



**Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)**  
**KAKEHASHI Project**  
**High School Students the 2<sup>nd</sup> slot Program Report**

## **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan's Friendship Ties Program, 100 high school students and supervisors from the United States visited Japan from July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. Through visiting local governments and companies, school exchange, homestay and other experiences, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences through SNS. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to their home country.

### **【Participating Countries and Number of Participants】**

U.S.A. 100 participants

(Group A: Gulliver High School, Group B: Long Beach Polytechnic High School, Group C: Amundsen High School, Group D: Robert E. Lee High School)

### **【Prefectures Visited】**

Tokyo (All members), Yamaguchi (Group A), Akita (Group B), Osaka (Group C), Aichi (Group D)

## **2. Program Schedule**

July 12<sup>th</sup> (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

July 13<sup>th</sup> (Wed) [Orientation]

[Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs North American Bureau

“Japan's Foreign Policy”

[Observation] Edo Tokyo Museum, Asakusa

July 14<sup>th</sup> (Thu) ~ July 18<sup>th</sup> (Mon)

Divide into four groups. Group A visited Yamaguchi, Group B visited Akita, Group C visited Osaka, and Group D visited Aichi.

After the local prefecture program, all 4 groups traveled back to Tokyo on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

(1) Group A: Gulliver High School (Miami) : Yamaguchi

[Cutting Edge Technology] UBE i Plaza (Ube Industries, Ltd.)

[Nature • Art] Tokiwa Museum

[Lecture on the Region] Ube City  
[School Exchange ▪ Home Stay] Yamaguchi Prefectural Ube Senior  
High School  
[Nature] Akiyoshidai, Akiyoshido  
[Workshop]

(2) Group B: Long Beach Polytechnic High School (Los Angeles) : Akita  
[Courtesy Call ▪ Lecture on the Region] Akita Prefectural Government  
[History ▪ Traditional Culture] Akita City Folklore and Performing Arts  
Center, Kaneko House  
[History ▪ Traditional Culture] Namahage Museum, Oga Shinzan Folklore  
Museum  
[Nature] Mt. Kanpuzan Panorama Sky Park  
[School Exchange ▪ Home Stay] Akita Minami High School  
[Workshop]

(3) Group C: Amundsen High School (Chicago) : Osaka  
[Lecture on the Region] Osaka City Hall  
[History ▪ Traditional Culture] Osaka Castle  
[Regional Industry] Monozukuri Business Center Osaka  
[Lecture on the Region] Higashi Osaka City Hall  
[School Exchange ▪ Home Stay] Fuse Senior High School  
[Workshop]

(4) Group D: Robert E. Lee High School (Houston) : Aichi  
[Lecture on the Region] Aichi Prefectural Government  
[Cultural Experience] Shiratori Garden  
[Regional Industry ▪ Cutting Edge Technology] Aichi Service Robot  
Commercialization Support Center  
[School Exchange ▪ Home Stay] Nagoya University Affiliated Upper and  
Lower Secondary Schools  
[Workshop]

July 18<sup>th</sup> (Mon) [Cutting Edge Technology] National Museum of Emerging Science and  
Innovation  
[Reporting Session]

July 19<sup>th</sup> (Tue) [Observation] Harajuku ▪ Meiji Jingu Shrine (Group A, B and D)

### 3. Program Photos

#### Tokyo



7/18 [Reporting Session]



7/19 [Observation] Harajuku

#### Group A: Yamaguchi



7/14 [Cutting Edge Technology] UBE i Plaza  
(Ube Industries, Ltd.) (Ube City)



7/14 [Lecture on the Region] Ube City (Ube City)



7/15 [School Exchange] Yamaguchi  
Prefectural Ube Senior High School  
(Ube City)



7/16 [Home Stay] (Ube City)



7/17 [Nature] Akiyoshidai (Mine City)



7/17 [Workshop] (Ube City)



## Group B: Akita



7/14 [Courtesy Call • Lecture on the Region]  
Akita Prefectural Government (Akita City)



7/14 [History • Traditional Culture] Akita City  
Folklore and Performing Arts Center  
(Akita City)



7/15 [History • Traditional Culture] Namahage  
Museum, Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum  
(Oga City)



7/15 [School Exchange] Akita Minami High  
School (Akita City)



7/16 [Home Stay] (Akita City)



7/17 [Home Stay] Farewell Party (Akita City)

## Group C: Osaka



7/14 [Lecture on the Region] Osaka City Hall (Osaka City)



7/14 [History · Traditional Culture] Osaka Castle (Osaka City)



7/15 [Regional Industry] Monozukuri Business Center Osaka (Higashi Osaka City)



