



### Goodbye to Daini – Michael Henderson

Hello everyone! As most of you know, after 1<sup>st</sup> semester (1 学期) I will be leaving Daini High School. I have been working here for almost 3 years, and it has been so much fun. I have learned many new things and had many new experiences.

I think some of my favorite memories are doing the 未成年の主張 during 文化祭, and this year's graduation ceremony (卒業式). I was happy to make people laugh with my speech, and see my students graduate. But I think the small moments are also important. Talking to students during class, watching club activities after school, and having English club every week. All these small moments have become my treasured memories (大切な思い出) that I will never forget.

When I came to Daini, I realized quickly how different Japanese high schools are from American high schools. In my opinion (私にとって), almost everything is different; the class sizes, how classes are taught, the role teachers have at school (学校での先生の役割), etc. However, despite the school structure (学校の仕組み) being different, one thing is the same: the people. There were many times when students here reminded me of students in America, and I realized people around the world are more similar than different. The biggest wall between us is language, which is why I think studying foreign languages is so important. I hope you all continue to work hard not only in English (英語だけでなく), but in any language that is interesting to you.

Thank you so much for letting me be your ALT at Daini. I will never forget it, and I will definitely come back to visit from Tokyo!!



Michael at  
Daini High  
School in a  
yukata!

### Just Do the Next Thing – Katelyn Sondereker

There are times when you have to make big decisions about your future: which university you should go to, where you should live, or what job you should have. You may feel a lot of pressure (圧力) because you want to make the correct decision or the best decision (正しい選択をしたい).

But I think it is good to remember that, when planning your future, **you cannot make a wrong decision** (間違った選択はできません). Every decision you make will lead you to a new path (新たな道). And new paths are never wrong; they're just different.

As you walk along these new paths, you will gain experiences and good memories and grow into the person you want to become. So, you don't have to stress about your future. All you need to do is listen to your heart (心の声に耳を傾ける) and listen to the advice of the people who love you.

Some good advice that my grandmother once gave me is: "just do the next thing". What problems or tasks or decisions are in front of you, right now? When you are feeling pressure or feeling overwhelmed (圧倒される), think about the small steps you can take toward your goal. Don't try to complete every task or plan your entire future, because that's impossible. Find the small things you can do for your future, and do them.

It's easy to think and think and think about the future; but *here* (今) – where you are in your life right now – is just as important as your future. So don't forget to enjoy your life now, in this moment. Take a deep breath, do the next thing, and be *here*.



Last month I  
went to the  
beach in  
Miyazaki with  
Michael and our  
friend Alison!