



**Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)**  
**KAKEHASHI Project**  
**Okinawa Program the 1<sup>st</sup> slot Program Report**

**1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 42 high school students and 4 supervisors from the United States visited Japan from December 6<sup>th</sup> to December 13<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 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. 46 Participants

(A: Illinois University Laboratory High School, B: Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School)

**【Prefectures Visited】**

Tokyo, Okinawa



**2. Program Schedule**

December 6 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
December 7 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	[Orientation] [Lecture] North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Japan’s Foreign Policy” [Historical Landmark] Imperial Palace Move to Okinawa
December 8 <sup>th</sup> (Thu)	[Historical Facilities] Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park [Historical Landmark] Shuri Castle [Observation] Okinawa Prefectural Museum [Cultural Experience] Eisa dance



December 9 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	[School Experience • Homestay] Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School (Group A), Okinawa Prefectural Nago High School (Group B)
December 10 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	[Homestay]
December 11 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	[Homestay] Farewell Party [Workshop]
December 12 <sup>nd</sup> (Mon)	Move to Tokyo [Reporting Session]
December 13 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	[Historical Landmark] Asakusa [Historical Landmark] Meiji Jingu Shrine Departure from Narita International Airport





### 3. Program Photos

#### • Tokyo

	
12/12 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)	12/13 [Historical Landmark] Meiji Jingu Shrine (Tokyo)

#### • Okinawa

	
12/8 [Cultural Experience] Eisa dance (Naha City)	12/8 [Historical Landmark] Shuri Castle (Naha City)

	
<p>12/9 [School Experience • Homestay] Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School (Naha City)</p>	<p>12/10 [Homestay] (Nago City)</p>
	
<p>12/11 [Home Stay] Farewell Party (Nago City)</p>	<p>12/11 [Workshop] (Naha City)</p>

#### 4. Voice from Participants

##### ◆ U.S.A., High School Student

The lecture on Japanese history and foreign policy was really interesting to hear about politics and world events from the Japanese perspective and I think that now I have a better understanding of politics and the world. The lecture on the battle of Okinawa from someone who was actually there made it so much more real and now I want to learn more. Also, it really made me think about the impacts of war around the world. The homestay and school visit was really fun and I met so many new people that I want to keep in touch with. During the homestay my host family was so nice and I learned a lot about Japanese culture. Now I really want to come back to Japan. The program also made me more aware of how diverse the world really is and now I want to travel to even more places and learn more about their lifestyles in other countries. Overall the trip has already impacted me much more than I expected. I understand so much more about Japanese culture and I think it has given me a better understanding of the world in general as well.

#### ◆ U.S.A., High School Student

My biggest impression was learning about the Japanese security policies because I had absolutely no prior knowledge beforehand. The lecture about the battle of Okinawa was also very interesting because it gave a different perspective into WW II. The biggest impression at school was the basketball tournament. The whole school seemed so into it. I really enjoyed experiencing it. The homestay was so incredible. I was struck by the kindness and hospitality of everyone in the family. Also, what was really interesting for me was the Japanese home life. Everything from the slipper customs, the bathroom and interactions between family members was so interesting for me since it's so different from everything I'm used to.

#### ◆ U.S.A., High School Student

The lecture on Battle of Okinawa was extremely engaging and very interesting to hear a first-hand account of a historical event. The lecture of Japanese social, political and economic structure was very useful for us to hear about the circumstances of the country we were visiting – it made my interactions later different than what I would have done if we had not heard the lecture. It was also nice to hear from another country's point of view of America and of Japanese relations with America, both past and present.

As for school exchange, everything was so similar, yet so foreign at the same time. It was so engaging to speak to the Japanese students in English and Japanese. I learned about their culture and all the similarities and differences between America and Japanese schools. My host family was very welcoming and was a very good example of Japanese culture and manners. It was a good way to improve language speaking, including slang and local dialect.

### 5. Voice from Japanese Participants

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

I made many different connections through Kakehashi Project. The experience of interacting with a foreign student around the same age as myself for the first time expanded my vision greatly. It was a great feeling to hear native English, and be able to communicate with them in English. I would like to study international relations in the future.





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

I felt myself transform after I participated in Kakehashi Project. I was very nervous about home stay, especially about the cultural difference, language barriers and many other things, but after seeing the students enjoy themselves I was relieved and very glad. Most of the communication between us was in English, and it was very educational. It also encouraged me to study English more so I can communicate better in the future.




## ◆ School Exchange Program: High School Student

After participating in Kakehashi Project, I was not only able to learn English but by interacting with different culture and customs I discovered many different things. I saw Japan from a third-person perspective, and it widened my view of the world. By hosting the students, I was able to recognize the positive sides of Japan that I took for granted, and learned that it was difficult to explain these feelings as well. By developing the friendship created by this program, I would like to continue being a “bridge” between Japan and the rest of the world.

## 6. Dissemination by the Participants

 <p>mayagreer いいね！126件 mayagreer やった100 すごい！ばんざい!! luvborn_mi_21 日本 simmybweh Hurrah f laraalicerorgan ^^ grinandberit98 Serio now@ van_gundy... #kakehi saahithimaturi u look mayagreer @van_gu #kakehashi2016 コメントを追加</p>	 <p>Kimberly Webber December 8, 2016 · 46 Like Comment Share Write a comment... Suggested Groups クジラノミ 51 1 friend · 3,079 members</p>
<p><b>Message about the program</b> Naha Kokusai Senior High School</p>	<p><b>Message about Observation</b> Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum</p>
 <p>Kimberly Webber added 26 photos and 2 videos — with Hitomi Ono and Tim Browning. December 11, 2016 · Naha, Okinawa · 11 Day six. Part 1. Home visit - then adults get to explore on their own! First stop - aquarium!! #teachergirl #kakehashi2016</p>	 <p>Kimberly Webber added 39 new photos — with Hitomi Ono and Tim Browning. December 11, 2016 · Naha, Okinawa · 11 Day six. Part 4. Sensei's Best pizza and frozen mango. Nakijin Castle ruins. #teachergirl #kakehashi2016</p>
<p><b>Message about home stay</b> Home visit</p>	<p><b>Message about Observation</b> Nakijin castle ruins</p>

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

<p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately (from now on) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spread the word around school by teaching classes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Greater Community (1 month - 6 months) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events to celebrate Japanese culture in the Champaign-Urbana area</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Lasting Effect (forever) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Videos through social media</li> <li>• Instagram/Facebook/Twitter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   	<p><b>OUR GOAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to encourage Americans to gain understanding, and we want to give them the tools to do so.</li> <li>• We will start by sharing this message in our school and then spread it through social media.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Plan Presentation 1</b></p> <p>The participants will share their experience and knowledge through the following methods. 1)Presentation at the school(immediately) 2)Event(1-6months) 3)SNS(forever)</p>	<p><b>Action Plan Presentation 2</b></p> <p>We want to encourage Americans to gain understanding, and we want to give them the tools to do so.</p> <p>We will start by sharing this message in our school and then spread it through social media.</p>