



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for High School Students the 1st Slot

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 99 high school students and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from June 25 to July 2, 2019 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: 99 participants,
(Breakdown)

Group A (25 participants): Notre Dame High School (Guam)

Group B (25 participants): James Campbell High School (State of Hawaii)

Group C (25 participants): Pacific War Museum (State of Texas)

Group D (24 participants): Gardiner High School / Sentinel High School (State of Montana)

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo (All), Aomori (Group A), Hiroshima (Group B), Fukuoka (Group C), Kumamoto (Group D)

2. Program Schedule

Jun. 25 (Tue) **【Arrival】**

Jun. 26 (Wed) **【Orientation】**

【Lecture】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA)

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HARADA Yoshiaki, Minister of the Environment
Mr. ONIKI Makoto, Member of the House of Representatives (Group C)

Move to Aomori from Tokyo (Group A)

Move to Hiroshima from Tokyo (Group B)

Move to Fukuoka from Tokyo (Group C)

Move to Kumamoto from Tokyo (Group D)

Jun. 27 (Thu) ~ Jun. 30 (Sun)

(1) Group A : Aomori	(2) Group B : Hiroshima
<p>【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KUDO Sukenao, Mayor of Nanbu Town</p> <p>【Lecture】 Nanbu-town Exchange Promotion Division, Aomori Nanbu-no Tasshamura</p> <p>【Observation&Cultural Experience】 Meditation (Hokoji Temple)</p> <p>【Observation&Cultural Experience】 Cherry Picking (Higashi Noen)</p> <p>【School Exchange】 Hachinohe Gakuin Kosei High School</p> <p>【Observation】 Hachinohe Portal Museum “hacchi”</p> <p>【Meeting with Host Family】</p> <p>【Homestay】 Nanbu Town</p> <p>【Farewell Party with Host Family】</p> <p>【Workshop】</p>	<p>【Lecture】 Financial General Affairs Division, Fukuyama City</p> <p>【Observation】 FP Corporation, Fukuyama Recycling Plant</p> <p>【Observation】 Fukuyama Castle</p> <p>【Courtesy Call】 Mr. SUGINO Shohei, Vice Mayor of Fukuyama City</p> <p>【School Exchange】 Fukuyama municipal Jr. and Sr. High School</p> <p>【Meeting with Host Family】</p> <p>【Homestay】 Fukuyama City</p> <p>【Culture Experience】 TATAMI mat making (Uchiumi Fureai Hall)</p> <p>【Farewell Party with Host Family】</p> <p>【Workshop】</p>
(3) Group C : Fukuoka	(4) Group D : Kumamoto
<p>【Courtesy Call】 Mr. OGAWA Hiroshi, Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture</p> <p>【Lecture】 International Bureau, Fukuoka Prefectural Government</p> <p>【Observation】 Tachiarai Peace Memorial Museum</p> <p>【Cultural Experience】 “Kumiko” (muntin) (Nitahara Tategu)</p> <p>【Observation】 Seki Furniture Co.,Ltd.</p> <p>【School Exchange】 Fukuoka Prefectural Dazaifu High School</p> <p>【Observation】 Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine</p> <p>【Meeting with Host Family】</p> <p>【Homestay】 Dazaifu City and around the city</p> <p>【Farewell Party with Host Family】</p> <p>【Workshop】</p>	<p>【Courtesy Call】 Mr. ONO Taisuke, Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture</p> <p>【Opinion Exchange】 KAKEHASHI Alumnus</p> <p>【Lecture】 Mr. ARIMURA Takashi, Adviser, Disaster and Crisis Management Administration Division, Kumamoto Prefectural Government (Learning from Kumamoto earthquake)</p> <p>【Observation】 JR Kyushu General Vehicle Station (Railway Company), Kumamoto Castle</p> <p>【School Exchange】 Kumamoto Prefectural Kumamoto High School</p> <p>【School Exchange】 Kumamoto Prefectural Seiseiko Senior High School</p> <p>【Meeting with Host Family】</p> <p>【Homestay】 Kumamoto City, Kikuchi City</p> <p>【Farewell Party with Host Family】</p> <p>【Workshop】</p>

