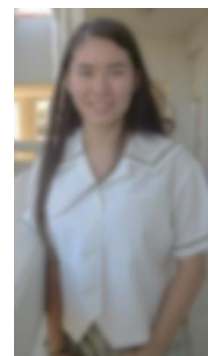


## Introduction

Hello! My name is Emi Centofante. I am here at Koyo High School for one week as an independent exchange student. I come here to Okinawa every summer during my summer break to visit my family and friends, go to school, and of course, see Okinawa. I am from Virginia of the United States was born and raised there. My father is Italian among other things, and my mother is Okinawan. I know Japanese because I attend Japanese school on Saturdays and I communicate with my mother in Japanese. I love to dance, and I attend a dance studio where I spend most of time after school and some of my weekends at. I also take guitar lessons!



下のトピックはセントファンテさんが感じた日米高校の違いです。

### Q 次の5つの点に関して何と書かれていますか？

- 1 アメリカの高校は何月に始まって何月に終わりますか？
- 2 アメリカの学校は制服はないけど、何があると言っていますか？
- 3 アメリカでは1つの高校の生徒数は何人ぐらいだと思いますか？
- 4 アメリカではクーラー (Air conditioning)は1日のうちどれくらい稼働していますか？  
また、クーラーはどの施設でさえずっと稼働していると書いていますか？
- 5 アメリカの高校の宿題は大変ですか？

## American and Okinawan School Differences

All American schools are not the same. Every state, county, and each school has different rules and regulations. I have been to preschool, elementary, middle, and now high school in Okinawa, and I still learn new things about the education system every year that shock me. The public school systems in America and Okinawa are very different. Also, American private schools are very different from the American public schools. Private schools are schools that you pay money to go to, so they have their own set of rules, regulations, and education requirements different from the public schools. Public schools are what most kids attend. I will be talking about public schools. Public schools start their new school year anywhere from the end of August to beginning of September and end in around mid-June. American

public schools usually do not have uniforms, only a dress code. Most schools however, do have the same general dress code rules. For girls, no pants or skirts above either the knee or first quarter of the thigh, and no shoulders, backs or bra straps can be shown. Boys do not really have strict rules. For both genders, some general rules are no pajamas, no sunglasses, no headwear (unless worn for religious reasons), and no gang signs. Make up, piercings, and accessories and all things to do with hair are all okay. Different schools enforce their dress code policies differently, some a lot stricter than others. I have noticed that there have been a lot of opposition and riots about strict dress codes for girls throughout the whole country. A new era of feminism and gender equality has come along, and getting rid of dress codes that are too strict or put down and sexualize girls is a goal for some. In classrooms, food, drinks, and gum is allowed as long as the teacher of the classroom allows it. Cellphone rules are different in each school. Some schools require them to be put away all day, and some schools allow them at all times except during instruction time. But again, these rules can be altered depending on the teacher of the classroom. Unlike the schools in Okinawa, each teacher has their own classroom with all of their belongings and a workspace. There is a teacher lounge, some schools have one for each subject, but it is mostly used for teachers to get together to talk, eat or relax. School faculties are very usually big, because there are also usually a lot of students. School faculties consists of 5 to 10 teachers for each subject, special education teachers (for the handicapped and disabled students), lunch ladies, janitors, office workers, security guards and more. Schools can hold anywhere from 800 students to 3,000 students. Each class usually consists of 18 to 30 students. Every class however, is with different people. Every student has their own unique class schedule that is made over summer break, and so every class a student goes to will have a different teacher and students. Schools in Okinawa have a lot of 10 minute breaks and down time, but schools in America have anywhere from a 3–10 minute transition time, so they can take all their belongings and get to their next class. Lockers are used in middle and high school, but some schools like my own high school do not use them. Air conditioning is on all day and night, even in the PE gym. A lot of schools also have a weight training room for athletes, or to take weight training as a class. Each school offers a variety of different classes, with lots of electives. Foreign languages usually always consist of Spanish and then about two more that the school specializes in. The workload in schools are usually very heavy. Homework is always given and older students taking advanced placement classes can are always swamped in homework, having anywhere from 1 to 6 hours a night.

**Okinawa and American schools have a lot of differences, but their similarities of giving kids a good education and getting them ready for college and an independent life stay consistent.**