

Education - General Overview

Introduction

Misawa Air Base has three DoDDS facilities. Further information is available on each of these schools in their respective section. The Civilian Mission Support Group Deputy Director is available to answer any questions you may have concerning your child's school, DSN 315-226-3504.

Please visit the [DODEA website](#) for more information about DoDDS and Misawa Schools.

To learn about Accreditation by the State, visit the [website](#).

Entrance Requirements

DoDEA has changed its Early Child Hood Education programs entrance requirements for all DoD Schools for Calendar Year 2011-2012. Age requirement are:

- *Sure Start and Pre-Kindergarten Programs*, a child must be 4 years of age by September 1.
- *Kindergarten Programs*, a child must be 5 years of age by September 1.
- *First Grade*, a child must be 6 years of age by September 1.

If you have any questions about exceptions, contact DoDEA.

Number of schools

- 2 Elementary Schools
- 1 Middle/High School
- 2 Sure Start Pre-School Classes
- 2 PSCD (Pre-School Child Development) Classes

Bus service

Available for off-base students and middle/high school students living in the North Area. The DoDEA Pacific Transportation Management Office (PACTMO) administers school bus transportation for Misawa Air Base. The Misawa Student Transportation Office (STO) will register authorized students, issue bus passes and assign students to buses. Please call DSN 315-226-9119 for more information on transporting students to school.

Meals

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) provides lunch to students attending Misawa Air Base schools. Children who qualify under USDA guidelines may be eligible for lunch either free of charge or at a reduced rate. To apply, complete the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application and drop it and a copy of the member's Leave and Earning Statement off in the locked box located at the Customer Service Counter at the Base Exchange. If your spouse is also employed, a wage earning statement is required for the spouse as well. Applications are available in the main office of each school, at the Base Exchange and at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Contact the Civilian Mission Support Group Deputy Director with any questions or for additional information, DSN 315-226-3504.

Before and After School Programs

- School Age Program operates before and after school care (ages 5-12)
- Lunney Youth Center offers after school activities for children ages 9-12
- Wakasa Teen Center offers after school activities for ages 13 and up
- Each school has robust extra-curricular activities:

- Elementary - band, chess club, study club, Soroban club, Japanese culture classes, cross country skiing, sledding, ice skating, etc.
- High School - drama, band, choir, skiing, paintball, yearbook, ROTC, and a variety of sports
- Each school has classes for gifted and talented students. For information on services for children with exceptional needs, please see the topic area for Education: Special Needs

School Sports Programs Available

- Fall: volleyball, football, tennis, cheerleading, cross country
- Winter: basketball (boys and girls), wrestling, cheerleading
- Spring: soccer (boys and girls), baseball, softball, track

Exceptional Children Programs

Learning Specialists work with students in conjunction with the school nurse, faculty, Misawa Air Base schools' psychologist, Educational Developmental Intervention Services staff (EDIS), and the community. Students receiving assistance include those with achievement difficulties, memory or perceptual problems, or other learning difficulties. Sollars and Cummings Elementary Schools are also staffed with trained counselors, English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors, and speech pathologists. Additionally, both schools offer the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program, in which TAG teachers work with students to achieve optimum development of skills and mastery of knowledge by conducting assigned subject matter or grade-level(s) instruction within the school.

Local School Boards

Preschool

Japan District Sure Start Program is an educational program designed to help pre-kindergarten children (4 years of age prior to 1 September) to get ready for school. Equivalent to Head Start in the United States, it is part of the National Educational goals. The target population includes children of junior enlisted sponsors (due to limited income and/or resources), single parent families, parent(s) who are not high school graduate, large families with stretched resources, and younger families stationed in isolated areas. Sure Start family income is the most important factor for consideration for enrollment; however, it is not the sole factor.

