

Principal's Ceremonial Address

The cold weather of April has finally given way to the warmth of spring, and the start of a new school year has arrived.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our distinguished guests who have taken time out of their busy schedules to attend the 80th Entrance Ceremony for the 2025 academic year Tokyo Metropolitan Omori Senior High School.

To the 88 new students who have officially become students at Omori High School, I would like to extend my congratulations on your enrollment. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all as members of the Omori High School community. I imagine that you have arrived here today with feelings of both anticipation and anxiety. At the pre-entrance orientation on March 24, we talked about “Understand, Comply, Grasp, and Connect” in accordance with the Principal's News Letter. I hope you have gotten used to the idea that you will be high school students as you have prepared over the spring break.

For the parents, I am sure you must have gone through a lot of hardships while supporting your children until this moment. As principal of the school, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on this fine day. I would also like to ask for your cooperation with our faculty and staff regarding our school's educational activities and your continued support of your child as they begin their new life here at our school.

First of all, let's look back at the “Understand, Comply, Grasp, and Connect” mentioned earlier. The word “understand” represents educational instruction and “comply” refers to the rules and manners of school life. So then, what does “grasp” mean? You are here now because you grasped the opportunity to enter Omori High School. In addition to your daily classes, high school life provides you with many opportunities. You will also be given a lot of information about what to expect after graduation. You need to grasp these opportunities on your own initiative. Your three years of high school will probably pass more quickly than your years in junior high school did. It is important for you to “grasp” the opportunities and information you are given in order to build your own future. This is because it is important to think, judge, and act on one's own, rather than being pulled along by those around you. This is what it means to be proactive. It is also important to “connect” with the people and systems you will encounter during your high school life. If you try to live proactively, you may encounter difficulties, so it is important to be able to ask for help. Please be sure to “connect” in order to overcome a variety of challenges.

Omori High School's motto, "Respect, Sincerity, and Effort is posted on the right side of the school gate. This motto is a symbol of the values that are required of us as human beings and that we should acquire in order to live in the modern age, which can be changeable, uncertain and complex. These three words have been

passed down through the generations as our school motto because, regardless of time period, values we have as human beings will never change. These words are easy to say, but it is not easy to really live up to them. Your grade is a richly diverse and international group of people representative of the society of the future. So, how should we show “respect, sincerity, and effort” through our actions?

For the first one, “Respect”, please be the kind of students who always show courtesy, not only to superiors such as seniors and teachers, but also to classmates, family members, and strangers you pass on the street. Rude people have a hard time gaining trust in any society. Among the simplest expressions of politeness is to greet others. This is because greeting people is the easiest way of showing that you see someone.

Secondly, to be “sincere,” you must be a person who listens and thinks things through. It is not good to overthink and be unable to act, but it is much more sincere than to act without thinking and cause trouble. Of course it is important to be sincere to others, but first be sincere to yourself. You should be able to think carefully about what is required of you and what you should do, and act accordingly, rather than acting on your feelings in the moment. In other words, you must exercise reason, which is different from animal instinct, and this will lead you to becoming “sincere”.

Thirdly, “effort,” needs no explanation. However, there are endless levels of effort. What you think you have done is just ordinary to another person. Not everyone here can become a superstar like Shohei Otani. That is why it is necessary for us to make “effort” at this young age, to have many experiences and understand many different values at high school, and to always increase your own level of effort before becoming an adult. You are still young and full of potential for change, and I hope that your three years of effort will lead to a fruitful career path after graduation.

I sincerely hope that your three years at Omori High School will be a time for you to fully develop your abilities. “Respect, sincerity, and hard work” are important values that have been passed down from generation to generation throughout the 80-year history of our school. I have often shared them not only with you but also with current students at their entrance ceremonies and at every opportunity, including at the opening and closing ceremonies. Please keep them in mind during your daily school life. And please pass on the baton to your juniors and seniors.

I would like to conclude my address by promising that we, the faculty and staff of Omori High School, will ensure that all new students will be nurtured until they realize the values of our school motto and are sent off as people who are loved and are ready to contribute to society.

April 8, 2025

Miho Ikeda, Principal, Tokyo Metropolitan Omori High School