

# Our Hirosho School Life!



## What happened in May?

### The effect of Covid-19 on the school

Students are not allowed to attend classes. It has been interesting. Teachers and students are learning to use Google Classroom and Zoom to connect directly. It has been difficult since not all students have internet access. It is interesting to see everybody attempt to overcome this obstacle. Hopefully some of the new technology can be useful after things return to normal.

### Google classroom

Google Classroom is a great program to help in this time. It is being used by most of the schools in Hiroshima prefecture. Like any software, Google Classroom has many good points and bad points.

Here are a few of the good points. It is a great way for teachers to give information and even quizzes to students without printing out everything on paper. It is also always there so students and teachers can use it whenever fits their schedules best. It will also help save the environment and save money for the school by using much less paper. Google Classroom also has built in grading so that teachers do not have to spend as much time marking answers to quizzes or worksheets.

As with all software, there are downsides, too. A major downside is access. Some students don't have internet access. If they can't visit the classroom, they won't be able to do the assignments. It is a software program. If you haven't used software that is similar to it, it can take a long time to learn to use it. Google Classroom has many features, but it is also missing many features that are very helpful.

Overall, Google Classroom has great things to offer, but isn't quick. Right now, everybody can learn how to use the amazing technology available to us!

### Memrise and Anki

Another potentially helpful program for students is using a Spaced Repetition System (SRS) flash card program. These tools are amazing for helping memorize and practice what you learn. Two more popular apps are Anki and Memrise.

SRS makes your study time more efficient by only studying things that you are going to forget soon. It works by reviewing things you recently learned or forgot, very often, while reviewing things you know well, rarely. It is helpful and saves so much study time.

Anki and Memrise can be used for free. They each have special features and you can upgrade to paid versions. With Anki, it is very easy to make your own list of things to study. Making your own cards is easy to use and you can sync it online to use from anywhere. Memrise also has the ability to sync online, but it also allows you to compete with friends in similar courses of memorizing, plus it has a few different ways to review.

If you want to check out these study applications, please visit their websites or download their applications! A google search will find both websites. iPhone users, sorry, but the Anki app is not free for iPhone. ☹ Here are the application icons! →



Anki



# What's coming in June?

School is scheduled to restart in June.

## In the ALT's corner...

### More and more Pets

It begins again! It is time for me to share more info about pets with my pictures included! This month I will talk about some of my more recent pets. First off, is our dog, Rafferty. Rafferty was a Chesapeake Bay Retriever. He wasn't a very smart dog, but we loved him. He had one main obsession : playtime. He was always running around chasing a ball or stick. Here is a picture of Rafferty trying to get inside while carrying a giant stick. Our other dog is Max.



Here is a picture of Max with Rafferty. Max was a German Shepherd mix. He was extremely smart and very protective of our family. Max would sometimes kayak with us. Both of our dogs were big, but they were very kind. I miss them both!



Next, let's talk about cats! My family has always had many cats. Pictured below, you can see the cats at dinner time. There's even a cat that wasn't



in the picture! From left to right, the cats' names are: Melva, Gray, Tiberius, and Sassy (Luke is not in the picture). We had 5 cats at once! One of these cats is closer to me than the others. Since we found him, he always wanted to be around me.



Here is a picture of him as a kitten, sitting on my shoulder while I played video games. He wanted attention, but I was looking at the TV, so he jumped up on my shoulder and sat there so he could watch too! Now he is grown up, and he has long fluffy hair. He was really mad when I moved to Japan. He was mean to

the other animals in the house for a couple months. Everytime I go home to visit he melts into my arms as if I'd never left. During this virus, I really wish I had Tiberius with me in Japan. He is the perfect cuddle buddy!