In developing Sure Start, program designers looked to the highly acclaimed Head Start model for guidance. With three decades of successes to its credit, Head Start was singled out as a "shining star among federal programs." Sure Start strives to incorporate the many features of Head Start. These include the following:

- A full day program (6 hours, based on the school location of the program)
- A four-pronged service delivery system (education, health, social services, and parent involvement).
- Medical, dental, and developmental screening for all enrolled children.
- Nutritious lunches and snacks that take into account children's individual and cultural preferences.
- Active involvement in the program by families of all children.
- Developmentally appropriate practices at the core of all programming. Careful planning ensures that the program environment, climate, materials, routines, and activities are appropriate for the children's age, individual needs, and cultures.

Sure Start is made up of four equally important components. The education component offers children a variety of learning activities that encourage their socio-emotional, cognitive, and physical growth. The health component provides children with comprehensive medical, dental, mental health, and nutritional services. The social services component extends outward to families, providing referrals and linkages with all of the community resources on an installation.

The mandatory parent involvement component of the Sure Start program is based on the philosophy that children benefit most when parents become partners with teachers in their children's education. Requirements of the parent involvement component include a parent orientation and monthly parent

meetings. Parents agree prior to registration that an involvement commitment is a precondition for enrollment.

For application and enrollment qualifications, call Sollars Elementary at DSN 315-226-3933 or Cummings Elementary at DSN 315-226-2647 for more information.

Elementary

School starts at the end of August and goes until the middle of June. Call schools for more specific dates. Misawa Air Base has two elementary schools: Cummings Elementary located in the North Area and Sollars Elementary located on the Main Base (Grade Levels: PreK through 6). The enrollment size at Sollars is approximately 720 students and Cummings Elementary is approximately 325 students. The pupil/teacher ratio is roughly 18 students per teacher for grades Pre-K through 3rd and 24 students per teacher in grades 4-6th.

All DoDDS students in Grades 3-11 are administered the TerraNova Multiple Assessment Test during the second semester. Academic subjects tested include reading, math, social studies, science, and language arts. Fifth grade students also participate in a writing assessment during the Spring Semester. If you are interested in obtaining Achievement Test score information, please consult the website for the individual schools via the [DoDEA website](#).

Registration Process

The north area and the 800 area of housing as well as specific off base housing areas are located in the Cummings Elementary School zone. Main base and specifically zoned housing areas of off-base residents are in the Sollars Elementary School Zone. A school bus stops at the Misawa Inn for Cummings students living at the Navy or Misawa Inn. Additional information is available on all schools at the [Misawa Schools website](#) and at the [Misawa DoDDs website](#).

Required Documentation:

1. Immunization Certificate. All students must have their immunizations updated and certified by the immunization personnel at the Misawa Air Base Hospital. School Officials require DoDDS Certificate of Immunization Form/DSPA 122.1 (Jan 94) at the time of registration. This form can be obtained at the school office. Contact the Immunization Clinic, DSN 315-226-6192 for more information.
2. Passport or Birth Certificate (pre-K, kindergarten and first grade only).
3. Copy of Sponsor's orders with children listed as command-sponsored family members. For Navy personnel, in addition to PSC orders, you must also have dependent entry approval/Eligibility for DoDDS Form in order to register.
4. DEROS Verification.
5. Academic Records. Previous school records or address of previous school in case in-processing school needs to request records/additional. Include an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and any other supporting documentation if eligible for special education or other services.
6. Student's Social Security Number. The student's social security is needed to complete registration. If you have forgotten your child's SSN, contact the Military Personnel Flight Customer Service Office (Bldg 653), DSN 315-226-3962 for assistance. Or you have not applied for a SSN for your child; contact the Legal Office (Bldg 656) at DSN 315-226-4022 for assistance.
7. Emergency Point of Contact. Emergency contact information is required to complete the registration process. Newly arriving families often do not know anyone at their gaining base. Many parents list supervisors, commanders or sponsors when they first arrive, and update their emergency POC once settled.

