



Shoichi Ishikawa

Classi Marketing Section,
School ICT Business Division,
Benesse Corporation/
Area Manager, Marketing
Department, Classi Corp.

Hideaki Yoshida

Teacher and Career
Guidance Counselor, Noshiro
Senior High School of
Akita Prefecture

Focus 2 Setting sights on future education reform in Japan

Classi implementation at Noshiro Senior High School of Akita Prefecture
Pioneering a new education format that
trains the ability to learn independently

**The future of schools that aspire to be
“regional prep schools”**

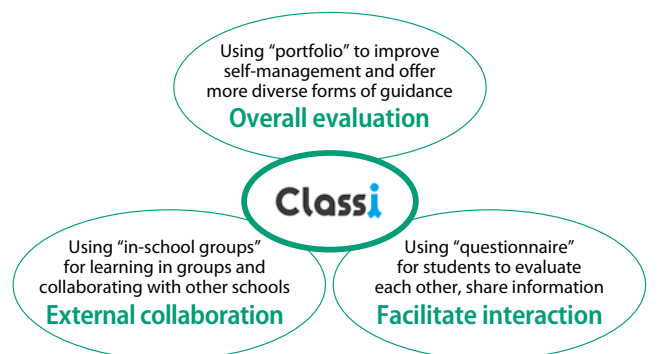
As part of educational reforms, more universities will be requiring students to take the written Japanese language section of the entrance examination in addition to an English four skills (listening, reading, speaking, writing) test starting with the entrance examinations in the 2020 academic year. There will be more emphasis than ever on students retaining what they have learned and being able to produce output. Amidst this growing demand for new-age education, more and more schools are implementing Classi, an educational platform that leverages ICT (Information and Communication Technologies). One such school is Noshiro Senior High School, a prefectural preparatory school belonging to Akita Prefecture in Northern Japan.

Noshiro Senior High School teacher Hideaki Yoshida, who is in charge of career guidance, shared why his school chose Classi, explaining that, “For some time, we had been teaching students to think on their own and incorporate what they learn from ‘inquiry’ within conversations. Classi was appealing because it includes features to help accomplish that.”

**Using Classi to connect, reflect, and
mutually improve**

“Inquiry” involves discovering problems on your own and training the ability to learn while experiencing the process of solving those problems. Starting in the 2022 academic year, a new subject under the name “Tankyu” (inquiry) will be established among courses taught in senior high schools in Japan. Noshiro Senior High School

Classi in use at Noshiro Senior High School



was designated by Akita Prefecture as a "model school for the practice of inquiry-related activities" in 2017. The school used this designation as an opportunity to get a step ahead and proceed with activities such as inquiries for solving problems in the community. "Since implementing Classi, we have been able to 'connect,' 'reflect,' and 'mutually improve,' which are valuable aspects of conducting inquiries." (Mr. Yoshida)

The communication functions of Classi are useful for "connecting." In addition to learning in groups within the school, these functions also enable us to collaborate with other schools to give students a deeper learning experience. For "reflecting," we use the portfolio function. Students can easily input and store their inquiry findings and their own revelations through their smartphones, which also makes it easy to reflect on what exactly they learned. Based on this data, teachers can also give the proper advice, guidance, and evaluations. As for "mutual improvement," in addition to the functions



Keeping learning records and reflections via smartphone



Keeping records of realizations and lessons learned in group work



Teachers can access data recorded by students at any time



Improve the quality of lectures with on-the-spot questionnaire totals

I've already mentioned we also utilize the questionnaire and ballot box functions. Questionnaires facilitate interaction, allowing students to evaluate each other, share information, and even write their impressions of presentations made by other students.

Utilizing these functions, they have also started using Classi to keep learning records for lessons other than the inquiries at the school, and as a communication bulletin board.

Expand the horizons of student learning

Classi is an ICT tool that has evolved while helping to solve problems in educational settings that are undergoing reform, serving as a close companion for teachers. Classi enables more comprehensive collection of individual student data through linkage with assessments such as Shinken Simulated Exams and Study Support which Benesse has long provided, making it a tool that supports guidance for both education and career planning.

We are also reviewing new features that can be equipped to make it easier for schools to communicate with each other to facilitate even more collaborative education in the future. If we can achieve this, it will help rectify regional disparities in education and information.

We will continue to develop and evolve this educational platform in order to unlock students' potential and provide new forums for learning.



See more about this project in easy-to-understand format with these videos and HTML articles
<https://www.benesse-hd.co.jp/en/ir/library/ar/2019/focus/classi.html>



TESTIMONIALS

Opinions and impressions of others can quickly be shared, allowing for more in-depth learning through mutual interaction.

Ms. A, Teacher

Interacting with universities and other schools is easy, making it possible to learn of different perspectives and approaches to a variety of things and expanding our horizons.

B, Second Year Senior High School Student

I want to use ICT to assist schools and change education in Japan.

Hisashi Inoue

Director, Classi Corp.
 Director of Digital Business Development Department, Benesse Corporation



Our mission at Classi Corp. is to unlock the infinite potential of children and transform learning. We are actively striving to provide new forms to support in school education to make schools the training grounds for students to thoroughly acquire

the abilities that future society will require.

One illustration of this is the wide-open learning environment that transcends individual schools which Classi's group function enables as we have seen at Noshiro Senior High School, including interaction with people in the community and professionals outside the school, and collaborative learning with schools in other prefectures.

Receive feedback from peers. Go even more in-depth with new realizations and studies that transcend school boundaries. We intend to provide even more learning opportunities made possible through ICT, and learning opportunities that Classi in particular can create to unlock the potential in children.