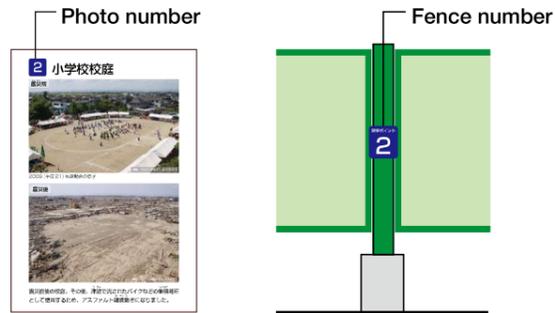


Rooftop

While looking out over the whole Arahama area, you will be able to compare the view before and after the disaster. You can see the relative positions between the sea and Teizan Canal, and the elevated road.

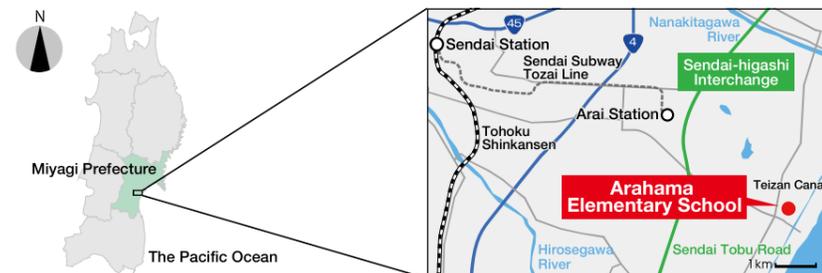


1 Arahama Before and After the Earthquake

Display cards that compare photographs taken before and after the earthquake can be found at the entrance to the rooftop. Compare photos with the same number as those on the fence to see how the landscape has changed.

Information

- Open Hours** 9:30 – 16:00 (9:30-17:00 in July and August) *Free Admission
- Closed** Mondays, and 4th Thursday, New Year's holiday, Temporary closing days
- Contact** Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City Promotion Office, City of Sendai
E-mail : mac001604@city.sendai.jp
- Address** 32-1 Shinborihata Arahama-aza, Wakabayashi-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, 984-0033, Japan
- Access**
 - By Public Transport**
 - 1 hour 36 minutes from Tokyo Station to Sendai Station by Tohoku Shinkansen
 - 13 minutes from Sendai Station to Arai Station on the Sendai Subway Tozai Line
 - From Arai Station to Ruins of the Great Japan Earthquake: Sendai Arahama Elementary School bus stop by Sendai City Bus, get off at the last stop (about 15 minutes)
 - By Car**
 - About 10 minutes from the Sendai-higashi Interchange on the Sendai Tobu Road
 - Parking available (parking also available for buses)



City of Sendai
 Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City Promotion Office
 3-7-1 Kokubuncho, Aoba-ku, Sendai City, Miyagi, 980-8671, Japan
 Tel +81-(0)22-214-1117 Fax +81-(0)22-214-8497 E-mail mac001604@city.sendai.jp
 Issued in March 2023

