

Welcome to Hitokabe, a small village in the foothills of the Taneyamagahara Mountains, in Oshu, Japan. I'm Victor, an Assistant Language Teacher working at Hitokabe Elementary School. I've been part of the teaching staff here for two years and enjoy working with everyone here. I would like to introduce the wonderful place to you.

There are about twenty elementary students at this school, and they are all very nice and friendly. Although we are a small school, it feels like a small family because of the small classes and close bonds that everyone has. This school is very rare in the educational system of Japan because of the closeness sizes and personal attention each teacher gives every student even if they are not their homeroom teacher. The students try their best in all subjects and even study English knowing it will help them in the future.

The people in the Hitokabe area have a rich history. There are ruins of Hitokabe Castle with its important role it played in this area. In addition to that, the great Iwate born novelist, Miyazawa Kenji was inspired by this area to write his famous stories. There is a lot of rich nature in this area and traditionally people have farmed rice and other crops for generations. Just taking a walk in the area can help people escape big city life and be taken back to the days when life was simple in rural Japan. Open your ears to hear the flow of the Hitokabe river that has small Japanese trout swimming around its crystal clear waters.

Thank you very much for taking the time to learn about Hitokabe. We hope that if you like to learn more, please take a trip and come to this area and experience everything for yourself.