



Academic Tracks and Course Descriptions – Class of 2026

General Information

- The Class of 2026 is enrolled in one of two tracks: Liberal Arts (LA) or Global Science (GS).
- This document provides information on the track to which each course belongs, the year group in which it is available, the language of instruction, and whether the course is compulsory or offered as an option. Where courses are designated options, students are required to choose at least one from the available subjects.
- All students undertake a compulsory one-year study abroad placement during their second year (Year 12). As students attend different schools across various countries, it is not possible to provide standardized course descriptions for that year.
- For further information, please contact collegecounselor@ikubun.com

Japanese

Contemporary Japanese Language

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the reading and analysis of critical essays. Genres studied include social issues, science, language, economics, and international affairs, preparing students for further study in critical reading and analysis.

Language Culture

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course develops students' skills in literary analysis through close readings of poetry, modern novels, and classical Japanese literature. Novel selections span works from the Meiji period onward, while classical texts focus primarily on Heian-era writings, preparing students for further study in Japanese literature and cultural expression.

Japanese Language Exercise (Logic)

LA & GS | Grade 12 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course challenges students with advanced critical essays. Genres include ideological discourse, narrative theory, historical analysis, and conceptions of nationhood, preparing students for further study in logical reasoning and advanced textual analysis.

Classical Japanese

LA Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course introduces students to classical Japanese grammar and develops skills in reading high-level classical texts. By applying their grammar knowledge, students interpret and analyze a wide range of classical literature, preparing them for further study in classical literature and advanced grammar.

OR

Japanese Language Expression

LA Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course emphasizes short-essay writing. Students engage with humanities and social-science texts, practice basic data analysis, and learn to express logical, well-structured arguments, preparing them for further study in academic writing and the humanities.

Mathematics

Equivalent US course titles have been provided for reference

Mathematics I

Equivalent to Algebra 2

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

(LA) This course introduces students to the foundations of algebra, covering basic algebra, quadratic functions, and trigonometric ratios, preparing them for further study in algebra and functions.

(GS) This course introduces students to algebra and functions, covering polynomial functions ($n = 2, 3, 4$), introductory differential and integral calculus, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions, preparing them for further study in advanced mathematics.

Mathematics A

Equivalent to Statistics (LA) or Geometry (GS)

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

(LA) This course introduces students to statistics, covering probability and data analysis, preparing them for further study in data science and quantitative reasoning.

(GS) This course covers trigonometric ratios and trigonometric functions, preparing students for further study in advanced mathematics.

Mathematics II

Equivalent to Pre-Calculus

LA & GS | Grade 12 | Japanese | Compulsory

(LA) This course builds on prior study of algebra and functions, covering trigonometric functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and introductory differential and integral calculus, preparing students for further study in advanced mathematics.

(GS) This course focuses on higher-level mathematics, covering algebra, mathematical proofs, analytic geometry, conic sections, and the complex plane. Students engage in advanced-level problem solving, preparing them for further study in higher mathematics.

Mathematics B

Equivalent to Statistics

GS Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course develops students' skills in statistics, with a focus on probability and data analysis, preparing them for further study in data science and quantitative reasoning.

Mathematics C

Advanced Math (Vectors/Linear Algebra topics)

GS Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to advanced mathematical concepts, covering plane and spatial vectors as well as geometric figures. Students engage in advanced-level problem solving, preparing them for further study in higher mathematics.

Mathematics III

Equivalent to Calculus

GS Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course deepens students' understanding of calculus, covering limits and applied differential and integral calculus. Students practice extensively with advanced-level problems, preparing them for further study in calculus and related fields.

OR

Mathematics Exercises

Mathematics Seminar

GS Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course consolidates previously studied mathematics through targeted review and extensive practice. Students engage with advanced-level problems comparable to university entrance examinations, preparing them for further study in advanced mathematics.

Science

Basic Biology

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the foundations of life science. Topics include cell structure and energy, genetics, immunity and disease, and ecosystems and biomes. Students develop a broad understanding of essential biological concepts, preparing them for further study in the life sciences.

Integrated Science

LA Only | Grade 10 | English | Compulsory

This all-English course introduces students to the foundations of scientific inquiry. Through an experiment-based curriculum, students gain a practical understanding of the scientific method while exploring core concepts in biology, chemistry, and physics. The course fosters curiosity, analytical thinking, and a strong scientific mindset, preparing students for further study in the sciences.

Basic Chemistry

GS Only | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the foundations of chemistry. Topics include atomic structure, chemical bonding, periodic table elements, stoichiometry, acids and bases, and redox reactions. Students develop a solid foundation in chemistry, preparing them for further study in the sciences.

Basic Physics

GS Only | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the foundations of physics, with a focus on mechanics. Students learn to apply equations and mathematical tools to describe and analyze physical phenomena, preparing them for further study in the physical sciences.

Grade 12 GS Track students are required to select two of the following:

Biology

GS Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course provides students with a broad understanding of biological phenomena. Topics include metabolism, genetics, developmental biology, and responses to the environment. Students gain knowledge and analytical skills, preparing them for further study in the life sciences.

