

Umegasaki Junior High School Peace Declaration

Seventy-nine years ago, at 11:02 a.m. on August 9th, 1945, a single atomic bomb unfeelingly stole the lives of many, many people. People and their families, neighbors, classmates, friends, and loved ones lost their lives in an instant. However, the terror of the atomic bomb did not end there. Even now, the survivors of the atomic bomb are suffering from both worsening physical conditions and painful memories.

Furthermore, looking at the world today, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the conflict in Palestine, war and strife has not gone away. The tense situation between local residents and soldiers reported on the news, harsh living situations in bomb shelters and refugee sites that people are forced to escape to, children who have no chance to go to school or learn, fired guns and launched missiles, destroyed homes and schools, nurseries, hospitals, and amidst the rubble, a fallen doll. And, even at this very moment, precious lives are being stolen away. All of these were irreplaceable to people: a place to have fun, a place to feel safe, a place to treat illnesses and wounds, the lives of others, all vital and important things.

We must learn about these situations. Then, we must discuss them, so we can act towards fixing these problems. This year, as part of our comprehensive learning, all students at Umegasaki Junior High School take Peace Studies as a subject. In May, we heard a lecture from Ms. Kosuzu Harada about the experience of an atomic bomb survivor as a part of our Peace Studies. After learning about the reality of 79 years ago, we each decided on an individual research topic. Our research placed importance on passing on the experiences of the atomic bomb survivors. We also thought about what "the peace we want" meant to us. Finally, we each summarized our thoughts and findings into our individual Peace Declarations. The school's various Peace Declarations had similar thoughts: having the will to work towards a world without war, the desire to eliminate all nuclear weapons, and the kindness to be thoughtful towards others.

What can we do to help work towards peace? First, we need to think about what we, as individuals, can do to promote peace in our every thought and action. We Umegasaki Junior High School students, following our school precepts, declare that we will follow these three guidelines, and strive daily to work towards peace.

Independence: As the people living at ground zero, we must actively think about and work towards conveying the terrors of nuclear weapons to the world.

Co-operation: As individuals, we must build better relationships by recognizing and respecting the differing thoughts, feelings, and values of other people.

Creativity: As people who understand the preciousness of life, we must create world peace starting from our own small circle of society.

August 9th, 2024

Umegasaki Junior High School Peace Declaration Drafting Committee