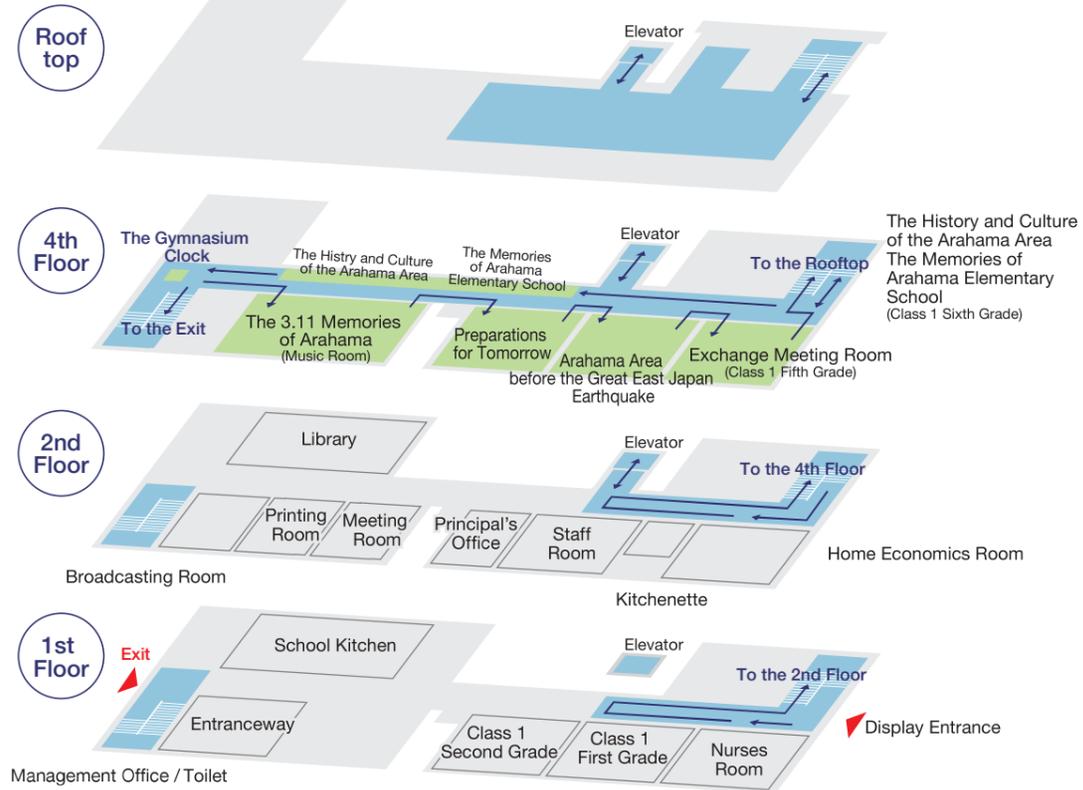
Display Guide

Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake: Sendai Arahama Elementary School



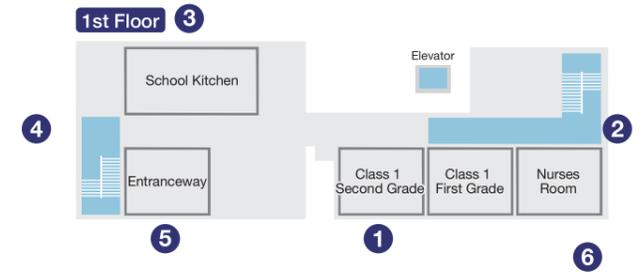
Information Displayed on All Floors

Accessible Area
Exhibition Room
* The 3rd floor is not open to the public.



Outside of the School Building

By looking at photos that show aftereffects from the tsunami and the extent of the damage to the school, you will be able to understand the threat of the tsunami that hit Arahama Elementary School.



1 Height of the Tsunami

A signboard showing the height of the tsunami that hit Arahama Elementary School is installed on the front wall of the school building at the 2nd floor.



2 East Side of the Building

The veranda wall and iron railings were destroyed due to the force of the tsunami. The marks left behind on the 3rd floor of the building show the damage from the tsunami debris smashing into the outside walls.



3 School Kitchen

The large pot just about kept its shape but the window frames were bent and part of the ceiling was destroyed due to the force of the tsunami.



4 The Site of the Gymnasium

The gymnasium which was situated to the west of the school building suffered a huge amount of damage from the tsunami and so it was dismantled in 2013.



5 Entranceway

The ceiling was pushed upwards from the incredible force of the tsunami.



6 Statue of Kinjiro Ninomiya

This statue of one of Japan's great philosophers stood in the southwest corner of the schoolyard. It was swept away by the tsunami and was discovered about 100m away from the elementary school.

Outline of Display

Outline of Preservation & Displays

Directly after the earthquake struck, the four story reinforced concrete school building became the evacuation area for 320 residents, students and school personnel. The tsunami surged up to the 2nd floor, and everyone who had evacuated to the school building managed to escape safely to the rooftop.

It is our city's goal to never again fall victim to a tsunami, to pass on the lessons we learned also and to show the real threat of tsunami to future generations. For these reasons, the ruins of the Arahama Elementary School building will be preserved, along with other records, and opened to the public.

The Great East Japan Earthquake

At 14:46 on March 11, 2011, a tremendous earthquake (the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake) occurred with its epicenter off the Sanriku coast of Northern Japan. Violent seismic activity measuring 7 on the Japanese intensity scale hit a wide area of East Japan. The full scale of the earthquake was measured at magnitude 9. This was the largest earthquake ever recorded in Japan. Following the earthquake, a massive tsunami was triggered which caused devastating damage to the Pacific coastal areas.

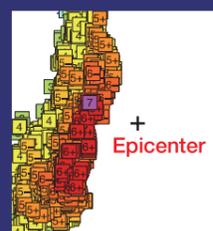


In Sendai City alone, 931 people were recorded dead or missing, 139,643 buildings were completely destroyed or extensively damaged, and 5,728 residential areas were recorded as "dangerous" or "requiring caution".