- Jul. 1 (Mon) Move to Tokyo (All)
 【Reporting Session】
 【Observation】 Sensoji Temple (Group A/B/D)
 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku(Group C)
 【Dinner Meeting】 Mr. NAKAYAMA Yasuhide, Member of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Group C)
- Jul. 2 (Tue) 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku(Group A/B/D)
 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. AOYAMA Shigeharu, Member of the House of Councillors (Group C)
 【Observation】 Odaiba(Group C)
 【Departure】

3. Program Photos

All (Tokyo)



6/26 【Orientation】



6/26 【Lecture】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA)



6/26 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HARADA, Yoshiaki, Minister of the Environment (Group C)



7/1 【Observation】 Sensoji Temple (Group A/B/D)



7/1 【Reporting Session】



7/1 【 Reporting Session 】 KAKEHASHI Award ceremony

Group A (Aomori)



6/27 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KUDO Sukenao,
Mayor of Nanbu Town



6/27 【Observation/Culture Experience】
Cherry Picking(Higashi Noen)



6/27 【Observation & Cultural Experience】
Meditation (Hokoji Temple)



6/28 【School Exchange】
Hachinohe Gakuin Kosei High School

Group B (Hiroshima)



6/27 【Observation】
FP Corporation, Fukuyama Recycling Plant



6/27 【Observation】 Fukuyama Castle



6/28 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. SUGINO
Shohei, Vice Mayor of Fukuyama City



6/28 【School Exchange】 Fukuyama
municipal Jr. and Sr. High School

Group C (Fukuoka)







6/27 【Lecture】 International Bureau,
Fukuoka Prefectural Government



6/27 【Observation】 Tachiarai Peace
Memorial Museum

	
<p>6/28 【Cultural Experience】 "Kumiko"(muntin) (Nitahara Tategu)</p>	<p>6/28 【School Exchange】 Fukuoka Prefectural Dazaifu High School</p>

Group D (Kumamoto)

	
<p>6/27 【Lecture】 Mr. ARIMURA Takashi, Adviser, Disaster and Crisis Management Administration Division, Kumamoto Prefectural Government</p>	<p>6/27 【Observation】 JR Kyushu General Vehicle Station (Railway Company)</p>
	
<p>6/28 【School Exchange】 Kumamoto Prefectural Kumamoto High School</p>	<p>6/30 【Farewell Party with Host Family】</p>

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

Group A (Aomori)

◆ The lectures taught me the culture, history, and the way of life of people in Japan as well as the problems that Japan faces today. Some of the problems include a declining and aging population and the import of 60% of Japan's food supply. I also learned a brief history of

Japan that I was not familiar with prior to this trip. For the school exchange program I was surprised to see that many students speak English and were able to communicate with me. The students also helped me learn about the Japanese alphabet and the difficulty of writing in Kanji. The cherry farms we went to gave me the opportunity to try cherries for the first time. I was shocked to learn about all the fruits that can grow in the Aomori prefecture. The mayor was also very welcoming and I was honored to meet him. He stressed the importance of farming to the economy and told that he hopes that more people will be inspired to become farmers in the future. The home stay might have been my favorite part of the trip. From the very beginning the host family was very welcoming and I was grateful for all the places that they showed us.

