

# KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.32

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## Kiwi Corner



It is now April and a new school year has begun. Welcome to the new first graders, and welcome back to the second and third grade students! It's nice to see everyone!



One of the buildings at my school

For this month's Kiwi Corner, I'd like to introduce my school in New Zealand, **Tauranga Boys' College**. In past editions of Kiwi Corner, I have introduced my school's uniform, term time, and sport events, but this month I'd like to write about my school itself. Now, you may have learnt that the word "college" is another word for "university." This may be true in the US, but in New Zealand and many

other countries, it is the equivalent of a high school.

Tauranga Boys' College is a public secondary school for boys, and was founded in 1946. In contrast to Japan, it was originally a co-ed school (meaning there were both girls and boys), however due to overcrowding it became a boys-only school in 1958.

To compare with Kiritaka, as of February 2024 it has **1,764 students** – almost twice as many! When I was a student, there were around 1,600 students, with 360 students (12 classes of 30 students) in my grade alone!



New learning centre at Tauranga Boys' College



Former Prime Minister Todd Muller

There are many famous former students, including a former prime minister of New Zealand and many Olympic gold medalists. My classmate happened to be the flag bearer for New Zealand at the **2016 Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro**.

There is also an international department at Tauranga Boys' College, as many foreign exchange students come to study at my school. You can check out the prospectus (in Japanese!) here:

[https://tbc.ibcdn.nz/media/2023\\_09\\_06\\_tbc\\_a4\\_brochure\\_japan-august-2023-web\\_v1.pdf](https://tbc.ibcdn.nz/media/2023_09_06_tbc_a4_brochure_japan-august-2023-web_v1.pdf)

Unlike Japanese schools, Tauranga Boys' College doesn't have a **school song**. Instead, it has a **school haka!** We often perform our school haka at official ceremonies and at important sports events like national tournament finals. You can watch some teachers performing it at Tauranga Boys' College here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEfljAJ74cw>

(Liam Campbell)



# Lauren's Newsletter



## My High School: Campus, Clubs, and more!

Hello, everyone! For the second and third years, welcome back, and for the new first years, welcome to Kiritaka! I hope you all had a nice, fun, and relaxing spring break. Around this time of year, I get nostalgic, thinking about the past, thinking back on my time as a high schooler. So, for this month's article, I'd like to introduce my old high school in California, University City High School, or UCHS for short.



UCHS mascot

UCHS is located in University City, and their mascot is a centurion, an old commander in the ancient Roman army. The school's phrase is: "UC, you know!" Students will chant this at sports games and school events to show their school spirit.

On campus, they have classes in rooms and **bungalows**, and there is a large parking lot for students and teachers alike. Some students come to school by bus as well. As for sports, the campus has a football and baseball field, tennis and basketball courts, and a field for soccer and lacrosse. For lunch, there is an open courtyard in the middle of the school for students to enjoy eating and talking with each other. I remember getting lost as a **freshman** (1<sup>st</sup> year) during my first week of school. The campus is just so big! If you're interested, you can take an online tour of the campus by scanning the QR code below labeled "Online Campus Tour".



The UCHS football field



The UCHS color guard and marching band 2012

Additionally, there are currently around 90 clubs offered and run at the school. When I was in high school, I was in Key Club, which helped me develop leadership skills, and I was on the color guard team for all four years. I also joined the Red Cross Club for my **junior** (3<sup>rd</sup>) and **senior** (4<sup>th</sup>) year. I was very busy every day during lunch and after school, but I had a lot of fun.

Also, you know how second years at Kiritaka go on a trip every year? Well, every year, graduating seniors can go on trips to spend time with friends and celebrate their completion of high school.

This year, seniors can pay to go on a trip to Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles. My senior year, students went to Disneyland, but I unfortunately wasn't able to go!

I hope you enjoyed learning about my old **alma mater** (母校), and if you'd like to know more, please use the QR codes below or come find me and let's talk! I'm looking forward to teaching you this year and I wish you the best of luck. Let's do our best!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,

**(Lauren Taylor)**

School Website



Clubs



Online Campus Tour



For this week, I'd like to share a song about starting high school by Taylor Swift. Hope you enjoy!

