

"Becoming absorbed in something—anything at all— seems to be one of the best ways to live as a human being."
When summer vacation comes, I am reminded of my third year of junior high school.

At that time, I did everything at my own pace, but during that summer, I lost that balance significantly. Up until then, whether for better or worse, I had generally lived at my own pace, and therefore lived mostly free from stress.

Even in my first year, when I truly disliked studying, I kept my own pace. The same was true from my second year, when I began to take studying seriously. The reason I came to enjoy studying was not something given by others—it arose naturally from within me.

People often asked me what had caused this change in mindset, but I could never give a clear or precise answer. What I do know is that I developed a firm determination to study, and I found genuine joy in gaining various kinds of knowledge through learning. Because I approached studying in my own way, I truly enjoyed it.

During the first term of my third year, I studied so intently that I often lost track of time. Even now, a friend who knew me well from the days when I disliked studying says this to me: "I never even considered you a rival in academics. I never imagined you would become a principal someday." I have never really had a strong sense of rivalry with others, though. (lol)

Now, let me go back to around April of that year, when I advanced to my third year. I decided which high school I wanted to attend—TORITSU (Tokyo metropolitan) high school in Chofu City. I strongly wanted to get into that school.

Up until the first term, things had been going smoothly at my own pace. However, just before summer vacation, a friend invited me to attend summer classes together. To be honest, I did not really understand what those classes involved. Still, I signed up rather casually, simply because many others were going.

Once summer vacation began, the classes started right away. We were given a thick workbook, and every problem felt far too difficult for me to solve. All at once, I lost my motivation.

During the course, we took a mock exam for admission to TORITSU high schools—a so-called external test. When I saw the result, which showed only a 30% chance of acceptance to my first-choice school, I felt quite discouraged. I spent the rest of the summer with a vague sense of unease, and then the second term began.

In the first term, I had enjoyed all my classes and had been able to achieve my target scores—or even higher—on regular tests. In contrast, in the crucial final exams of the second term of my third year, my performance dropped significantly, especially in mathematics. It was a shock.

Even though I understood the material, I could not perform well on the tests. I did not know why. Thinking that my internal grades might be at risk, I consulted my mathematics teacher. It must have been an unusual concern, and I imagine I put the teacher in a difficult position.

The more desperately I tried, the worse things seemed to go. It was the first time I had ever experienced something like that.

"Becoming absorbed in something—anything at all— seems to be one of the best ways to live as a human being."

I encountered these words later in life. They were left to us by the writer Yasushi Inoue (井上 靖).

When I first came across them, I felt a sense of clarity. Even though both involve taking initiative, I believe there is a difference between being absorbed and being desperate. When you are absorbed in something, you can devote yourself to it fully. When you are desperate, however, there is always a sense of obligation attached to it. If you want to truly make what you learn your own—to put it to use, being absorbed is far better. To be honest, I am not even fond of the word "必死", because of the meaning of "必死".

During this summer vacation, I hope that each of you will take time to reflect on yourself and devote plenty of time to something you can become truly absorbed in—something that will connect to your future.

If you do not yet know what that is, then I hope you will use this time to find it. It can be studying, sports, cultural activities, hobbies—anything at all that you are genuinely interested in.



八中だより



第8号

令和8年7月17日

府中市立

府中第八中学校

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注意!

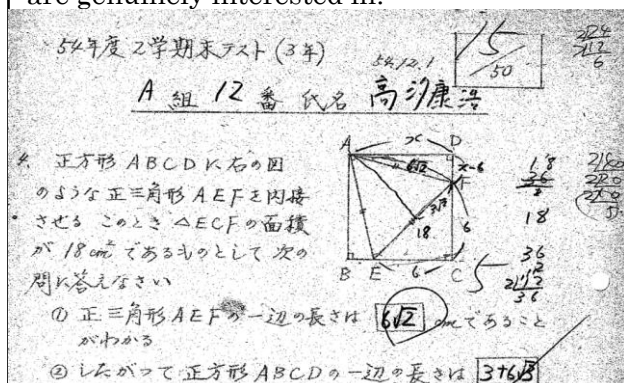
〒182-0035 府中市四谷一丁目二八二七
電話 〇四二(三六四)一八八一

〈学校住所・電話番号〉

全校生徒数 698名

〈在籍生徒数〉 一学年 231名、二学年 249名、三学年 218名

★一年生の生徒の皆さんから、校長の語に興味をもった、という感想がとどきました。ありがとうございました!



After the summer vacation, I sincerely look forward to seeing all of you again, having become deeply absorbed in something and filled with a strong sense of satisfaction.



Principal

Yasuhiro Takashio

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