

Posted 4/18/11

Hello from Sendai!

We, the teachers, staff members, and students at Tohoku Gakuin, deeply appreciate your concern and prayers. As it has been reported all around the world, there was a magnitude-7.1 aftershock Friday last week, and now we are all trying very hard to get ready to go back to school. Regularly, the new school year starts at the beginning of April, but this year we decided to delay our schedule two weeks so that we will have enough time to get our lives back to normal.

Since our students come from many different areas all around Miyagi Prefecture, the degrees of damage the earthquake and the tsunami caused to their houses were not the same. Some of our students who live close to the coast lost their houses due to the tsunami, and some whose houses are on the hillsides also had their houses severely damaged due to the landslides.

We talked to most of the 10 students who signed up for this year's overseas program, and found out that none of them lost their family members or houses. Although they have a lot to do to help with the reconstruction of the community, they are hoping to take part in the program in summer. This made our principal give permission. The schedule will be exactly the same as I sent earlier this year, which is as follows:

Homestay in Bend: Thursday, July 21st - Sunday, July 31st Suttle Lake Camp: Sunday, July 31st - Saturday, August 6th  
(Portland: Saturday, August 6th - Monday, August 8th)

We still do not know how many students we will have. There may be some cancellations because some families may have come up with financial problems. Also, it is possible that some of our new students will sign up in a few weeks. I will give you more information as soon as I can.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to keeping in touch with you!

Kaz