



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)
Inbound program for High School Students the 3rd Slot
Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 50 high school students and their supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from February 17 to February 24, 2018 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 the lectures, observations and interactions with Japanese people etc., the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences on social media. 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 the U.S.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

United States of America: 50 participants,

(Breakdown)

Group A (25 participants): Silver Creek High School (State of California)

Group B (25 participants): Walter Payton College Preparatory High School (State of Illinois)

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo (All), Hokkaido (Group A), Okinawa (Group B)

2. Program Schedule

	Group A	Group B
Feb.17 (Sun)	Arrival	
Feb.18 (Mon)	【Orientation】	
	【Lecture】 Professor Akira Nakamura, Meiji University	
	Move to Hokkaido from Tokyo	Move to Okinawa from Tokyo

Feb.19 (Tue)	【Observation】 Motomachi, Goryokaku Park 【School Exchange】 Hakodate Shirayuri Gakuen Junior & Senior High School 【Observation】 Hachiman-zaka 【Meeting with Host Family】	【School Exchange】 Okinawa Prefectural Chinen High School 【Meeting with Host Family】
Feb.20 (Wed)	【Homestay】 【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Observation】 Hakodate-yama	【Homestay】 【Observation】 Great Stone Shisa at Tomimori 【Culture Experience】 Okinawa World Hand Craft & Eisa Dance 【Peace-related Observation and Lecture】 Peace Memorial Museum Story Telling by a War Victim
Feb.21 (Thu)	【Workshop】 【Culture Experience】 Kimono & Tea Ceremony	【Observation】 Shuri-jo Castle 【Observation】 Tsuboya Pottery Studio Ikutouen, Makishi Public Market 【Workshop】
Feb.22 (Fri)	Move to Tokyo from Hokkaido 【Reporting Session】	Move to Tokyo from Okinawa
Feb.23 (Sat)	【Observation】 The Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku	
Feb.24 (Sun)	【Cutting-Edge Technology】 MEGA WEB Departure	

3. Program Photos

All groups (Tokyo)

	
2/18 【Orientation】	2/24 【Cutting-Edge Technology】 MEGA WEB

Group A (Hokkaido)



2/19 【Observation】 Motomachi



2/19【School Exchange】Hakodate Shirayuri
Gakuen Junior & Senior High School



2/20 【Farewell Party with Host Family】



2/21 【Culture Experience】
Kimono & Tea Ceremony

Group B (Okinawa)



2/19 【School Exchange】
Okinawa Prefectural Chinen High School



2/20 【Observation of Historical Building】
Great Stone Shisa at Tomimori

	
2/20 【 Peace-related Observation and Lecture】 Peace Memorial Museum	2/21 【Observation】 Tsuboya Pottery Studio Ikutouen

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

Group A (Hokkaido)

◆ U.S.A. Student

The lecture brought insight into Japanese history. I never learned of the economical and political troubles the Japanese faced. The school exchange was an amazing experience. I loved talking and playing games with the students. They were very welcoming and kind to me. This taught me that the younger generation is caring. When we went to MOFA, we continued to listen about Japanese history at the government office. I really liked hearing about the Goryokaku Park. It was a beautiful walk. The homestay was an unforgettable experience. Practicing my Japanese was difficult but I got the hang of it quickly. I actually just realized that many Japanese people add “Ne” to the end of their sentences. I had a great experience in Japan and I don’t want it to end.

◆ U.S.A. Student

The lecture was so amazing. The professor had planned a lecture that was both interesting/engaging and educational. The school exchange was fun because I was able to experience the true school culture. The homestay was also very fun because I was able to experience the daily life of a genuine Japanese person. Another experience that had a significant impression on me was the trip up the Hakodate Mountain. It made me realize the beauty of Hokkaido. It was truly an experience that I will never forget.