Middle School/High School -- School starts at the end of August and goes until the middle of June. Call the school for more specific dates. Edgren High School is the only middle and high school serving grades 7-12, on the main base. Edgren High School serves the entire Misawa community. The enrollment size at Edgren is approximately 518 students. The pupil/teacher ratio is roughly 18 students per teacher. If you are interested in obtaining Achievement Test scores, please consult Edgren High School's website via this link: [Edgren High School Test Scores](#). From last year's exit survey, approximately 69% of Edgren seniors indicated they were college bound. For more information call DSN 315-226-4377.

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2. Passport or Birth Certificate (Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade only).
3. Orders. Copy of Sponsor's orders with children listed as command-sponsored family members. Navy personnel: Beside PSC Orders must have dependent entry approval/Eligibility for DoDDS Form in order to register.
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Grading System

Elementary Grading System

The DoDDS report card for Kindergarten and First Grade is broken down into 4 major areas: 1) Language Arts/Reading; 2) Mathematics; 3) Life Skills/Social Development; and 4) Motor Development. The "Marking Code" for these areas is as follows:

- CD=Consistently Displayed
- P= Developing/Progressing
- N=Not Yet Evident
- X=Not Addressed

The areas of Art, Music, Physical Education, and Host Nation (Japanese Culture & Language) have a "Marking Code" of:

- P=Participates
- +=Shows Strength
- /=More Participation Needed

The DoDDS report card for Grades 2 and 3 is the same format (or card) except that in the academic subjects (following Mathematics) there are an additional three areas: Social Studies, Science, and Health. The DoDDS report card for Grades 4, 5, & 6 is broken down into the same areas, except that letter grades are given:

- A = Excellent
- B = Very good
- C = Good
- D = Minimal
- F = Failing

On all three report cards, there is a "Comments" section for the teacher to clarify or elaborate on the student's progress/achievement.

Middle School/High School Grading System

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

On the report card there is no differentiation between an A, A- or A+. However, all grades for any A will be counted as 4 points in the final grade point average in DoDDS. If a student received a 90% as a grade he/she would get an A-, but they would still acquire 4 points toward their GPA.

Unique Opportunities/Local Community

Preschool

The following are the pre-schools that routinely accept American students:

- Dai Ichi Yoochien: For ages 3-5 years old. There are application fees, monthly fees, transportation fees and other miscellaneous supply fees that apply. If interested, call CIV from CONUS 011-81-176-53-6747.
- Misawa Catholic Yoochien: There are application fees, monthly fees, transportation fees and other miscellaneous supply fees that apply. If interested, call CIV from CONUS 011-81-176-53-2312.

Elementary/Middle School/High School

Faith Baptist Academy is the only private English-speaking school available off-base and is located approximately 1/2 mile from base. You must be a member of the church to attend the school. Transportation is provided. Uses ABEKA video concept. Grades K-12. (Enrollment limited to Faith Baptist Church attendees).

Japanese Public School

If you want your child to enroll in Japanese Public schools, you have to talk to the Misawa Board of Education. They will set up an interview to speak to your child. In the interview, they will make sure that your children speak and read primary Japanese to ensure they can catch up with classes in school. Also, families are required to live off-base and have a Japanese translator (or Japanese friends) who can speak both Japanese and English for the family to understand what's going on in their children's school. Be sure to plan in advance if this is what you want to do. The schools fill up fast and you may need to wait for a spot.

Adult Education

Misawa also has the following higher education opportunities: University of Maryland (011-81-176-77-2896) offering associates and bachelor programs, Central Texas College (011-81-176-66-8208) offering associates programs, University of Phoenix (011-81-176-77-3687) offering Master degrees in Adult Education and Management, and Troy State (DSN 315-226-3748) offering a Master of Science in International Relations. Further information is available under the Advanced Education section.

Be sure to stop by the Education and Training office or the Navy College office for more information on adult education or call DSN 315-226-4201.