



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)
KAKEHASHI Project
High School Students the 3rd Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 22 high school students and 3 supervisors from the United States visited Japan from November 15th to November 22nd, 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 lecture by ministry, observation of historical sites, 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. 25 Participants (North Mecklenburg High School, South Mecklenburg High School, West Mecklenburg High School)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Nara

2. Program Schedule

November 15 th (Tue)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
November 16 th (Wed)	[Orientation] [Lecture] North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Japan’s Foreign Policy” [Cutting-Edge Technology] National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)
November 17 th (Thu)	Move to Nara [Historical Landmark] Todai-ji Temple [Lecture on the Region] Nara Prefectural Government
November 18 th (Fri)	[School Exchange] Horyuji Kokusai High School
November 19 th (Sat)	[Home Stay]
November 20 th (Sun)	[Homestay] Farewell Party [Workshop]
November 21 st (Mon)	Move to Tokyo

[Reporting Session]

[Observation] Akihabara

November 22nd (Tue) [Historical Landmark] Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku

Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

• Tokyo



11/16 [Cutting-Edge Technology]
National Museum of Emerging Science and
Innovation (Miraikan) (Tokyo)



11/21 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)

• Nara



11/17 [Lecture on the Region] Nara
Prefectural Government (Nara City)



11/17 [Historical Landmark] Todai-ji Temple
(Nara City)



11/18 [School Exchange] Horyuji Kokusai
High School (Ikoma-gun)



11/18 [School Exchange] Horyuji Temple

	
11/20 [Homestay] Farewell Party	11/20 [Workshop] (Osaka City)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A., High School Student

In the lecture part, I have noticed how every lecture there was everything was formal and very organized. For government office, I have noticed that everything was prepared perfectly with no interruptions. During the school exchanges everyone there was so polite and very welcoming for hospitality. Lastly for the home stay I have welcomed a new Japanese life and have created memory that would never forget.

◆ U.S.A., High School Student

The lectures were good. It was cozy to follow along, especially with the handout of the PowerPoint. The school looked like every school. I have seen in anime and games. It was really neat and the principle did a great job introducing to the school. The no weapon's rule was interesting to me I understand why this would be a very controversial topic but I would have to say that sometimes violence may be the last resort to maintain peace. I loved the homestay I fell in love with my host family. I had a great time and it means a lot to me. I hope I get to see them soon and that I am able to maintain communication with them.

5. Voice from Japanese Participants

◆ School Exchange Program: High School Teacher

Although the stay was only few days long, many students that hosted the American students wanted to go see them again in the U.S., and that showed the success of the exchange program. I think the most successful part of the program was how many students challenged themselves to proactively interact with the visiting students, while the conventional way of studying foreign culture by studying its language.

◆ School Exchange Program: High School Student

At first I was worried if we will be able to communicate well, but I was surprised that the American students spoke Japanese very well. During the home stay we spoke about the difference between American schools and Japanese schools, what is popular in both of our countries, and many other subjects. When I visit them in February I would like to promote Japan in English. I enjoyed all 3 days of the program.

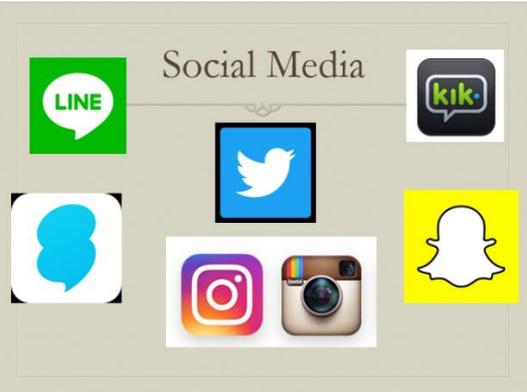
◆ **School Exchange Program: High School Student**

It was the first time I hosted somebody so I was very nervous, but I was surprised at how the American students spoke Japanese well. When we ran out of things to talk about, they made sure the conversation can keep going. It was sad to say good bye to them at the farewell party, but I look forward to seeing them in February. It was a memorable experience I will never be able to forget.

6. Dissemination by the Participants

	
<p>Message about the program</p> <p>22students and 3teachers from South, North and West Meck high schools participated KAKEHASHI Project.</p>	<p>Message about home stay</p> <p>With host family</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session


<p>Action Plan Presentation 1</p> <p>The participants will share their experience and knowledge through Social Media.</p>