7/15 [School Exchange] Fuse Senior High School (Higashi Osaka City)



7/17 [Home Stay] Farewell Party (Higashi Osaka City)



7/17 [Workshop] (Higashi Osaka City)



## Group D: Aichi



7/14 [Lecture on the Region] Aichi Prefectural Government (Nagoya City)



7/14 [Cultural Experience] Shiratori Garden (Nagoya City)



7/14 [Regional Industry · Cutting Edge Technology] Aichi Service Robot Commercialization Support Center (Obu City)



7/15 [School Exchange] Nagoya University Affiliated Upper and Lower Secondary Schools (Nagoya City)



7/16 [Home Stay] (Nagoya City)



7/17 [Home Stay] Farewell Party (Nagoya City)

#### **4. Voice from Participants**

##### **◆ U.S.A., High School Student**

I appreciate the lecture because it was a kick-off to the program. It was very informative. The school is very different from school in Chicago, however, I like the classes in Japan more than in America. I was impressed at how the students get to take classes like home economics, calligraphy, and sewing. It was impressive at how quiet the building was. That is very different from the buildings in Chicago. I was impressed at the structure of the Japanese homes. It is very different from American homes. I'm also very impressed by how things were different. For example, they air dry their clothes along with, how their toilet is in a separate room. I like the Japanese society because everyone in Japan has manners and is mindful of everyone. I really enjoyed my stay in Osaka because it was similar to Chicago in some aspects but also very different in a good way.

##### **◆ U.S.A., High School Student**

I really appreciated the creativity exercised at service robot center. Many Japanese companies have innovated many new ways of life and have created things (robots) to help many different people. I learned so much about how to help others and make the world a better place through technology.

##### **◆ U.S.A., High School Student**

I enjoyed listening to the lecture and learning about Japan's vast history and foreign policy. I am now interested in Japan's diplomatic ties and how we can maintain them in the future.

##### **◆ U.S.A., High School Student**

It was interesting learning about Japanese foreign policy as well as domestic policy. I very much enjoyed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sending someone to speak. I would have enjoyed attending classes as well in the school exchange program.

#### **5. Voice from Japanese Participants**



##### **◆ School Exchange Program: High School Student**

During the exchange program, I did fireworks while wearing a yukata, ate okonomiyaki, and did many other activities with 2 American girls. One of the most memorable thing is the way they actively tried to learn Japanese. Once they learned a new vocabulary, they skillfully copied it, pronounced it and made a note on their smart phone. Their stance on learning made an impression on me. They also taught me American slangs that young Americans use. It was very fun to teach each other new vocabularies and actually use them in a conversation, praising each other when the other becomes better. We exchanged our contact information, and we are continuing our friendship. Through this project, I was able to obtain unforgettable memories and new friends from across the world. I also gained new confidence in my English skill because I was able to communicate with them so well. I am truly glad that I participated in this project.

## ◆ Host Family

I had a very fun, significant time during their stay. It was my first experience as a host family, so I was very concerned about how to spend time and provide fun experience for them. However, both of the students were very easy to get along with, and taught me that by simply spending time as we usually do is the best way to establish a good atmosphere. Also, they said thank you to everything, and it made me very happy. It made me realize the importance of saying thank you that my family must value it as well. It was only a short stay but I am glad we welcomed them into our family. It was a great experience and created excellent memories for my daughter. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

## 6. Dissemination by the Participants

	 <p>RobertE.LeeHS-NEISD @LeeHS_NEISD · 7月14日 @LeeHS_NEISD @ISA_Globies @NESA_NEISD @neisd_stem students in Japan for friendship ties#one campus #kakehashi2016</p>
Peace Sign in Japan (Instagram)	Nagoya University Affiliated Upper and Lower Secondary Schools

## 7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p><b>Action Plan (Social Media, Print, Video)</b></p> <p>We will produce a magazine that will help us share our experience in Japan with our school community as well as with our new Japanese friends.</p> <p>We plan on sending copies of this magazine to Ube High School.</p> <p>The magazine will include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Japanese Technology and Eco-Friendliness</li> <li>- The Mixture of Japanese Tradition and Modernity</li> <li>- Japanese Kindness and Welcome</li> <li>- Similarities and Differences in Fashion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create Committee to plan for the Fuse Students</li> <li>2. Create workshop for Amundsen students</li> <li>3. Write articles for social media about our experiences in Japan</li> <li>4. Presentation for the Local School Council, Elementary school, and incoming freshmen.</li> </ol>
Japanese language students wear face masks for one day to provoke questions about the Japanese practice of wearing them	Participants will share their experience through local radio and papers. Promotion of Japanese culture and relations by sharing details of the Japanese Program and chance to travel.