

Translation:

To the Stargate Charter School Community,

Subject: Classroom Observation

We deeply appreciate your willingness to welcome our team as we seek valuable insights for the advancement of gifted education in Japan.

Through Japanese educational publications and various other sources, we have learned that the U.S. has been proactively championing "gifted education," tailored to individual attributes and needs, for several decades. Furthermore, Stargate Charter School is reputed to have a unique and exemplary gifted education program.

Our city, Tsukuba, situated 50 km northeast of Tokyo and 40 km northwest of Narita International Airport, boasts a population of 253,490 as of January 1, 2023. We pride ourselves on housing some of Japan's premier research and educational institutions. Our city is a hub of innovation with approximately 29 institutions, equating to about 30% of the national research facilities, and a collective of 150 research entities, including private institutions. Over 19,000 researchers, including 8,000 doctoral recipients, reside in Tsukuba. Moreover, our three universities collectively enroll over 18,000 undergraduate and graduate students. As of July 1, 2023, our city is home to 12,338 individuals from 148 countries, and we continually undertake various initiatives, such as advancements in robotics, corporate partnerships, and the development of our Eco-Model District.

The educational needs of Tsukuba's children have greatly evolved. Lately, we have observed an increasing demand from parents of potentially "gifted" children for specialized learning environments. The Tsukuba City Education Board firmly believes that gifted education will be pivotal in our city's educational future.

We are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to observe the distinguished classes at Stargate Charter School and to gain insights into your gifted education initiatives. We earnestly thank you in advance for accommodating our team members.

Sincerely,

Nakajima Sumie
Head of the Special Education Promotion Department
Tsukuba City Education Board
Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan