

# **Kokugakuin Kugayama Junior High School Entrance Ceremony Speech**

-April 6th 2019

Kunikiyo Hideaki

The weather has graced us with clear skies and the cherry blossoms by the front gate waited before falling like a blessing for everyone. Soon from the gate, along the road of learning, shoots will start to sprout and create a beautiful season of fresh greens.

Today, we are granted by the attendance of many parents and caregivers. I am very happy that we are able to hold this entrance ceremony with 211 boys and 127 girls, together making 338 students.

Congratulations, everyone.

You are receiving the blessings of this great number of people. Today, your new life of 6 years at this school will start.

Today, you are being admitted into school as the Heisei 31st year students, however you are also Reiwa 1st year students.

The new era name contains the meaning of 'Bringing people's [beautiful] hearts together to create new culture.' This is exactly what is essential for a school. I hope with all my heart, that everyone in the coming six years will grow physically and mentally.

Also congratulations, parents and caregivers. Recalling how you stayed with your child through the days of studying for their entrance exams, I can imagine that you would be especially delighted today. I, with all the staff here, will not forget everyone's sentiments today and do our best to assist your child's growth.

For education, the cooperation of family and school is indispensable. So we would be grateful if you could please, support and understand our school's operation, and believe that it was a good thing for you to send your child to Kugayama junior high school.

Now, sorry for the late introduction, I am the principal, Kunikiyo. Mr. Imai, the previous principal, that was introduced to everyone during explanatory meetings and open campus has retired from the position of principal at the end of the last school year and is now part of the board of directors at Kokugakuin University, working to further develop their schools.

Before we go further into the entrance ceremony, I'd like to talk a bit about the school. Established by Iwasaki Seiichi-sensei in Showa 19th year, here at our school we go by 3 proverbs, "Be faithful and respect parents", "Study hard and develop skills" and "Be bright and be strong", as a compass for teaching. From there, in collaboration with Kokugakuin University, who have the same objective as us. This year we mark the 75th year anniversary of the founding of our school.

Kokugakuin University, at the core of the affiliation, will be entering their 137th year. As they head towards their 140th year, there are plans for establishing new departments. They are a school that continuously challenges themselves to further change. Before, it was established as a Research Institute for Japanese Classics in Meiji 15th year, which is now situated in Iidabashi.

Kokugakuin University was one of the approved universities that were recognised as specialise universities in Meiji 36th year. At the time, the schools in Tokyo that were recognised were, starting with the now Jikei Medical University, Waseda, Keio, Hosei, Senshu, Toyo and, similarly a Research Institute for Japanese Classics, Nippon University.

Now, Kokugakuin University has set as 3 missions,

“Harmony between tradition and innovation”, “Balance between individuality and commonality” and “Harmony between localisation and globalisation”

Which are the foundation for the university’s undergraduates and post-graduates who are carrying out their education, as they are the ones who are keeping this founding mindset alive. So as the representatives of their junior and high school section, we too are familiar with it.

Today, I would like to talk a bit into details about a part of it.

We treasure our Japanese traditional culture. Having a heart that holds dear the traditional national character of Japan that is respected by the world. As is having a heart that is grateful to be around nature, people and things all the time. We are students learning to understand the feelings and being considerate of others. In short valuing the differences in people.

To survive in this society, we need to be able to acknowledge people’s differences and act altruistically not selfishly. To be altruistic is what it means to be ‘human’.

When you come to understand this, I can say that you will become a person who can contribute to not only Japan’s society but to the world. As we head towards to a global society we strive to produce such talents.

For private schools, the education we provide is based on the philosophy from the founding of the school. When everyone here has graduated from this school, become adults and come back once again, I’m sure you will find a Kugayama that has not changed. It is our job to develop students without losing our traditional values.

So, at our school, we have a slogan “きちんと青春”. From the word “Kichinto”, I think there are those who would think of ‘strictness’. Strictness definitely ensues when one is disciplining their body and mind.

But other than strictness, what else can you think of?

To those who didn't say ‘good morning’ to not only your parents this morning, those don't say ‘sorry’ when they are wrong and those who don't say ‘thank you’ when they receive something from people, this school would be strict to them. For those who have gotten by fine until now without doing their homework, those who don't keep their time to schedule and those who think it doesn't matter if they wear their uniforms properly or not, this school would be strict to them.

I think you can understand what I've been trying to say until now. In the past, if things that were obvious, it would be difficult to those who do not learn them before to become members of society.

We want everyone to become people who will enter society without problems. That is why “きちんと青春”.

Your personalities will support your learning, first contribute to humanity and become useful to society. I also ask parents and caregivers to understand and support us.

Well, on this occasion of your admittance to this school, there is one task I have for you. Please write an essay on ‘Me in six years’ time.’ 400 words, one page due Saturday the week after next on 20th April, handed in to your home room teacher. I will be reading your essays.

I hope you all enjoy and spend a fulfilling school life.