◆ I really enjoyed how much information was presented about each place we visited, as well as how interesting the facts mentioned were. Learning more about Japan only hurts me to know that we must go soon. It has made me deeply interested in coming back and learning more. The school exchange was tremendously fun! I loved every bit of it. Having an opportunity to meet the students, building long-lasting friendships, and learning calligraphy was the best part. We talked about our lives, hobbies, and interests. Got to know our backgrounds and share laughs with one another was unforgettable in itself. Nanbu-town is filled with the sweetest people and our stay was lovely! The homestay was an experience I will NEVER forget! Our host momma was nothing but the greatest, and welcomed us with open arms. I truly felt like she was a second mother to me. It amazed and warmed me, how quickly I felt at home. We were able to visit her lovely farm, where we picked her delicious cherries. The most unforgettable part of the homestay had to be each meal we had together and the laughter we shared with it. From the moment we met her, to the moment we bid farewell, she brought nothing less than joy. It was truly a memorable experience, and one that built an everlasting friendship. I immensely enjoyed having the opportunity to experience the Japanese culture throughout multiple aspects of the program. From enjoying traditional Japanese meals to enjoying their lifestyle. All in all, being in Japan in general was the most significant aspect of the entire experience.

Group B (Hiroshima)

◆ The lectures were very interesting because it talked about the many things happening in Japan. It allowed us to know what impacts have been going on in Japan and made us think on how we could help fix it, as global citizens. The school exchange was fun and a great experience. During the school tour, we got to see how classes were like in Japan. The school also showed us some Japanese culture through calligraphy and tea ceremony. The company was very inspiring on how they are trying to fix problems in their city. For example, FPCO showed us how they try to recycle as much plastics from their waste. The homestay was the best part of our trip because we got to fully immerse ourselves into Japanese culture. For example, our host family taught us how to make mochi from scratch using the hammer, rice, mochi stand, etc. We also got to have BBQ all together on our last night which was fun. And

on our farewell party, it was such a sad day. The families that received us were so welcoming and nice. This homestay was such an unforgettable experience.

◆ The lectures were very interesting and informative. I learned a lot more about Japan and Fukuyama. Fukuyama has a lot of interesting facts to it, such as the roses. The roses are the city's flowers. After the war they brought the roses to plant and grow to make the city beautiful once again. Which made me fall for the city. The smell is so sweet, and the roses are so eye catching. I enjoyed every second learning more and more about the city of Fukuyama. The school exchange was good. I didn't think I'd have as much fun as I did on the school exchange. Having a language barrier was the one thing I was worried about. Luckily my helpers spoke English very well. As they spoke English to me, it made me want to learn much more Japanese so I can communicate with them. It made me wish to understand them much better. The government office was very cool. Getting the chance to see an Office in Japan was pretty cool. I enjoyed it a lot. The works there were also informative. The day we got to meet the vice-mayor was really fun. The vice mayor was really funny and had a lot of great questions to our answers. Finally at the homestay, I was really terrified to be in someone's house without being able to even speak or understand them. Yet the barrier really didn't matter. I fell in love with all the moments I shared with them. Our host mother was such a sweet and kind old lady who let us cook with her. I never ate so well in my entire life. I loved it. Then we had a tea ceremony with her. Which felt beautiful and made me deeply happy. Before that we made mochi for our very own tea ceremony. It was great. The moments I shared will never be forgotten and forever stuck in my memory. Putting on a yukata and experiencing how hard it was to put it on and wear. It was also amazing and made me appreciate the garment more. These memories made me love them so much that I cried saying my goodbyes. I loved the homestay the most and that was the one thing I feared for.

Group C (Fukuoka)

◆ For the lectures, the most significant impression was how the government and citizens of Japan are actively making Japan a better place to live and more involved in the world. For example, Japan has gun control and a system of checking people when they want to buy a gun. I think the United States needs to improve within this area because mass shootings are a major predicament. Also, I was impressed with the fact that several lectures given were in English. Many Americans, including me, are only fluent in the English language so seeing the Japanese people speaking English was impressive. The school exchange was really cool because we had the opportunity to be around students our age and see what their daily school life is like. The home stay program was my favorite part. The family was very nice, and they had a very nice house and were always smiling. The kids could speak a little bit of English, and the parents really made an effort to learn a little bit. I was impressed with how many times I heard the phrase "arigato gozaimasu", which means "thank you". They also wanted to know a lot about America and I really enjoyed talking about my life.

