



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)
Outbound Program for High School Students 1st Slot
Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 24 Japanese high school students and supervisor visited the United States of America from January 23 to January 30, 2019 to participate in the program aimed at promoting the understanding of Japan with regard to its politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy.

During the school exchange program, they delivered a presentation and performance to introduce the attractiveness of Japan. Through the observation of various sites, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of the US and Japan-US relations, and shared their individual interests and experiences through social media. Based on their findings and experience in the US, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be implemented after returning to Japan.

【School Names and Number of Participants】

Otemon Gakuin Senior High School & Otemon Gakuin Otemae Senior High School	12 Participants
Fukuoka Prefectural Asakura High School	4 Participants
Fukuoka Prefectural Kasuga High School	4 Participants
Fukuoka Prefectural Chikushi High School	4 Participants

【Destination】

U.S.A. [Houston, Fredericksburg, San Antonio]

2. Program Schedule

January 23 (Wed)	【Arrival】 【Orientation】
January 24 (Thu)	【Courtesy Call】 Consulate-General of Japan in Houston 【Lecture】 JETRO Houston 【Observation】 Rice University Move to Fredericksburg from Houston
January 25 (Fri)	【School Exchange 1】 Heritage School 【School Exchange 2】 Fredericksburg High School 【Homestay Welcome Party】
January 26 (Sat)	【Homestay】
January 27 (Sun)	【Observation】 National Museum of the Pacific War Move to San Antonio from Fredericksburg 【Workshop】

【Reporting Session】

January 28 (Mon)

【School Exchange 3】 Legacy of Educational Excellence(Lee) High School

【Observation】 the Alamo & River Walk

January 29 (Tue)

【Departure】

January 30 (Wed)

【Arrival in Japan】

3. Program Photos



1/24 **【Courtesy Call】** Consulate-General of Japan in Houston



1/25 **【School Exchange 1】** Heritage School



1/25 **【School Exchange 2】** Fredericksburg High School



1/27 **【Observation】** National Museum of the Pacific War

	
1/27 【Workshop】	1/28 【School Exchange 3】 Legacy of Educational Excellence(Lee) High School

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ High School Student

The lectures given by the Consulate General of Japan and the JETRO office in Houston really opened our eyes to the economy and certain conditions of Japan. I am sure there would be some classmates who have never heard of JETRO before. I would tell them what they are and what they do. Regarding our presentations, I was very nervous at the beginning, but the audience showed their interests and listened very carefully, nodding at times. Their listening attitude really was such an encouragement. I was so pleased to receive many questions as well. I am glad we put so much effort to those presentations and could make American students know more about Japan. It was also good that it was Heritage HS as the first school. I could earn my confidence there. Homestay opportunity offered for us to experience everyday life of American High School students. It has become a general idea to take visiting students into the city center when we receive guests in Osaka, but our host families got together in nature, with a party where we could really interact, which rarely happens in Japan. I felt a sense of vitality in the American people and learned that they support one another as a community. I would like to say thank you to our host families for having us.

◆ High School Student

There were three things that I would like to mention. The first point is about the history of Japan-US relations. The National Museum of the Pacific War taught me the conditions at that time. Although I have visited Hiroshima and Okinawa on the peace education programs, they offered only Japanese perspectives, which limited my exposure to the experiences on the American side. It was educational and informative to have a tour through the museum on the process that brought the US into war. The warmth of the American people is the second point. I did have a stereotype towards American people prior to my visit, that American people are self-centered and rather cold to others. However, during my homestay, I learned that they

were so warm and generous. At shops, people warmly replied “No problem” to my “Thank You.” American people in general were also very warm.

The third point was the lectures. I learned that the state of Texas offers many business opportunities, more so than other states. I was surprised, because I did not hear about this in Japan at all. I am very pleased that I visited there, as I imagine Texas will become more important as a business partner to Japan.

Lastly, this Kakehashi project really made me realize the importance of building a spirit of teamwork. Again and again, I am so glad that I took part in this program this time. I thank you everyone who made it happen for me. Thank you very much.

5. Voices from the Students/Schools/Organizations

◆ Person from a receiving organization

The presentations of the students were very polished and showed how much they truly cared about the future of our two countries. They presented many ways our countries could make our relationships stronger and through this trip these goals are already being achieved. The five girls that stayed with me were kind, polite, and tons of fun! Through hiking, shopping, playing ping-pong, and dancing we were able to create amazing memories and relationships I will never forget.

◆ Person from a receiving organization


The Japanese students represented their country, school, and families well. I thought the program was well run. The students both US and Japanese seemed to really enjoy getting to know one another and exploring the different aspects of their respective cultures. I think they found they had more in common than expected.

◆ Person from a receiving organization

I enjoyed learning about Japanese culture through the presentations. I loved the creativity, it really displayed their personalities. I also loved learning the dance and teaching them one too. My impression is that all of the 21 students are going to be world changers!

6. Dissemination by participants



<p>まとめ</p> <p>私たちが行うことは</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ①学校集会をひらく ②学校の新入生のパンフレット作成 ③学校付近のコンビニに貼る ④インスタで投稿 	
<p>Action Plan of the Kasuga High School</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold a school assembly 2. Formulate a handout for freshmen 3. Post the information about the program and our experiences at stores 4. Post our experiences on Instagram 	<p>Action Plan of the Chikushi High School</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation at Junior HS 2. Presentation at municipal events 3. Posting to Instagram