

Glimpses into school systems and school life in Seychelles

Cultural Section
Embassy of Japan in Seychelles
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From the end of October to early November 2025, the Embassy staff had the opportunity to visit three state schools in Seychelles: Anse Royale Secondary School, Port Glaud Primary School, and Bel Ombre Primary School (in chronological order of our visits). The purpose of our visits was to conduct interviews with teachers and students to learn more about the school systems and school life in Seychelles, information that we can share with the people of Japan. This paper summarises several aspects of the school systems and school life in Seychelles.

The Embassy would like to extend our deep appreciation to the Ministry of Education of Seychelles, the Head Teachers and Deputy Head Teachers at each school for their kind arrangements, as well as to the other teachers and students, and everyone who cooperated with the interviews, school tours, and assisted in preparing for our commemorative visits on this occasion.

Similar content is available in Japanese for the Japanese public on the Embassy's website (Link: <https://www.sc.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100936751.pdf>).

Characteristics of Education in Seychelles from a Japanese Perspective

Through our school visits, we were able to observe several characteristics of public schools in Seychelles, compared to those in Japan. We are pleased to share some of these observations below:

- Primary school lasts for six years, and secondary education lasts for five years (In Japan, there are six years of elementary school, three years of junior high school, and three years of senior high school).
- Seychelles education embraces inclusivity and a holistic approach, as seen in the TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) programme in secondary education, the Technology & Enterprise subject in primary education, and class groupings based on students' academic abilities and talents. Some schools also have facilities for wheelchair users.
- Teachers participate in professional development (PD) sessions once or more a week to improve their teaching skills.
- The "Wall of Fame" or "Hall of Fame" is used to motivate students and encourage learning effectively.
- Free breakfast and lunch are provided by the government.
- Hospitality is taught as a subject in schools, reflecting the importance of tourism in Seychelles.
- Emphasis is placed on developing students' understanding of traditional art and dance, alongside

their academic development.

Anse Royale Secondary School

The school day generally runs from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Each class lasts about 40 minutes, and there are about eight classes per day. Once a week, a session for teacher professional development (PD) is held. On those days, school hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. The PD sessions are designed for teachers to share and discuss their concerns and challenges with each other, with the aim of improving the quality of each other's teaching. The teachers are dedicated and enthusiastic in their profession.

There is a break of about 20 minutes starting at either 10:00 a.m. or 10:20 a.m. Sometimes, a prayer time is held at the end of the lessons. Students also have the opportunity to visit the nearby church once a week, if possible.

When visiting the school, students from the Hospitality Club warmly welcome you. They study hospitality as a subject in class, and the students are full of the spirit of hospitality.



Warm welcome by Hospitality Club students



Mrs Jennita, a well-experienced Hospitality teacher



Students in class





Basketball Class



PE Class



Jump rope using a rope made from tree vines (traditional game), similar to Japanese jump rope.



Mr Herve, Art and Multimedia teacher

Guest speakers are also invited from outside in order for students to receive self-development education.



Class by a guest speaker

To supplement the number of teachers, foreign teachers are recruited from countries such as Zambia to work in Seychelles, either through exchange programmes.

Club activities are held about 1–2 days a week, including basketball, soccer, volleyball, arts, music, environmental activities, geography, tourism, chess, film, and French.

In addition to academic improvement, the school places emphasis on arts, traditional culture, music, and dance, providing an environment suitable for students to deepen their understanding of traditional culture and enhance their creativity and self-expression.

On holidays, students spend time playing with friends, going to the beach, shopping, participating in volunteer activities, or taking part in church activities.

Japanese anime is relatively popular, and some students watch it through internet streaming services.



Akim (S3) on the left and Alicia (S4) on the right share how they spend their time on holidays.

During the break, the tuck shop bustles with students.



Students at the tuck shop



Traditional sweets

“Anse Royale Secondary School’s connection to Japan”

In January 2025, a group of about ten people, including high school students from Ozora High School in Ozora Town, Hokkaido, and Reihoku High School in Motoyama Town, Kochi Prefecture, visited Seychelles under the Japanese government’s (Cabinet Office’s) Expo Exchange Programme. During their stay, the Japanese students visited Anse Royale Secondary School, where they received a warm welcome and engaged in cross-cultural exchange through activities such as traditional dance, games, and arts, and creole food (For more details, visit the link: https://www.sc.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00422.html).



Joint mural artwork by Japanese and Anse Royale Secondary School students, symbolising friendship

Afterwards, from late August to early September 2025, a group of about 15 people, including students from Anse Royale Secondary School and other local schools, visited Japan for the Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai. They also visited Ozora High School and Reihoku High School, where they engaged in cultural exchange activities.

