

Kanagawa Prefectural Arima High School, Grade 10 – Group B

Helping International Visitors Enjoy Japanese Cuisine: A Project for Cultural Understanding

Group B from Class 7 at Kanagawa Prefectural Arima High School developed a project to help international tourists in Japan navigate local dining etiquette. Recognizing how cultural differences can create confusion or discomfort, the team proposed ways to help visitors enjoy Japanese food with confidence and ease.

The Problem and Its Background

The project was inspired by a personal story – one student had felt unsure about dining manners while studying abroad. Their research revealed that 60% of foreign visitors to Japan had similar experiences of uncertainty, and 92% expressed interest in learning proper Japanese table manners.

This highlighted a clear need for accessible, cross-cultural communication tools.

Idea 1: Easy-to-Understand Pictograms

The students designed visual icons (pictograms) to communicate basic dining manners, such as not resting elbows on the table or not placing chopsticks across dishes. These icons could be printed on menus or placed on restaurant tables to help guests understand Japanese customs without relying on language.

Idea 2: Educational Videos on Airplanes

They also proposed showing short instructional videos about Japanese dining etiquette on international flights to Japan. These videos could serve as a cultural introduction, helping reduce anxiety and prepare tourists before arrival.

Results and Reflections

Through this project, the students realized that they could play an active role in shaping a more inclusive society. They also gained deeper insights into the importance of intercultural understanding and the power of clear, accessible communication.

Their work stands as a meaningful step toward making Japan more welcoming for visitors from around the world.