

## **Differences in Teaching Elementary and Junior High School**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Elementary and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Junior High School**

Almost all AETS hired by Mito or any other language assistant programs like JET or Interac usually have little to no experience teaching there shouldn't be much concern. The Board of Education directors in Mito actually stated that it is better that you have no professional teaching experience. There will be training provided once you arrive and everyone really learns as they go because each school's responsibility for the AET is different.

You might have only one school but one of the biggest elementary schools in the city has about 800~900 students a week from 1st to 6th grade. That is 28 classes per week, 6 periods a day, and about 40 minutes per class. We emphasize on speaking and listening so the way you teach will be mostly through repetition. For example, you will introduce the topic of the day.. there will usually be one question and multiple answers that you teach.

i.e. Fruits:

Question: What fruit do you like?

Answers: I like apples/strawberries/lemons/etc. so you sing songs, review through the flashcards, and play games to help the kids learn these words.

Middle school teachers serve more as assistants since they are mostly there for passage reading, correct pronunciation, etc. The classes are usually headed by the English teacher.

Teaching in elementary is a lot more work than junior high school. You create all the lessons yourselves and you are leading the class with the homeroom teachers assisting in translation, games, demonstrations, etc. Your school will probably have standardized lessons on digital file so some grades expect me to follow their plans and some grades give you total freedom to change and do whatever you want. Some make up their lessons by themselves without help and some others work with their Japanese teachers to make the lesson. So in this sense, elementary school AETS are the actual English teachers not assistants. Again, it depends on the school.