Group B (Okinawa)

◆ U.S.A. Student

The lecture was extremely funny and entertaining. It was also very informative and gave a good basic start to learning about Japan. The school exchange was amazing. Seeing how different their school works is really eye-opening. It shocked me knowing that they have to clean their own school. The homestay was really interesting because the way things work is a lot different than home. They left their doors unlocked all day which was shocking.

◆ U.S.A. Student

The lecture about peace-building was so informative and interesting. How soldiers, citizens, doctors, families etc. lived during the Okinawa War was so shocking. I have not learned or heard about the war until that day. It was brutal and terrifying to see the living conditions or any conditions that these people had to face during that time. On the other hand, the school exchange was a very interesting experience. In a class the students did not have to raise their hands and very little technology in the classes, which was very different and shocking to me compared to the States. My buddy for the school exchange was very kind and supportive, to me by helping me understand the situation of the class room. I hope I can come back next time to the high school and learn more about the different class room activities.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations



◆ Host family (Group A)


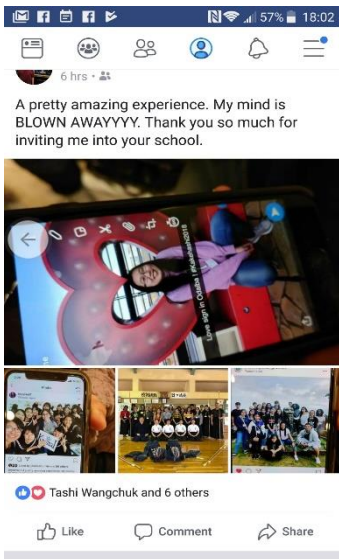
The students helped with my children's homework, and got along well with my children. I am glad that my children were also getting comfortable with spending time with the students and started to feel that they would like to proactively interact with them. The students were also trying their best to discuss a lot of stories using Japanese. Although it was a short period, we were able to have fun times.

◆ Host family (Group B)


I was happy to receive a letter written in Japanese. Moreover, it was written very neatly and was easy to read.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>I got to try on a Japanese school uniform! Surprisingly comfortable but there were so many buttons #akehashi2018</p>	 <p>schdustinbui</p> <p>Unlike America, the toilet is in its own room and has lots of setting such as light flush, flush, music, and a heated seat! It's great to explore the differences in Japanese homes in comparison to western homes. The doors are also very different as they fold rather than opening straight in or out, making it more space efficient.</p>
<p>(Group A)</p> <p>About School Exchange(Facebook)</p> <p>I got to try on a Japanese school uniform. Surprisingly comfortable but there were so many buttons.</p>	<p>(Group A) About Homestay (Instagram)</p> <p>Unlike America, the toilet is its own room and has lots of setting such as light flush, flush, music and heated seat! It's great to explore the difference between Japanese homes in comparison to western homes. The doors are also different as they fold rather than opening straight in or out, making it</p>

	more space efficient.
	
<p>(Group B) About Historical Landmark (Instagram)</p> <p>Shisa protecting us from evil on our trip to Okinawa, Japan</p>	<p>(Group B)</p> <p>About School Exchange(Facebook)</p> <p>A pretty amazing experience. My mind is blown away. Thank you so much for inviting me into your school.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p>WHAT: Share information regarding Japanese home life, environment, food, and people.</p> <p>WHEN: Within 3 months.</p> <p>WHY: To open minds to new walks of life and dispel false impressions.</p> <p>HOW: Post pictures and/or videos during trip. Add more details in writing after trip ends via SNS and/or website articles, and in-person conversations</p> <p>WHO: Each of us will participate.</p>	
<p>Action Plan (Group A)</p> <p>Posts consisting of images and pictures relating to the topics of environment, people, food, and home life. Many students already posted pictures and will be adding more text to explain their thoughts and impressions.</p>	<p>Action Plan (Group B)</p> <p>Japanese Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Japanese food • Educating students about Japanese culture • Traditional and modern life • Language lessons • Naginata lessons

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japanese mannerism
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