
Taisei High School Becomes the First User of JapanKnowledge School

TOKYO, JAPAN February 17, 2021 - Kinokuniya Company Ltd. (Chairman and President Masashi Takai) has been working as a sales agent for JapanKnowledge School, an online study support tool for secondary education that will be launched by NetAdvance Inc. (President Masahiro Oga) in April 2021. The first user of this new study tool will be Taisei High School, a 124 years old private high school in Mitaka city, Tokyo.

Education is now facing a great change with the GIGA school concept promoted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan, and the transition to remote classes due to Covid-19. Consequently, teachers now face the challenge of introducing "Inquiry-Based Learning," in which students set their own agenda, and ICT becomes essential in all fields of study.

JapanKnowledge School is an internet service designed to solve these issues and support independent and interactive learning for each student. We conducted an interview with the teachers of Taisei High School about the circumstances leading to the introduction of JapanKnowledge School and its advantages.

■ A basis for learning: dictionaries and encyclopedias

A math teacher, Mr Sakamoto, had been looking for an appropriate resource to utilize iPads, which will be provided to all of the new first-degree students in 2021. He didn't have a plan to buy dictionaries and encyclopedia at that time. However, he discovered JapanKnowledge School at the Education IT Solution EXPO last year and thought, "This is it!" In Taisei High School, it was not mandatory to buy a dictionary, and only about 30% of students have bought the recommended titles so far. "It is good that JapanKnowledge School allows students to use the same dictionary at the same time, and we don't need to install several apps because it has a wide variety of contents that cover all subjects", he said.

■ Must-have academic resources for Inquiry-Based Learning

JapanKnowledge School includes not only basic references but also academic resources, such as the Encyclopedia of Japanese History and the Japan Statistical Yearbook. "It would be good for students to be exposed to resources that are highly-acclaimed over a long period, in the sense that it makes students stretch themselves," said a vice-principle, Mr Takahashi, who teaches Japanese history. A Japanese language and literature teacher, Ms Ono, said, "JapanKnowledge School was attractive as it includes the contents which high school students do not usually use, such as the Unabridged Dictionary of the Japanese Language."

Inheriting the strong points of JapanKnowledge, the largest database in Japan well recognized across the globe, JapanKnowledge School promises continuous delivery of additional new content even after its launch, in an ongoing effort to support learning deeply based on students' interests.

■ Multipurpose book series

In addition to dictionaries and encyclopedias, JapanKnowledge School offers the ability to browse and search popular book series such as Iwanami Shinsho and Iwanami Science Library. Ms Ono said, "We can use the books not only for learning but also to promote reading books and writing essays. Many of our students take university entrance examinations including essay writing. I thought it would be very helpful for students who apply for the economics department, for example, to supplement their classroom learning by reading additional economics books offered on JapanKnowledge School." She appreciated the versatility of these book series. Students can not only search the reference books when they come up with questions, but also use it to acquire the skills necessary for Inquiry-Based Learning, such as the habit of learning independently, and the ability to clearly express their thoughts and newly-found knowledge.

Kinokuniya will promote JapanKnowledge School to junior and high schools across Japan with a view to advancing the ICTization of education.

■ Product

JapanKnowledge School

■ Contents and Feature

JapanKnowledge School is an internet service that provides integrated searching and browsing of encyclopedias, dictionaries, book series, and other resources frequently used by junior and senior high school students. It allows the students easy access to more than 35 contents, from personal computers, tablets, and smartphones. In addition to being a valuable tool for students, teachers will also find it helpful for research and for making teaching materials.

