

Yusuhara Sunshine Times #6 Gratitude

Unfortunately, I will be leaving Yusuhara Town this month. Because of a personal family emergency, I will depart Japan much sooner than I anticipated. In this sixth and final article of Yusuhara Sunshine Times, I want to express my gratitude to everyone.

First, I want to express my gratitude to Yusuhara Town itself. Thank you to everyone who helped me settle into my new life in Japan, especially the Board of Education. The Board of Education helped me with everything I needed when I arrived, including setting up a bank account, arranging housing utilities, buying a car, and much more. I'm immensely grateful for their continued support and care. From them, and many more residents of the town, I truly felt welcomed in Japan and Yusuhara.

Second, I want to express my gratitude to the teachers and staff of Yusuhara Gakuen. I'm grateful for all the faculty who made me feel welcomed as a new member of the school, including the principal, vice principals, other teachers, and support staff. I'm very grateful to the English teachers at Yusuhara Gakuen who I've taught with, who I was lucky enough to support in their teaching. Having been a school teacher in America, I would say that the teachers of Yusuhara Gakuen are definitely the most hard-working and competent that I've ever seen. It truly was an honor to work alongside everybody.

And third, I want to express my gratitude to all the students of Yusuhara Gakuen, including the former junior high school students who graduated in March. I'm grateful to the elementary school students, whose boundless energy and curiosity made every lesson fun and engaging. I'm grateful to the junior high school students, who I adore and admire for their work ethic, respect, creativity, and occasional silliness. It truly has been a lot of fun. It's my hope that every student travels outside of Japan one day to experience the broader world. And use the English they studied in school!

It really is a shame for me to leave so early. I had hoped to stay much longer. When I applied to be an assistant language teacher early last year, I didn't discover until May that I would be placed in Yusuhara Town. Admittedly, I was a little nervous about living in rural Japan, but after these last ten months, I'm glad I wasn't anywhere else. I truly am fortunate to have been here in Yusuhara.

As I return to America, this is my final message: EVERYONE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

- Carter Frost, Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) at Yusuhara Gakuen

A picture I took at the Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum. The people of Yusuhara embody the same spirit of resilience and ingenuity as Sakamoto Ryoma, I believe.