◆ I found the lectures to be very educational and entertaining. The lectures gave information that aided in my Kakehashi trip such as historical and cultural information. The school exchange was incredible and by far one of my all-time favorite experiences. The students were very kind and although there was a language barrier our laughter and smiles was more than enough to understand each other. The companies were very cool and gave interesting hands-on experience in multiple fields of manufacturing. The government offices that we visited were stunning and one of the best places we had the pleasure of visiting. The home stay was the best part of the trip, words cannot describe how it has impacted my life.

Group D (Kumamoto)

◆ I really enjoyed the entire program, especially the extreme difference between Montana and Japan. First of all, it is an entirely different climate, as well as a different environment. Montana is very dry, brown and rural while Japan is humid green and very populated. I really enjoyed the school exchange. We went to the school, took off our shoes and went into a classroom where we were greeted by some of the staff. Students then came and picked us up to go through the day with them. We went to an English class and then to an art class. Both of which had similarities and differences to our own school. Then we ate lunch and got to connect with the students. The homestay was amazing too. We got to meet the family and see the town. We visited the onsen, which was more enjoyable than we thought it would be. We were allowed to wear kimonos and walk around going to the shrine and the supermarket. We also had somen noodles that we caught with chopsticks and made our own takoyaki. It was very fun and we felt very welcomed.

◆ The Kakehashi Program was an incredible program that has left a massive impact on both my group and myself. I am so amazed at the coordination and organization of the programs. The 'Japan Today' Lecture in a Tokyo was a great introduction to our trip in Japan. It provided us with the basis of the information we would later go more in depth on and allowed for us to be acknowledged on the aspects of Japan. It was the perfect welcome to the Japanese culture, society, and economics. The School Exchange was my second favorite part of the trip. Through visiting two different high schools, I am happy to say that I have made close friends. The language barrier was difficult at times, but by pushing through it we were able to build relationships. There was never a time that I was not smiling. I was shown much kindness and I felt a bond between myself and the Japanese students. I truly hope that I can stay connected to them over time. The Railway Company was a very informative session that made me understand the economic/technology aspects of Japan. The Government Office informed us on the works of Japanese cultural exchanges where we spoke with an English teacher. It was an interesting way to connect us with an exchange program to Japan. The Homestay was my favorite part of the trip as previously stated. It connected me to a Japanese family who showed me nothing but love. They taught me about Japanese life and culture. In the beginning we were strangers, but by the end we were family. The kindness and warmth I received will stay with me forever. The most difficult part of the

entire trip was saying goodbye. I will cherish the moments and memories we had forever. Overall, the programs gave me a greater understanding of Japan that I will hold in my heart for the rest of my life.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Host Families (abstract)

◆ Host family (Group A)

During the students' homestay, we gave them the experience of working on an apple farm. I was a bit concerned as I heard they had never worked on a farm before, however, they worked really hard. In the afternoon, I could hear them singing while they were working, which made us enjoy our work as well.

◆ Student who participated in school exchange program (Group B)

It was the first time for me to be part of a school exchange program. In the beginning, I was very nervous which made communication difficult but later I could enjoy the conversation as my partner student was very kind and attentive. Explaining calligraphy was especially difficult, but I tried hard to share the information with the other student and I could finally explain it. I'll never forget the joy and the sense of achievement I felt at that time. This cultural exchange has increased my motivation for international exchanges.