* Numbers of March 1, 2022.

Arahama Area and Arahama Elementary School

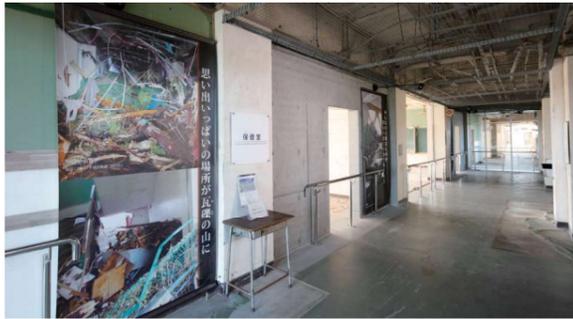
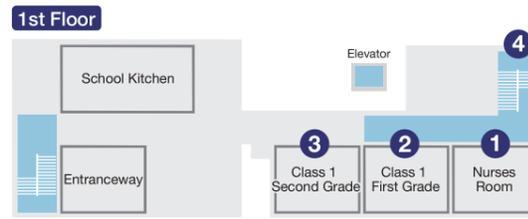
The Arahama area is located on the Pacific coastline approximately 10km away from the center of Sendai City. Approximately 800 households and about 2,200 people have settled in the area around the historical Teizan Canal which runs along the coastline. Arahama Elementary School was established in 1873, located about 700m inland from the shoreline. The school had 91 students attending it before the disaster.



Source: Japan Meteorological Agency website

1st Floor

On the 1st floor were classrooms for the first and second graders as well as the nurses room. You can get a sense of the immense power of the tsunami and the huge amounts of debris which the wave carried with it by looking at the curvature of the walls and blackboard, the damage to the ceilings, and from pictures taken immediately after the disaster.



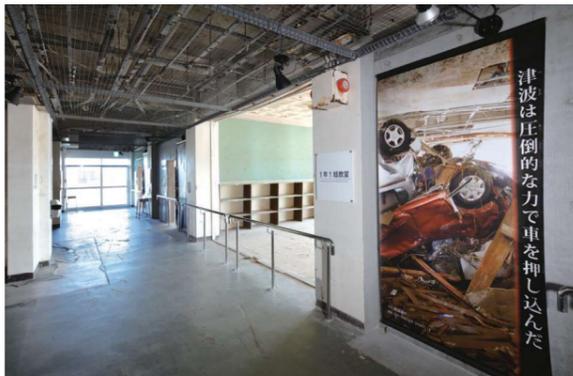
1 Corridor in front of the Nurses Room

The tsunami swept pine trees away from the coast and furniture from homes bringing a huge amount of debris into the corridors of the school building.



4 East Side Stair Landings

Debris piled into the stair landings between the 1st and 2nd floors.



2 Class 1 First Grade

A teacher's car which was parked to the east of the school building was pushed into the classroom by the power of the tsunami.

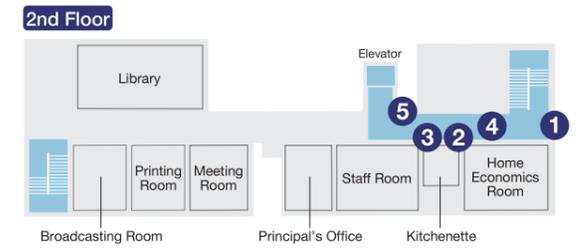


3 Class 1 Second Grade

A wall with a blackboard was bent by the power of the tsunami.

2nd Floor

The 2nd floor was home to the staff room, the principal's office and the library, etc. You can see the height of the water line at 40cm above the floor and splash marks on the ceiling.



1 2nd Floor East Window

The mass of debris which crushed the concrete wall of the veranda and forced it towards the 2nd floor.



3 Cabinet Showing Height of Tsunami

The tsunami waters reached up to the line where the cabinet has rusted on the side.



2 Height of the Tsunami

Marks 40cm above the floor where the tsunami flooding reached.



4 Splash Marks on the Ceiling

As the tsunami gushed into the building the water splashed up leaving marks on the ceiling.

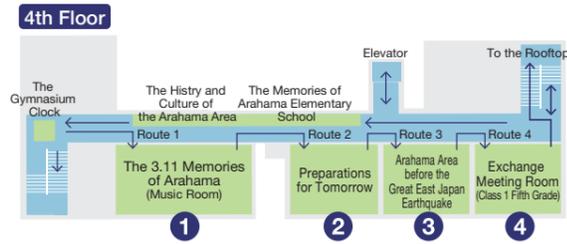


5 Corridor in front of the Staff Room

This picture shows the state that the 2nd floor corridor was left in after the tsunami receded.

