

## Peace learning at Nagasaki City Himi Junior High School

### 1 School overview

8 classes, 157 students, 24 staff members

2-15-1 Sakai, Nagasaki City

HP: <https://www.nagasaki-city.ed.jp/himi-j/>



Himi is located in the eastern part of Nagasaki City.

It once operated as a small town for travellers

passing from Nagasaki to Edo. The many visitors brought wealth to the land, and overtime the area flourished as a post town. Himi Junior High School is located at the center of that very same post town, opening in 1947. The school's education goal is "peaceful and prosperous". And we believe the students of Himi Junior High can acquire that power and will to create a great society.

### 2. Purpose of peace learning

- To inform students of Nagasaki's past and Japan's aspiration to peace.
- To teach students healthy strategies on how to get along with others, and also the ability to express their feelings harmoniously.
- To guide students on how to cultivate an attitude of peace.



### 3 Contents of peace education

#### (1) Kayoko Sakura III Project: The origin of Himi JHS's peace learning activities

The Kayoko Sakura Project started when the mother of Kayoko HAYASHI, a victim of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki, decided to plant a cherry tree in memory of her child. Kayoko Sakura II Project continued the memoriam by cutting branches from the original tree and planting them in various locations, including Himi Junior High School courtyard. The new project's goal is to raise the third generation of cherry blossoms and send them to the world. This is an initiative that seriously aims for world peace, with the keywords of "parental love, " " sibling bonds," and "friendship support." And through the cultivation of cherry blossoms, this activity also aims to foster "people" who can hope for and realize world peace.

#### (2) Peace panel discussion

Through discussions with instructors who are close to the students' age and who are active on the front lines such as; high school peace ambassadors, survivors of atomic bombings, and members of the city's peace declaration drafting committee; the students will increase their understanding of and motivation for more practical peace activities.

#### (3) Anne Frank Exhibition

In addition, many panels from the Anne Frank Foundation in the Netherlands were sent to Japan. And that very same exhibit, which has traveled all over the country 118 times, came to our school. It was an opportunity to spread knowledge about the catastrophes in Europe. And further inform our students on the devastating impact of war.

### (3) Day to think about peace

Furthermore, we watched the Kids Guernica 2023 program, participated in a Peace Balloon release, and also read a message about peace from the Ukrainian people. These efforts helped our students develop their own ideas on how to create a peaceful world. In conclusion, our students developed a heartfelt connection with the people of Ukraine and sent their very own message in return, in hopes of further spreading peace to the world.



#### - Message to Ukraine -

Hello, we are students at Himi Junior High School in Nagasaki, Japan. We are thinking about what we can do to make the world more peaceful. We also have come up with our own projects, and made plans to promote world peace under the name 'Kayoko Zakura III Project'. We are conducting activities with the goal of making peace in the world.

To Ms. Hanna Mamonoa from Ukraine. Thank you very much for sending us a message during these difficult times. I would also like to thank everyone who cooperated in receiving messages to us. What we learned and felt after listening to the message: In Ukraine, many people live every day in unimaginable fear. There is a line of tanks in town, and cannons are being fired at the neighboring areas. The sadness of losing, or potentially losing a loved one, in order to protect one's homeland is very hard. It's a struggle to survive one day at a time. But what particularly impressed us was that; if you don't know what "war" is you won't know what "true peace" is like.

Nagasaki also has deep scars from when the atomic bomb dropped in WWII. Here in Nagasaki, there are many people who understand the pain, suffering and sadness of war; just like Ukraine. So we deeply empathize with your country. Through the Anne Frank exhibit at our school and the creation of Kids' Guernica, we are well aware that there are many people like us all over the world, who suffered similarly to war. That means that we from Nagasaki wish for peace more than anything else. We are now living happily in Nagasaki, where the war has ended and we have achieved reconstruction and peace.

We also want to eliminate war and nuclear weapons from this world. We hope the war in Ukraine ends as soon as possible and returns to peace. No one is happy fighting a war. And our hope is your opposing country understands the importance of peace. We want to do whatever we can, even if it's small. We believe we too can help Ukraine. So with this in mind, we will continue our daily activities that bring peace.

Dear Ukrainians, Please do not give up. Don't forget that you have many allies around the world. Let's work together to create a peaceful world. No matter how painful things may be, please do your best without giving up hope. We hope that someday you will be able to return to your homeland in peace and that the war will end safely. And we in Nagasaki will also continue, engaging in peaceful activities that will give you even a little bit of encouragement. I hope that the people of Ukraine can once again live a happy and secure life. Please don't give up. Survive the hard times and look forward to a future with peace. "We hope for a peaceful world"