

## 43. The post Pacific War education system

### 43.1 Start of the 6-3 education system

On August 15, 1945, the Pacific War ended. The Allied Forces' General Headquarters called for the end of wartime educational method and steered the system toward new educational policy. Wartime schoolbook content on ultra-nationalism, militarism, Shintoism and other perceived nonconformity to postwar circumstances were overwritten in Chinese ink. At that time Fussa Daiichi Kokumin Gakko ran 18 elementary classes, 4 advanced classes (total 22 classes) and employed 23 teachers. Fussa Daini Kokumin Gakko ran 10 elementary classes, 2 advanced classes (total 12 classes) and employed 16 teachers.

In February 1947 (Showa 22), two years after the defeat, the Ministry of Education announced a new school policy, releasing the General Guidelines of Education in March. This was accompanied by a new legal framework in the form of the Fundamental Law of Education and the School Educational Law to replace the newly-repealed Kokumin Gakko Law, Middle School Law, and School Instructor Education Law. On April 1, new elementary and middle schools were established in compliance with the new school system. Fussa's Municipal Daiichi Kokumin Gakko and Municipal Fussa Daini Kokumin Gakko became its Municipal Fussa No.1 Elementary School and the Municipal Fussa No.2 Elementary School respectively. The school subjects included Japanese Language, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Music, Arts, Home Economics, Physical Education and Free Studies. Traditional Morals, National History and Geography were abolished while Social Studies was added anew. From 1948 (Showa 23) it became possible to select school textbooks (formerly designated by government) from the Textbook Regulatory Board's officially approved range.



*Fig.275 Fussa Middle School's newly erected building. In 1951 (Showa 26), the new school building was constructed in 845 Kumagawa. The site (area 9,900 tsubo) was given by citizen TAMURA Waichi and other benefactors.*

A child's tendency to recognize a more independent social personality arose. The Child Welfare Act, 1947 (Showa 22), brought various policies' enactment, often without satisfactory result, spurring a Children's Charter movement seeking to resolve children's social rights and regulate, in statutory form, parental and societal responsibilities. The Children's Charter Enactment Conference, composed of various societal strata, settled on a final form after two years deliberation. The Charter was enacted on Children's Day, 1951 (Showa 26), the National Holiday established three years earlier.

At that time the child population surged as part of post war population increase, outstripping educational infrastructure growth forcing children to bear dual-shift instruction or learn in temporary classrooms. In 1947 (Showa 22), a new compulsory education system authorizing six years elementary and three years middle school began. That April, the establishment of Fussa's Municipal Fussa Middle School, to be housed in the then Fussa No.1 Elementary School, was approved, its opening ceremony held on May 6. Teaching staff numbered 14, instructing all except third year students in two-shift classes (morning and afternoon).

On May 14 that year, Fussa Middle School Establishment Committee was established. On April 13, 1948 (Showa 23), one campus of the schoolhouse construction project, 162 Ushihama, reached completion. Some students moved in from No.1 Elementary School's temporary schoolhouse. At first the schoolhouse windows were without windowpanes. By July 23, the building's construction was almost complete and the remaining school staff and students moved into the new buildings. The completion ceremony was held at November 12 on the new school's ground.



*Fig.276 School lunch (Fussa No.4 Elementary School). School lunches began in 1947 (Showa 22) to alleviate a food shortage and reduce undernourishment.*

School lunches started in November 1947 (Showa 22). Dishes other than staple food were skim milk and miso soup to augment the food shortage and prevent undernourishment. In September 1950 (Showa 25), the school lunch system spread to all elementary schools providing compulsory education.

In March 1947 (Showa 22), the Fundamental Law of Education was enacted. Its intention was to form the personality suitable to a peaceful nation and society. Education policy drastically changed from the previous Emperor oriented education to the education toward the completing the personality and proposing the notion of a peaceful nation. In 1949 (Showa 24), audiovisual education began and the meetings were opened with the movies "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in 1950 (Showa 25) and "Bambi" in 1951 (Showa 26).



*Fig.277 Seaside school of Fussa No. 1 Elementary School (Seashore at Ubara, Chiba Prefecture).*



*Fig.278 Sports day of Fussa No.1 Elementary School (1954 (Showa 29)).*