

# Experience

## ～Meiji Era Class～

At Kaimei School, classrooms from the Meiji to Taisho periods have been recreated, allowing visitors to experience a "Meiji Era Class." A teacher dressed in traditional hakama garments will conduct lessons using educational charts, covering subjects such as reading and writing, arithmetic, ethics, history, and singing.



Fee: 300 yen per person (Admission fee required separately)

Class duration: approximately 30 minutes

\*Minimum of 3 participants. If fewer than 3 participants, the session is still available with payment for 3 people

\*Reservation required at least one week in advance

## ～ Western-style School Buildings with Sister Museum Partnership ～



National Treasure:  
Former Kaichi School Building

2-4-12 Kaichi, Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture  
TEL: 0263-32-5725 FAX: 0263-32-5729



# Basic Information

Opening Hours : 9:00AM to 5:00PM (Last entry at 4:30 PM)  
Closed: Mondays and New Year's holidays (December 28-January 3)

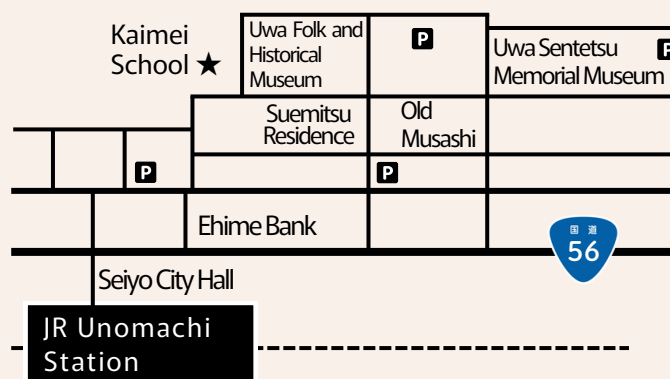
\*If Monday is a holiday, the museum will be closed on Tuesday.

Admission Fee (combined with the Uwa Museum of Folk Tools): Adults . . . 700 yen

University and High School Students . . . 420 yen

Junior High School Students and younger . . . Free

## 【Access】



## Contact Information

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西日本最古の  
モダンな小学校校舎

# 開明学校

重要文化財

## The Kaimei School

A National Important  
Cultural Property

It is the oldest elementary school  
building in western Japan.







## Private School

Wooden structure / Building area 105m<sup>2</sup>  
Tiled roof / Single-story

This private school, founded in 1869 with personal funds from disciples of Saji Shuzan and local townspeople, served as the predecessor of Kaimei School. The name "Shingido" is derived from a phrase by the Chinese scholar Mencius, meaning "to build righteousness by speaking the truth" ("gi wo kasaneru"). It is recognized as a cultural property by the city.



## Kaimei School

Wooden structure / Building area 169.4m<sup>2</sup>  
Two-story / Gabled roof / Shallow tiled roof

Built in 1882 with contributions from local townspeople, this Western-style elementary school building incorporates Japanese features. It combines Western architectural elements, such as arched windows and foreign-made glass, with traditional Japanese styles, including the Karahafu (Chinese-style gable) at the main entrance and decorative tiles engraved with the character "開," which represents Kaimei School. This design creates a unique fusion of both Japanese and Western influences.



In 1997, this structure was designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan, and it now serves as an educational museum showcasing the history of the school. One of its notable features is the abundance of "hanging charts" (kakezu) that were used instead of textbooks.



## Rice Museum

1st School Building /  
2nd School Building /  
Auditorium

This museum houses the former Uwa Town Elementary School building complex. The first school building, second school building, and auditorium have been relocated, preserved, and are currently in use. These structures succeeded the Kaimei School and are all designated as cultural properties of the city.

The first school building, built in 1928 (Showa 3), features a distinctive 109-meter long corridor without columns. The auditorium was constructed in 1915 (Taisho 4), and the second school building was completed in 1921 (Taisho 10).

## History

- Meiji 2 (1869): The private school Shingido was established by local townspeople and students of Sashi Shuzan.
- Meiji 5 (1872): The Kaimei School opened using the Shingido building as the school building.
- Meiji 15 (1882): The current school building was completed.
- Taisho 4 (1915): The auditorium was completed.
- Taisho 10 (1921): The 2nd school building was completed.
- Showa 3 (1928): The 1st school building was completed.
- Showa 51 (1976): The facility started operating as a museum of education showcasing educational materials from the Meiji to early Showa periods.
- Heisei 9 (1997): It was designated as a National Important Cultural Property.



## Images of Kaimei School and the Children of the Meiji Era



Graduates of the Standard Course,  
37th Year of the Meiji Era