4th Floor

Visitors will be able to learn about the importance of preparing for disasters by looking at photos and videos taken at Arahama Elementary School over the span of when the earthquake happened, the following evacuation, when the tsunami struck, and up until when the evacuees were rescued. In addition, there are displays introducing the culture and history of Arahama area, and memories that people have about Arahama Elementary School.



Exhibition Room - The 3.11 Memories of Arahama

Based on the accounts of those affected and of records from the time, we look back at the events that took place at Arahama Elementary School within the first 27 hours, beginning from when the earthquake happened, the following evacuation, when the tsunami struck, and up until when the evacuees were rescued.



27 Hours in Arahama Elementary School on March 11, 2011

The 17-minute long video shown in "The 3.11 Memories of Arahama Exhibition Room" on the 4th floor summarizes the first 27 hours, beginning from when the earthquake struck at 14:46 on March 11, 2011, up until all evacuees had been rescued. The documentary includes interviews with the school principal and the head of the neighborhood association at the time of the earthquake, footage of fire-fighting helicopters dispatched on the day of the disaster, and more. (English subtitles available)



27 Hours when Time Stood Still

From the moment when the earthquake struck through the rescue of evacuees, the story unfolds in chronological order through first-hand accounts and photographs.

Exhibition Room - Preparation for Tomorrow



Screening of the animated video "Preparations for Tomorrow" is used to educate generations that did not experience the Great East Japan Earthquake about how to prepare for disasters and how to respond when a disaster occurs.

A 5.4 m by 1.8 m wall graphic is also in place to display disaster risk reduction information as well as to serve as a remembrance of Arahama area before the earthquake.

Revision of Pre-Earthquake Disaster Prevention Measures

Arahama Elementary School revised their disaster prevention measures before the occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake, based on past experiences of earthquakes and tsunamis such as the ones that struck Chile in 2010.

As a result of the revision, the evacuation site was changed from the gymnasium to the rooftop, and blankets which had been stored in the gymnasium were moved to the 3rd floor of the school building as concrete measures against potential tsunamis. These decisions saved the lives of many children and evacuees.

Exhibition Room - Arahama Area before the Great East Japan Earthquake

The history and culture of Arahama are, as well as memories of Arahama Elementary School are showcased through videos, photographs and models.



Arahama Before the Disaster

A look into the town surrounded by rice fields and the lives of the townspeople before the earthquake.



Diorama of Arahama Area

A 1/500 scale model of Arahama area was constructed with the help of former residents. The model is dotted with flags marked with the names of residents and their memories.

* Produced by: TSUKIHASHI Osamu & the Tsukihashi Laboratory at Kobe University



Aerial Footage of Arahama Area

This aerial footage shows the way of life in Arahama area before the earthquake.

Footage taken: Jan 2011

Exchange Meeting Room

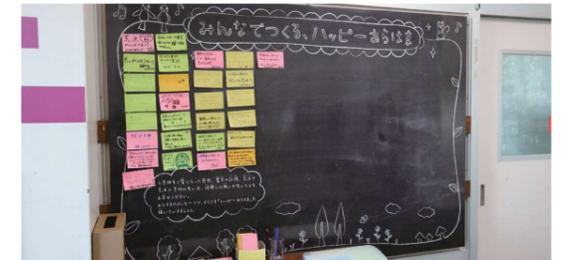
This room is used for activities related to Arahama area and Arahama Elementary School. Usually, a TV program which shows the way of life in Arahama area is available for viewing.



Screening of TV Program

TV programs which documented the daily lives of people living in Arahama from 2005 onwards are available for viewing.

* Produced by: NHK Sendai Broadcasting Station



Message Board

Visitors can write down their thoughts about what they saw and pass on their wishes for the revitalization of Arahama area.

Exhibits in 4th Floor Hallway



The Gymnasium Clock

Stopped in time at 15:55 when the tsunami hit



History and Culture of the Arahama Area

Showing the way of life in the half-agricultural and half-fishing area and images of the bustling beach before the earthquake



Memories of Arahama Elementary School

Established in 1873, the school was in operation for 142 years. This exhibit introduces memories about the school before the earthquake struck and the efforts of all involved after the disaster.