

Elementary School (The lower grades)

Great

Okinawan Dance

3rd Grade, Busy Bee School by Aru Asato

I have been learning Ryukyu Dance “ Ryubu” since I was in my childhood. I attend the lesson twice a week more than two hours after school. Although I am busy every day because I have much homework, I am working hard to be compatible with each other. My dance teacher is very strict and the dance lessons are physically hard for me. However, I can work hard together with my friends because old men and old women who watched our dance at their retirement home said, “Thank you for your energy”. I can also gain energy from them. I like the Ryukyu dance that I have learnt so far, especially, my favorite forms of the dance are “ Mamidoma” or “Yuimaru”.

My teacher taught me, “Okinawan dance is Japanese precious culture that is proud of Okinawa to the world”.

We practice Eisa (the form of Okinawan folk dance) at our school a few times a year and visit to a school in the U.S. base to dance Eisa. Although we introduce the culture and the dance of Okinawa through the Eisa, I want to show the Ryukyu dance, “Mamiduya” and “Yuimaru”, to not only the students in the base but also the students in the mainland of Japan who come on a school trip to Okinawa. If they dance with us, they will get pleasant memories.

Furthermore, I want to visit to the places where the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake occurred and want to lift the victims’ spirits through our dance. I will be happy if I can show our culture, which is the pride of Okinawa to the world, to many people. I want to try to hard work and practice Ryukyu dance towards the goal.

I also practice Ryukyu Taiko (a Okinawan drum). There are a various types of music and dances in Okinawa, such as Sanshin (a Okinawan musical instrument) and Shimauta (a Okinawan folk song). I hope I can introduce such a wide range of great cultures, which are the proud of Okinawa, to the people from overseas by the Ryukyu dance and the Taiko. If that happens, I will guide them in English that I have learnt in my school and will say, “ Welcome to Okinawa and look Okinawan dance. Thank you!!”

I will do my best towards the goals.