



Information for School Teams

Cultural Information for Students from

Republic of Korea

What is school like in Korea?

The Korean education system is divided into three parts:

1. Elementary school: 6 years
2. Middle school : 3 years
3. High school :3 years

Schools in Korea have two semesters each year, the first one starts from March to the end of July and the second one starts from September to February. Students at schools are given breaks during the summer and winter. Winter vacation is longer than summer vacation, allowing students to celebrate the New Year and prepare for the start of the new school year in March.

The primary curriculum consists of nine principal subjects: moral education, Korean language, social studies, mathematics, science, physical education, music, fine arts, and practical arts.

The school system encourages students to spend the majority of their time at school or at a special after-school academy called "hagwon," which is highly test-driven, exam-based, and goal-oriented. Students in their senior year of high school take the College Scholastic Aptitude Test (CSAT) for up to eight hours across the country in November. They take test in Korean, English, mathematics, Korean history, a second foreign language or Chinese characters, and two additional subjects. Since the exam is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the entire country is supportive withof students in focusing on the exam.

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| <p>Greetings</p> <p>There are two ways of greeting in Korean; formal way and informal way</p> <p>Formal way: Annyeong Haseyo (Hello)</p> <p>Informal way: Annyeong (Hi)</p> | <p>Important Cultural & Religious Observances</p> <p>Korean culture is focused on collectivism and is highly family-oriented. Based on Confucianism, Koreans place a higher value on family harmony than on personal satisfaction. In the traditional Korean family structure, being together as a family is more significant than self-expression.</p> <p>Korean culture places a lot emphasis on sharing meals together on table settings. Hence, many dishes are served in unlimited quantities in the center of the table. The tables are bigger and more widely spaced because everyone eats together at a table.</p> |
| <p>Tips for Communicating with the Student's Family</p> <p>When communicating with family or strangers at first meeting, it is necessary to use formal language rather than informal language to demonstrate mutual respect.</p> <p>Koreans use formal speech when speaking to strangers or people they do not know. As a result, it is uncommon for Koreans to engage in conversation with strangers on a daily basis. The separation of formal and informal speech makes it difficult for Koreans to have open conversations with strangers; however, once they get to know each other or feel comfortable being around each other, they share a stronger bond than any other group.</p> | <p>Other Relevant Information</p> |