

September

September was very hectic and challenging, but also very rewarding. When the month began, I was as nervous as could be. At the opening ceremony, I had to introduce myself to the entire school. I have never had a talent for public speaking. As I climbed the stairs to the stage, my legs were shaking. I just hoped that my voice wouldn't sound strange. I finished the speech, and it wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be.

For the entire month of September, I gave my self-introduction lesson. In the beginning, I was very nervous. But, after teaching the same lesson 20 times, by the end I was an expert. After 20 times, I got my fair share of strange questions. One second-year girl asked if I fart. (I said, "Yes. Of course I fart." I hope I didn't ruin her dreams.) One first-year boy asked what my favorite *kaiju* is. (Unfortunately, I only know of Godzilla.) I-1 asked what I thought of them all, specifically face-wise. (I said that I thought they were cute and energetic. They started yelling, "Really? Really??")

Some of my favorite classes to teach are the special needs classes. Each one of them is very sweet, and I love playing games with them. It is fun watching them compete for stickers. Their efforts inspire me to work harder for them.

I began going to the boys' and girls' basketball practice and games. I can't coach, so I became a cheerleader for the teams. One weekend, I went with the girls' team to Mie for a competition. Even though they didn't win, they still played great. I want to continue supporting the basketball teams however I can.

My first month in Japan is ending, and I have loved every moment of it so far. Even though I am still new to teaching, the teachers and students are very forgiving. I'm excited moving forward as my skills will improve, and I can start on long-term English projects for the school.