OR

Chemistry

GS Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course provides students with a broad understanding of chemical phenomena. Topics include solutions, thermochemistry, equilibrium, organic chemistry, and inorganic chemistry. To ensure mastery, the course incorporates extensive problem-solving exercises that reinforce theoretical principles, preparing students for further study in the sciences.

OR

Physics

GS Only | Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course provides students with a broad understanding of physical principles. Careful instruction is given from formula derivation through to the underlying concepts, ensuring deep comprehension of the subject. Students engage in extensive problem-solving practice across mechanics, electromagnetism, and wave phenomena, preparing them for further study in the physical sciences.

Social Studies

Civics

Geography credits are fulfilled during the study abroad year

Modern & Contemporary History

LA & GS | Year 1 Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course focuses on modern and contemporary history. Students explore the causes and historical background of major current issues, developing an understanding of how the past shapes today's society.

Public

LA & GS | Year 1 Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the foundations of ethics, philosophy, and civic education. Topics include human rights, civic duties, and the structures of government, law, and economics. Students gain knowledge essential for responsible citizenship.

Grade 12 LA Track students are required to select one of the following:

[Social Studies] Advanced World History

LA Only | Year 3 Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course surveys world history from the origins of humankind to the present day. Students study the historical development of Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania, preparing them for advanced study in history and related fields.

OR

[Civics] Politics & Economy

LA Only | Year 3 Grade 12 | Japanese | Optional

This course covers both political and economic systems. In the political field, students study the origins of natural rights, theories of governance, and compare legislative, judicial, and executive systems in Japan and abroad. In the economic field, students learn about international economics, the role of central banks, and the foundations of fiscal and monetary policy. Students develop an informed understanding of politics and economics, preparing them for further study in the social sciences.

Foreign Languages (English)

Comprehensive English I, II

CE I - LA & GS | Grade 10 | English | Compulsory

CE II - LA Only | Grade 12 | English | Compulsory

These courses help students build a solid foundation in English grammar and develop reading comprehension strategies for a wide variety of texts. Students learn to identify and apply grammar rules, expand vocabulary, and analyze meaning in both fiction and non-fiction passages, preparing them for further study in advanced English language and literature.

Essay Writing I, II

LA & GS | Grade 10 & 12 | English | Compulsory

These courses help students plan, structure, and write clear, well-supported essays in response to complex prompts. Instruction emphasizes both academic writing and personal narrative essays.

(LA) focus on sociologically themed prompts.

(GS) focus on science-themed prompts and combine content with *Comprehensive English II*.

Through this practice, students strengthen their ability to construct logical arguments and express nuanced ideas in writing, preparing them for further study in academic writing and the humanities or sciences.

Debate & Discussion I, II

LA & GS | Grade 10 & 12 | English | Compulsory

These courses equip students with the skills to research, debate, and discuss a wide range of topics, grounded in their mandatory personal research projects and in contemporary social and scientific issues. Students also learn to present their findings clearly through structured reports and visual posters, preparing them for further study in public speaking, presentation, and academic research.

Health and P.E.

Physical Education

LA & GS | Grade 10 & 12 | Japanese | Compulsory

Students take Physical Education every year, developing skills across a variety of activities designed to promote lifelong fitness and well-being. The course emphasizes physical literacy, teamwork, and healthy lifestyle habits, preparing students to maintain fitness throughout high school and beyond.

Health

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to health education with a focus on practical knowledge and responsible decision-making. Topics include lifestyle habits, infectious diseases, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), mental health, and first aid. Students learn to apply this knowledge to support their own physical and mental well-being, preparing them to make informed choices throughout their lives.

Fine Arts

Students are required to take at least one Fine Arts course in Grade 10 to graduate.

Art & Design I

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Optional

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of visual expression. Students explore drawing, painting, and design principles while developing creativity, technical skills, and an appreciation of artistic processes. The course prepares students for further study in art and design.

OR

Calligraphy I

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Optional

This course introduces students to the traditional art of Japanese calligraphy. Students practice brush technique, balance, and composition while deepening their understanding of the cultural and historical significance of written forms. The course develops both artistic skill and cultural appreciation.

OR

Music I

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Optional

This course develops students' skills in music appreciation and performance. Students learn basic music theory, vocal and instrumental techniques, and engage in ensemble activities. The course fosters creativity, expression, and collaboration through music.

Practical & Interdisciplinary Studies

Information Study I

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of ICT skills. Topics include information security, digital expression, information design, basic programming, and the mechanisms of computer networks. Students develop practical digital literacy to support academic work and responsible technology use, preparing them for further study in information science.

Basic Home Economics

LA & GS | Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course provides students with practical knowledge for daily life and well-being. Topics include maintaining health through diet, managing comfortable living spaces and clothing, family and community relationships, and environmentally responsible consumer behavior. Students gain skills to support sustainable lifestyles and lifelong well-being.

Collaborative Seminars

LA & GS | Grade 10 & 12 | Japanese | Compulsory

In this course, first- and third-year students learn together in cross-grade groups. Divided into eight seminar teams, they engage collaboratively in education focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through these seminars, students broaden their interests and develop research skills, later applying them through independent projects that deepen personal inquiry.