■ Contents

- Complete Japanese Encyclopedia :Encyclopedia Nipponica (Shogakukan)
- New edition: Sekai Daihyakka Jiten : Heibonsha's World Encyclopedia (Heibonsha)
- Shogakukan Unabridged Dictionary of the Japanese Language Second Edition (Shogakukan)
- Digital Dai-ji-sen Japanese Dictionary (Shogakukan)
- Iwanami Japanese Dictionary Eighth Edition (Iwanami Shoten)
- Dictionary of Contemporary Japanese with Example Sentences Fifth Edition (Shogakukan)
- Shinsen Kanwa Jiten, web edition :Chinese-Japanese character dictionary (Shogakukan)
- Shogakukan Zenbunzenyaku Kogojiten :Unabridged Ancient Japanese Dictionary (Shogakukan)
- Kojizokushin Kotowaza Daijiten :Great Dictionary of Tradition and Proverbs (Shogakukan)
- Shogakukan Progressive English-Japanese Dictionary Forth Edition and Fifth Edition (Shogakukan)
- Compass Rose English-Japanese Dictionary (Kenkyusha)
- Youth Progressive English-Japanese Dictionary :Expanded Digital Edition (Shogakukan)
- Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 9th Edition (Oxford University Press)
- Encyclopedia of Japan (Kodansha)
- Genius English (Taishukan Shoten)
- Encyclopedia of Japanese History (Yoshikawa Kobunkan)
- A user- Friendly Timeline of Japanese History (with furigana) (Yoshikawa Kobunkan)
- Nihon Kokusei Zu-e (Graphs and Tables of Japan National Census) (The Tsuneta Yano Memorial Society)
- Sekai Kokusei Zu-e (Graphs and Tables of World National Census) (The Tsuneta Yano Memorial Society)
- Major Statistics of Japan (Japan Statistical Association)
- Japan learning Atlas (Heibonsha Cartographic Publishing)
- World Learning Atlas (Heibonsha Cartographic Publishing)
- Digital Dictionary of Chemistry 2nd Edition (Morikita Publishing)
- Iwanami Dictionary of Biology 5th edition (Iwanami Shoten)
- Asakura Dictionary of Mathematics (Asakura Publishing)
- Encyclopedia of contemporary words (JIYUKOKUMINSHA)
- The Biographical Dictionary of Japan (Kodansha)
- Iwanami Great World Biographical Dictionary (Iwanami Shoten)

- Japan Statistical Yearbook (Japan Statistical Association)
- Iwanami Shinsho 50 Selection Books (Iwanami Shoten)
- Iwanami Junior Shinsho 50 Selection Books (Iwanami Shoten)
- Iwanami Science Library 50 Selection Books (Iwanami Shoten)
- Iwanami Booklet 50 Selection Book (Iwanami Shoten)

And also, additional content will be released on JapanKnowledge School after the service starts in April 2021.

■ 「JapanKnowledge School」 Website : <https://school.japanknowledge.com/>

< Taisei High school >

Taisei High School is a private high school in Mitaka City, established 124 years ago. There are about 450 students per grade and a total of about 1,300 students in this school. Apropos of the school's name, which is derived from its motto, "Taiki Bansei" ("great talents are late bloomers"), they are engaged in daily educational activities to improve academic ability and support students' career development. Currently, as a part of their ICT education, the entire school is equipped with Wi-Fi, and Office365 is being utilized for learning activities, communication, and health management.

< NetAdvance Inc. >

NetAdvance Inc., a Shogakukan company, operates JapanKnowledge database services that deliver encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other academic resources. JapanKnowledge was launched in 2001 and is provided to institutional and individual customers. JapanKnowledge Lib, a service for institutions, is a leading knowledge database in Japan, used by over 800 subscribers including universities, research institutes, libraries, and high schools worldwide. In addition, NetAdvance Inc. provides JKBooks, containing digital archives of rare materials, and Shogakukan Corpus Network, one of the largest sites of integrated English corpuses in the world.

< Kinokuniya Company Ltd. >

Established in 1927, Kinokuniya Company Ltd. is one of the largest bookstore chains in Japan with a history spanning more than 90 years. Its institutional sales division currently has 28 sales offices in domestic areas stretching across Japan from Hokkaido to Okinawa, and five divisions specialized in respective products and services. Also, there are six sales offices and three export offices outside Japan. Kinokuniya carries out a wide range of businesses, providing high-quality solutions in the procurement of Japanese and international books, journals, databases, and eBooks; in the provision and installation of educational and research facilities and equipment; as well as in the assignment of contracts to outsource library operations on behalf of universities and local governments alike.

Kinokuniya has worked as the exclusive agent of the JapanKnowledge of NetAdvance Inc. for institutional customers since June 2019.