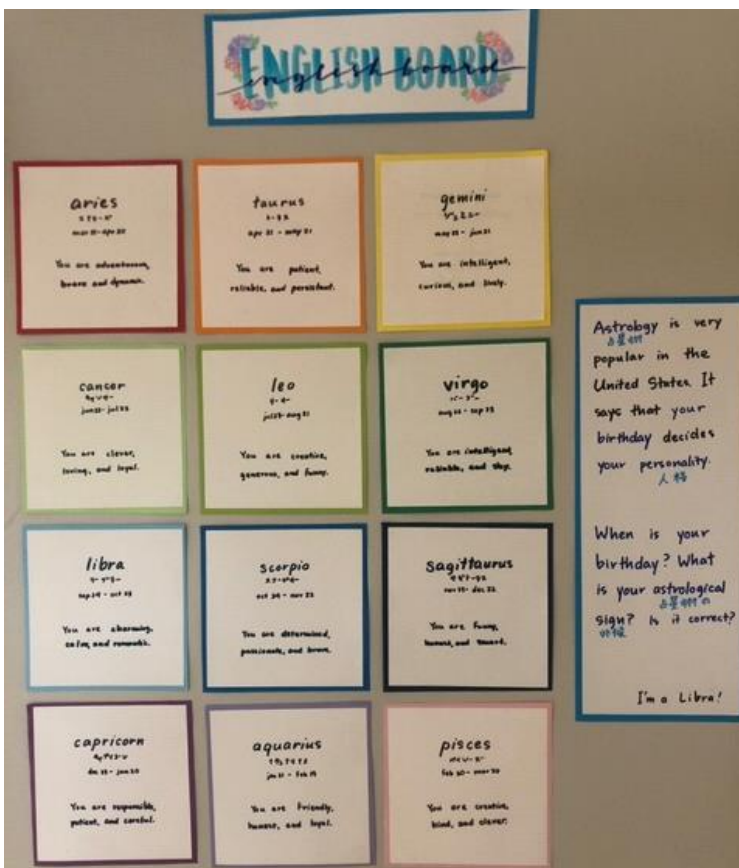


Like many of the months since I've been in Japan, June has been very busy. In the United States, schools are already on summer vacation, so I am not used to having such a long school year. Luckily, I was able to meet one of my close friends for a trip around Korea and Osaka in the middle of June. It was nice to get a small break from the nonstop school life.

In the beginning of June, I went to a high school's brass band concert to support some students who have graduated. The concert was really interesting. It was completely different from the brass band and orchestra concerts I have seen and participated in in my schools.



At my schools, we only played music, but this school had skits and dancing and other kinds of performances with their music. At some point, Anpanman even came out and defeated Baikinman during a song. It was also my first time seeing a marching band perform, and it was really impressive. I hope to go to more concerts like this one in the future!



In June, four student teachers came for a few weeks. The students were so excited to see them, and it was nice seeing how the student teachers interacted with the students and other teachers. I wish them the best of luck for the teacher's exam. Maybe we can meet again someday!

Late in June, I had the opportunity to join the basketball teams at their tournament in Gifu Prefecture. It was my first time going on an overnight trip with the basketball teams, so I was very excited. It was fun staying at a hotel with the students and other teachers, and the

teams did well. It was difficult running back and forth from the different gyms for the girls' and boys' basketball games, but I enjoyed seeing the students try their best.

Recently, I have been studying for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. I am very lucky because many of the teachers are very patient with me and willing to explain vocabulary and grammar that I don't understand. Sometimes, the teachers are very entertained by the questions I ask or the textbooks I use, so I am happy that I can bring them some fun in exchange. Thank you very much for helping me! I will continue to work hard to improve my Japanese!

At the end of the month, the teachers had a volleyball game. I have been practicing occasionally with the Konan Junior High School volleyball team to try to improve before the match. We came in second place in the tournament! My goal is to successfully do an overhand serve. This time, I wasn't able to reach my goal, but I will try again in the fall.

