everything possible and passed in the Life Design department of Isshiki high school. I am sure that you can also do it. So from now on, do your best. I will be cheering for you.