

The Way We Are

Similar, Yet Different: The Lives of Japanese and American High School

After seeing TJF's collection of photographs *The Way We Are*, students at Franklin High School and Greenfield High School in Wisconsin, U.S. sent us pictures of their high school life. You can hear the responses among their peers here in Japan: "Look, that's the same as here." "You'd never see anything like that in Japan." "As for me, I'd be more like . . ." Here we present pairs of photos that show American and Japanese high school students doing the same sorts of things.

How do you see these photos? Does Japanese high school life seem very different? Quite similar? Actually different when you look closely? What would you write in the blank speech balloons for the American high school students?

📷:Photographer

Please share with us snapshots of how you live!

Under the "The Way We Are" theme, TJF is collecting photographs of high school students' "Life at Home." Please share with us snapshots of how you live: fun events, how you spend time with your family, the things in your room you are most proud of, how you spend your holidays, etc. Please attach an explanatory caption to each photograph with your name, school name, and school grade and mail them to TJF by **September 10**. Selected photographs from among those received will be published in *The Japan Forum Newsletter*, No. 15 in December. Those whose photographs are selected will receive a free copy of *The Way We Are*. We look forward to receiving your photographs.



ああ、
まだ眠いなあ。

"Aa, I'd like to go back to bed!"

📷 Hasegawa Takashi



📷 Jack Chmielewski

Brushing teeth

Eating school lunch in the cafeteria. In Japan or the United States, lunch tastes better when you're eating with friends.

📷 Joy Rivera



Lunch

At school, they huddle together chatting, paying no attention to the people around them. After classes, they spend the time in parks and other places walking and talking. "Where shall we go today," he queries.

📷 Masui Kyōko

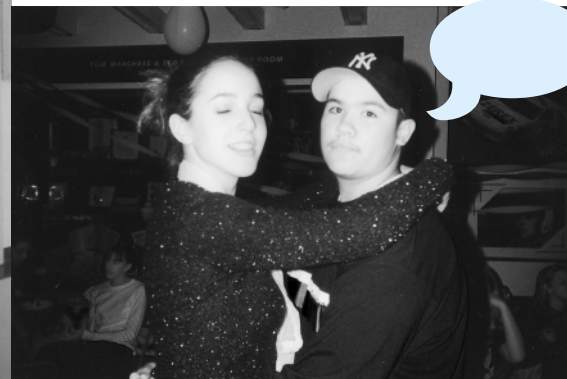


きょうの放課後は、
どこへ行こうか？

Couples

Slow dancing at a party.

📷 Joy Rivera



Students

きょう かれ 女
今日は彼と会うから
きれいに化粧しなくちゃ。



Putting on make-up in preparation for going out after school is over. "Gotta get it right. I'm going out with my boyfriend."

📷 Yamaguchi Naoki



Makeup

She gets up at 5:30 to put on her makeup and get ready for school.

📷 Carlane Zepnick

かみがた
この髪型って
おしゃれだねー。

うん、
それいけてるよ。



Eating lunch while leafing through fashion magazines in the classroom. Some students bring boxed lunches from home; others buy sandwiches at the school kiosk. "Here, this hairstyle, isn't it stylish?!" "Yeah, that's cool."

📷 Suzuki Satoko

With mid-terms or finals about to begin, friends consult about what to expect on the tests in a corner of the classroom.

"Look at this problem. Sensei said that kind of thing would be on the exam, right?"

📷 Nakayama Yoshimitsu



もんだい
この問題、
で
テストに出るって
せんせい
先生が
いい
言ってたよね？

When big exams are coming up, everybody studies before class begins.

📷 Carlane Zepnick



Studying for exams

Left: Enjoying the sense of relief, students head home with their friends. Some walk, others bicycle, still others go by train, bus, or school bus. "Let's get something to drink at the station shop, okay?"

📷 Hirosaka Toshihiko

Right: Boarding the school bus after school.

📷 Tony Wood

えき 売店
駅の売店で、
ジュースでも
飲んでいこうよ。



Going home

