

*September:*

Hello Minakuchi Junior High! Summer vacation may have ended but the adventure with me has just begun. I'm the new ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) at Minakuchi JHS (Junior High School).

I'm from America. More importantly, I'm from Michigan! I love coffee and melon bread. Any of my students can tell you I'm very tall for a girl. My hobbies include video games and studying Japanese, though I'm not so good at either of them. I sometimes I make weird voices when I read things in class and I enjoy shouting random Japanese words. I'm happy as long as someone gets surprised or laughs. I'm odd and I know it. Lastly, my favorite part of my day is when I get to wave and say hello to passing students. The more they say, the better the day.

There is a lot to learn at a new job but never did I think I was going to dance as my first task on the job. I came to Minakuchi in the prime of Sports day preparation. It was hot. Boy oh boy was it hot. I got new sun burns every day we were outside but the energy of the students didn't fade with the increasing heat. Lucky for them. My favorite part was when they practiced for the Soran dance. I loved scaring the kids by suddenly appearing to try to dance with their team. They usually got a good laugh out of my failure and as did I. Eventually sports day came. I was impressed with everyone's competitive spirit. I was almost jealous I couldn't join the games. My jealousy really kicked in when they performed the Soran dance and I didn't get to join. I was so jealous I started dancing by myself on the side lines. When they started the dance for the second time, I got to join. I was ecstatic. Hands down, my favorite part of Sports day.

It hasn't been long, but I like my school and I like living in Shiga. I love waking up to see mountains and rice fields out my window. I enjoy being able to walk or use public transportation for anywhere I need to go. I find riding trains in Japan very relaxing, when it's not rush hour. I'm glad I'm in the lake prefecture. There's something very comforting about being close to a lake, even if I can't see it. In a way, Shiga feels a lot like Michigan. You know, if corn fields were rice fields, all of our lakes turned into one lake and the humidity was turned to 110%.

The future holds a giant learning curve of me learning how to teach, so bear with me guys! On top of that, I'm still learning Japanese so if I don't understand quite yet, I'm sorry. I swear I'm trying. If you think I'm doing OK so far, let me feel the love so I know I should stay another year. Let's have a laugh, have fun and to our best through those days I have to give you worksheets instead of games. Lend me your energy and I'll lend you mine, we'll make the day fun. I look forward to every class we have together.



It's nice to finally meet you. Until next time.

