

## *An Open Essay to JTEs*

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*In Ashikaga there are presently five JETs working in the eleven middle schools (154 classes) and as one shots in the twenty seven elementary schools (81 classes). In one month each JET visits approximately two schools for 3 – 8 days. In each of these visit days JETs have between 0 – 6 classes, which averages out to twelve classes in a single four day visit (week). This means that in a single school year each class has 5 – 9 team teaching lessons out of a total of around 200. Friday is always an office day.*

*The question I pose is this-What can JETs and JTEs do to get the most out of the LIMITED time each JET has in each school? I believe that the answer is both in and out of the classroom. Here are some of the better ideas I have collected over the last two years.*

*\* Keep JETs busy. For example, eating lunch with students, doing 放送 (music and announcements), 交換 (exchange) journalls, 昼休み (hiru yasumi) activities (showing movies, cartoons, videos from home, planned meetings with students), design bulliten boards, etc. Encourage and plan activities outside of class as well as inside.*

*\* Keep JETs informed. Since a JET only visits once a month, please tell them about up coming events: ごみ day, sports events, school trips, sister city participant selection, all school meetings, and events passed. Involve JETs in the school as much as possible. This is not only 宴会.*

*\* Meet with JETs. Invite JETs to English teachers' meetings. Also, if possible, JTEs should meet with English teachers as a group formally or informally more than just once a year. Such meetings are not only necessary they would be beneficial to all. JTEs are busy yet not too busy to meet with JETs twice a year to talk things over.*

*\* Sponser activities outside of school. A few years ago JTEs and JETs did an English play. It was a big success. It would be wonderful if we could do another play or similar activity. It would be a lot of work but well worth the time and effort. It is also a great way to give something back to the whole community. Also, free English lessons outside of school for English teachers about Western culture and modern English are also a possibility.*

*I am especially interested in your ideas about how well JETs are incorporated into your schools or could be more effectively employed in school visits. If you read this essay, please answer the questions below and send your answers to 教育研究所, Attention: Todd.*

*Please be honest.*

- 1. Do you like teaching with JETs? If yes, do you wish you could teach with them more often and why?*
- 2. Do you think that JETs are an effective part of Ashikaga's English education and why or why not?*
- 3. Is there anything that you want JETs to do or not do inside or outside of school and why?*
- 4. What are your ideas for improving English education in Ashikaga?*

*Thank you very much. Keep the lines open!*

*I'm a fool for hope.*