It was an extremely valuable experience for students from both countries. The Seychellois students shared that they were amazed by the delicious Japanese food, convenience stores, and the speed of elevators. Even after returning to Seychelles, they have continued their friendship by keeping in touch with the Japanese high school students through messaging apps.



Gregg (S3) on the left and Anaelle (S3) on the right share their impressions about Japan during their visit to the Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai.



Miss Michaela teaches S1-S4 students



Creole Food

Special thanks to Ms Bergitta Labonte, Head Teacher and a former JICA trainee, who also visited Japan as part of the Seychelles delegation for Expo 2025, for her kind arrangements, including the tasting of traditional creole food, as well as to the other teachers and students who kindly assisted with the interviews and school tour.

Port Glaud Primary School

The total number of students in the school is about 240, with a roughly equal male-to-female ratio. The classes range from P1 to P6, with about 15 to 30 students per class.

The school hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is sometimes reading time before lessons in the morning. A break of about 20 minutes is provided at 10:00 a.m.



Students during the break



Students in class

The school is strong in field hockey and has achieved excellent results in competitions many times.

The subjects offered include languages (English, French, Creole), math, science, social studies, art, Technology & Enterprise), PE, religion, and PSCE.

The school has a programme called the "Wall of Fame" to recognize students with excellent behavior, which helps motivate them to improve their performance.



Students photos displayed on the corridor wall honoring students with excellent behavior



Mr Ian teaches Technology & Enterprise to about 100 students from P1-P6



Ms Jane teaches all the subjects to P1-P2



Traditional dance demonstration by students



Students artwork displayed in art room



A beautifully maintained library



A wall display to raise awareness about autism



From right, Ms HOTAKA Kii (Administrative Staff), Ms Emeline Riaze (Head Teacher), Mr ISHIZU Tomotaka (Second Secretary), Mrs Ghislaine William (Deputy Head Teacher), Ms Phoebe Loze (Administrative Assistant)

Special thanks to Ms Emeline Riaze, Head Teacher, and Mrs Ghislaine William, Deputy Head Teacher, who kindly prepared for our visit and allowed us to taste local coconut and other delicacies, as well as to the other teachers and students who assisted with the interviews, school tour, and traditional dance performances.

Bel Ombre Primary School

Located near the sea, the school boasts a beautiful sea view.



A sea view from school

The number of students is about 250.

There are five classes per day, and each class is one hour long.

The school day runs from 8:20 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. If there is professional development (PD) session for teachers, the hours is from 7:45 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.



Students in class

Each year, the “Hall of Fame” is conducted to recognize students with excellent academic performance, which helps motivate students to improve their learning efforts.



A photo display of students selected as Hall of Fame

Popular activities among the students include games, role-playing, group work, soccer, karate, and dance. The school also has a well-maintained basketball court.



Ms. Genevieve, who teaches science, English, and Creole to P1-P6, shares about the students' interest and how science lessons are conducted.

There are plant pots that students have grown themselves, each grade level has its own garden to maintain, installations made from recycled car tires and tin drums, and a beautiful mural painted by alumni, all of which contribute to the beautification of the school.



Plant pots in the corridor taken care of by students



Medicinal garden with herbs

Taking advantage of its natural surroundings, the school conducts fieldwork in actual natural environments, such as nearby forests and waterfalls, in addition to classroom learning.



Mr. Shaun Quatre, homeroom teacher for P4 teaches English, French, social studies, geography, and history to P5-P6. He shares the importance of fieldwork and promotes the concept of thinking outside the box to keep the students engaged and motivated. He also works as an executive board member of A.S.E.F.(Association Seychelloise des Enseignants de Français) and a radio news presenter.



The tuck shop crowded with students during the break



Students in the corridor during the break



For students who use a wheelchair, classes are tailored to their needs, and wheelchair-accessible ramps are installed on the premises.

A French language assistant teacher dispatched by the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) is stationed at the school and assists with French language education.

There is also a creche located on the school premises.



Children learning art



Water tank to store rain water reused for plants



Beautifully maintained space in Creche



Swings made from recycled tires



Mrs. Stella Payet (Head Teacher) presents commemorative gifts, including student's artwork, to Mr ISHIZU Tomotaka (Second Secretary)

Special thanks to Mrs. Stella Payet, Head Teacher, who kindly prepared for our visit, and to Mrs. Jeanne Adette Hoareau, Deputy Head Teacher, who gave a thorough tour of the school, as well as to the other teachers and students who assisted with the interviews, class observations, and allowed us to taste local tamarind, lemongrass and other delicacies.