

Christian Academy in Japan

Tokyo, Japan



Born from postwar missionary schooling on former imperial dairy land, now pairing AP rigor with a campus-wide week of off-site service leadership.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	67/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	66/100
Alumni network	65/100
Facilities	67/100
Transparency	57/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Christian Academy in Japan occupies a distinct niche in Tokyo: an English-medium Christian school founded in **1950** for missionary families, now serving a broader international mix while keeping that religious core intact. That history matters. This is not a generic international school with a chapel attached; it was built for families who wanted faith and schooling integrated, and it still delivers that with unusual clarity. The student body remains split between missionary dependents and business or professional families, with students from over 25 countries. For parents who want an American

curriculum with AP courses, boarding, and explicit Christian formation in one place, CAJ belongs on the shortlist. Few schools in Japan combine all of those elements with this degree of institutional continuity, a **1:9** student-teacher ratio, and accreditations from WASC and ACSI. *A strong sense of purpose* runs through the whole operation.

What marks CAJ out is its combination of scale, mission and practical infrastructure. It is small enough to feel *close-knit and watchful*, but not so small that opportunities collapse after the basics. A **4-acre** campus in western Tokyo houses a 370-seat auditorium, 25,000-volume library, 450-seat gym, regulation-size turf football pitch, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, dining hall and 1:1 device provision. That is a serious physical offer for a school of roughly **450** day students. The school also carries an unusual extension through its Parallel Educational Services division, which has supported English-speaking homeschoolers in Japan since 1983. That tells you something useful about CAJ’s place in the market: it is not only a school, but a longstanding hub for Christian English-language education in Japan. *Deep roots in a specific community* give it weight.

The trade-off is clear. CAJ is not for families who want a secular cosmopolitan identity, a neutral values framework, or a school that treats religion as a soft cultural accessory. Christianity sits at the centre of the proposition. Parents need to want that, not merely tolerate it. The school will suit students who thrive in a structured, relationship-led environment, who can work within an American academic model, and who are ready for a community where service, faith and belonging are not side programmes but part of the daily grammar of school life. It will also suit internationally mobile families who need English instruction and a stable boarding option in Japan. *Mission-led rather than brand-led*, CAJ offers something many international schools do not: *moral seriousness without pretence*.

Why shortlist it? Because it does a specific job well, and there is no point pretending otherwise. CAJ offers a mature, clearly defined school culture; AP-based academic rigour; a long-established Christian ethos; and facilities that back up the promise. It is best for families seeking *conviction, continuity and community* rather than social cachet. Students who want a broad, anonymous international campus will find it too bounded. Students who want a school with *clear expectations and real belonging* will find one of Tokyo’s most distinctive options.

STRENGTHS

- Established in 1950; long-standing Tokyo international school.
- English-medium teaching with North American curriculum.
- AP available alongside the American programme.
- Students from over 25 countries; broadly international mix.

TRADE-OFFS

- Explicitly Christ-centred; not secular in outlook.
- Founded for evangelical missionaries' children; distinctive religious mission.
- Only about 450 day students; smaller peer group.

ADMISSIONS

Christian Academy in Japan is a K-12 day school in Tokyo, so the main entry points run from elementary through high school, broadly covering the usual age range from about 5 to 18. It was established to educate the children of evangelical missionaries and still states that this remains its core purpose, while also serving other families seeking the same Christ-centred education. The school teaches in English and follows a North American curriculum, with AP in the upper school. It also operates a separate Parallel Educational Services division for English-speaking homeschoolers, but that should not be confused with day-school admission.

The school's public admissions material, at least in the source provided here, does not set out assessment format, application deadlines or financial-aid arrangements in detail. Nor does it publish a distinctive selection sequence beyond making clear the religious character and original missionary focus of the school. Families should therefore expect mission-fit and English-language readiness to matter, but should confirm directly with admissions how testing, interviews, document requirements and any fee support are handled in practice.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_0dc0e7ae18.