NewsPicks Opens “Cross-Border Piazza”, a Virtual Space for Japanese Students to Learn Together



Social business media NewsPicks announced that it opened “Cross-Border Piazza”, a new virtual space for students from primary, middle, and high schools across Japan. Built on “NewsPicks Education”, a learning platform using NewsPicks technology, the Piazza aims to serve as a place for students from different schools and regions of Japan to learn together.

Up until now, NewsPicks Education has worked on setting up dedicated virtual spaces for individual schools and facilitating activities to connect students with the news. For around a year starting from March 2021, it had partnered with the “Oki Dozen Education Miryokuka Project" and seven schools that agreed with the goals of the project, trying to break down any walls separating students and help them learn from each other.

By sharing interesting news via NewsPicks, students found many opportunities to connect and interact with each other online, free of any location-based restraints.

Now, after a one-year trial period, we have decided to open “Cross-Border Piazza”, an online space for primary, middle, and high school students who already use NewsPicks Education. Our goal is to create even more opportunities for students from different regions and schools to learn from each other using news-based materials.

The Cross-Border Piazza offers students access to news, lectures, and opportunities for conversations with other students. By learning together, crossing the borders between regions and schools, students will be exposed to a diverse range of values and opinions. We also hope that these conversations will help them to rediscover the beauty and the strengths of the regions in which they live.

Comment from Daisuke Sakamoto (CRO & Head of New Business, NewsPicks)

Connections between students of the same generation have great power. For a while now, I have thought about creating a space for students to establish such connections and help each other to improve, and I am very happy to have finally taken the first step. We aim to further evolve this initiative, such as by opening courses where students from all over Japan can study together.

Comment from Shinji Kamohara (NewsPicks Education Business Manager, NewsPicks)

Personally, I am just happy that we can officially open and run a virtual space for students to learn from each other, regardless of what school they go to or where they live—this has been part of our vision since the launch of NewsPicks Education. But, this is just the beginning. We want to nurture even more learning opportunities together with the teachers and students we have worked with so far, and we also would like to welcome new people on the platform. Do let us know if you are interested in joining!

About NewsPicks Education

An innovative learning platform for primary, middle, and high school students in Japan, built on the social business media NewsPicks. It offers closed-off spaces within NewsPicks accessible only to teaching staff and students registered in them. Using this safe learning environment, teachers and students are able to freely share news and comment on them, fostering a sense of excitement for the world as they develop their own perspectives and opinions. By gathering in a virtual space made specifically for them, students can learn from their peers who may attend different classes, have different grades, or go to different schools. This creates opportunities for students to see different ways of thinking, and understand the reasoning behind the ideas held by people living in environments that differ from their own.

Official website: https://education.newspicks.com/ (Japanese only)

Company Overview

Company Name: NewsPicks, Inc.

Date of Establishment: April 1, 2015

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