

First of all, I would like to express my sympathies to the families of those who died or are still missing because of the floods on the seventh of July caused by heavy rain in Western Japan, especially in Hiroshima, Okayama, and Ehime Prefectures: more than 200 people are dead and about 15 are still missing. Last July, there were also floods on Kyushu island. The people in Kumamoto and Oita Prefectures have suffered much since huge earthquakes hit those two prefectures a year before. Anywhere in Japan, natural disasters can occur at anytime. It's impossible for us to prevent them from occurring, but I believe we may be able to reduce the damage they produce. While it is not always easy for us to help people in need, we should think about them. Let's pray for

their recovery. And let's prepare for such natural disasters as a large scale earthquake directly underneath the Kanto Plain and a Nankai Trough earthquake, which are expected to occur in the very near future.

Boys and girls, I would like to talk about two/~~three~~ things today, at the end of the first trimester, 2018.

First, about the cultural lectures in July, on the 9th, the governor of Tokyo, Ms Koike Yuriko visited our school and expressed her hopes for contemporary high school students. It was a great honor to welcome the

governor to our school. She said, “It is essential for you, high school students, to have three different points of view: *tori-no-me*, a bird’s-eye view, *mushi-no-me*, a micro viewpoint, and *sakana-no-me*, to notice ‘*shiome*,’ or the currents in the water which are invisible to us.” I think the Governor wanted us to know how useful it is to notice the turning point in trends in business, politics, and so on.

On the 11th, we invited Mr. Yokota, a graduate of our school. He gave a lecture to the eleventh graders. He said, “You should not give up a very good chance to learn mathematics and scientific subjects.” He also said, “If you are not good at mathematics, you don’t have to worry about it.

You should learn it eagerly. The more you learn, the more you will like it. You will be able to be good at it, and you will be surprised to learn how much you love it.” I hope many of you will decide to continue to learn mathematics eagerly.

And yesterday, we invited Mr. Deguchi, President of Asia Pacific University. He is famous for starting the Life Net Insurance Company. He gave a lecture to the tenth graders. He said, “It’s okay if you have not yet found out what you are good at. Learn as many things as you can, and improve your intellectual strength. That will give you a lot of alternatives. Study hard, and do what you want to do. You have more

chances in this age of fewer children and aging society than people have had before.”

It is important for you, soon-to-be adults, that the Civil Code is to be amended in a few years and teenagers over 17 years old will be legally adults. You need to gain knowledge by learning and instruction since you can't improve yourselves without it. I believe it is very helpful for you to listen to such notable persons directly. You have to come into touch with genuine things, not through virtual experiences but through actual ones.

Second, I would like to consider how we treat one another. Please remember to be careful with the words that you use with your friends. It is possible that things you have said carelessly might hurt your friends' feelings—without your having meant to do that. I hope all of you are gentle, kind to one another, not ignoring your friends, not speaking ill of them. Every student deserves respect. As I have told you, it takes only a moment to destroy a good relationship, and it takes very long time to become reconciled with one another. And when your friends are in low spirits or when they find it hard striving to solve their problems all by themselves, offer your friendship. A real friend is one who walks IN when the rest of the world walks OUT.

Second/**Third** and last, to the twelfth graders: it will be useful for you to study at a good university, such as you have been doing at our school, because there you will meet a lot of other excellent students who may motivate you to learn more, so as to become more like them. That's the reason why we strongly recommend you to study at such highly selective universities as the University of Tokyo, the University of Kyoto, and so on. You will be able to study under good professors, to live in friendly rivalry with other good students, and to have more chances to find out what you want to do. Don't hesitate to try to study at highly selective universities. Maintain a willingness to accept as many new

challenges as possible.

I have told you two/three things today: first, that the cultural lectures will help you improve your intellectual strength; second, that you should be considerate to your friends; and last, to the twelfth graders, that you should not hesitate to try to study at highly selective universities. In closing my speech, I would like to say I do look forward to the School Festival, and I do hope you will pass on the proud traditions of the *Gaien-sai* to your *kouhai*. And, of course, study hard. One more thing, I give you a question: President Trump and Kim Jong Un had a historical meeting in Singapore in June. That was one of the

biggest news, which attracted a great deal of attention from all over the world. That meeting may encourage them to start denuclearization in Korea Peninsula, or that may not. What are the roles of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Putin, and Prime Minister Abe concerning this problem? Who is the smartest guy at the negotiating table? I will ask you this question again at the beginning of the second trimester. It's *shukudai*.

Thank you very much.

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