

MARUOKA HIGH SCHOOL TO DONATE STATIONERY TO THE PHILIPPINES

Three third-year students from Maruoka High School in Sakai are working to donate stationery to children in impoverished areas of the Philippines.

After learning about the current living conditions through interactions with local middle and high school students, they said, "I believe that poverty can be reduced through education. I hope that our donations can help even a little."



Interacting with local people to learn about poverty and expanding efforts outside the school

The three students are Ryoya Mizukami, Koshiro Egawa and Ryunosuke Taniguchi. During the course of their studies, they have interacted with high school students from Taiwan and other countries to learn practical English as part of the school's unique subject, Glocal Study English. While searching for new schools to interact with, Mr. Taiki Takakura, who is in charge of the students, consulted with his friend Eiki Sawazaki, who was involved in a school bag donation project to the Philippines. Mr. Sawazaki introduced the teacher to the local FCED foundation, which helps children living in poverty in the Philippines.



In late July, the three students spoke online with foundation staff and local junior high school students. After hearing about the current situation in the Philippines, including children who cannot go to school, the students realized the importance of donations, and decided to organize a donation drive to collect unused stationery. Taniguchi, who serves as vice president of the student council, said, "With Mr. Takakura's help, we called on all students to cooperate before the summer vacation. A box was placed in front of the student council room, and not only were pens and pencil cases and other stationery items collected, but also baseball gloves and soccer balls."

In early August, the three interacted online with local high school students, and decided to expand their activities outside of the school in the hopes of getting more people interested in poverty issues. They have spoken to Sakai City officials and are currently in the process of discussing putting up recruitment posters at local community centers. The school will also expand the activities as part of classes.

The three say that multicultural coexistence is an important issue, and hope that their activities will serve as an opportunity to learn more about the world, and lead to greater cultural understanding.

500 Stationery items to be donated to the Philippines

Collection organized by Sakai City and Maruoka High School

Students at Maruoka High School in Sakai City have collected around 500 stationery items and other daily necessities at their school for poor children in the Philippines. In order to further expand their activities, they have set up collection boxes at six community centers in the city until the 1st of November, and are calling on local residents to help.

The six community centers are in Shiromachi, Nagane, Takamuku, Takamuku East, Central Harue, and Harue West.

The project was organized by Ryoya Mizukami, Koshiro Egawa, and Ryunosuke Taniguchi, all third-year students on the school's soccer team. They began working on the project after interacting with middle and high school students in the Philippines and the local FCED Foundation, which accepts donations.



Donated items including stationery, soccer balls, and school bags collected from within the school Maruoka High School in Sakai City

Around the school festival in early September, 23 soccer balls were donated by school staff, and 6 were donated by parents. A resident of Echizen Town also sent a cardboard box full of stationery and other items. The three students said, "We're so touched that we were able to collect so much. We don't know how much support it will provide, but we want to send a message."