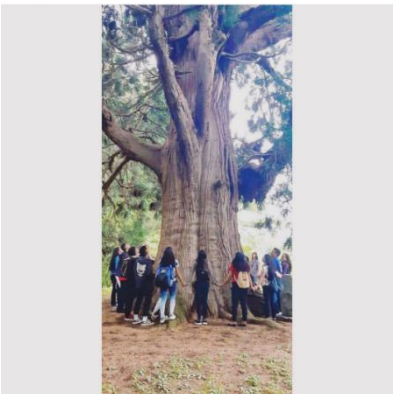



◆ Host family (Group C)

I found they had a lot of things in common with the Japanese high school students even though they have a different nationality and culture. The students were delighted to visit the beach on Shikanoshima Island with their "*onigiri* (rice ball)" lunch boxes. From the bottom of my heart, I'd really like to support the overseas students as long as I can. I'm very grateful for the really precious experience. I'd like this kind of program to keep going continuously.



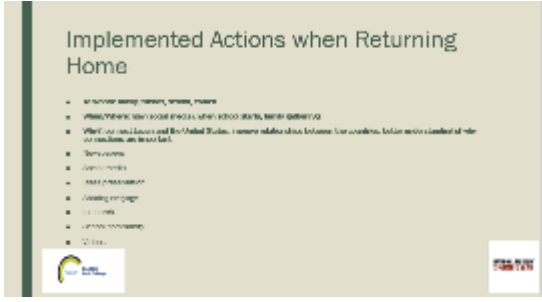
◆ Student who participated in school exchange program (Group D)

This exchange program made me realize once again the importance of communication. While showing the students from Montana around our school and taking classes with them, I had many opportunities to have English conversations and to find out about Montana. I could also talk about Kumamoto and Japan, and thought I'd like to know more about Japan. I could spend a very enjoyable and meaningful time. I really appreciate the staff and organizers. Thank you very much.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>kakehashi671</p> <p>Liked by kalani671 and 40 others</p> <p>kakehashi671 The Jisugi tree is over a 1,000 years old and reminds us that our past will live on into the future. We are here to build a bridge from our roots to yours.</p>	 <p>xsydneyr · Follow Japan</p> <p>77 likes</p> <p>xsydneyr so happy to have been a part of such a great experience! "building bridges" between our countries was unforgettable <3 #kakehashi2019 #kakehashiaward</p> <p>4 HOURS AGO</p> <p>saabbb · Follow Fukuoka Prefecture</p>
<p>About Nanbu town (Instagram)</p> <p>The Jisugi tree is over a 1,000 years old and reminds us that our past will live on into the future. We are here to build a bridge from our roots to yours.</p>	<p>About the Kakehashi Project (Instagram)</p> <p>So happy to have been a part of such a great experience! "building bridges" between our countries was unforgettable.</p>
 <p>Chloe C</p>	 <p>mt_kakehashi_2019 · Kumamoto, Kumamoto</p> <p>Liked by maevenmmmm and 33 others</p> <p>mt_kakehashi_2019 Checking out the Japan Railway Company's Shinkansen Maintenance Depot. Maybe someday we'll have high-speed rails in Montana?! #notanytimesoon #kakehashi2019 #shinkansen #KakehashiAward</p> <p>3 days ago</p>
<p>About the host family (Instagram)</p> <p>A jam session with Mary and her host dad</p>	<p>About the observation (Instagram)</p> <p>Checking out the Japan Railway Company's Shinkansen Maintenance Depot. Maybe someday we'll have high-speed trains in Montana?</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

	
<p>Action Plan (Group A)</p> <p>Objective 1: Social Media</p> <p>Target Audience: Younger generation, parents' generation.</p> <p>Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instagram: Farmers Friday, Montage Monday, Interviews Facebook: Comparison with cultures (videos for parents' generations) Youtube: Video montage for younger generation <p>Objective 2: Provision of Information</p> <p>Target Audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School: assemblies, events, visitations Other: Japanese consulate, booths, parent meeting, education News Outlets: KUAM, Pacific Daily News, Guam Post, Radio Stations, Catholic church 	<p>Action Plan (Group B)</p> <p>Objective 1: Bring Japan's Traditional Values to Hawaii</p> <p>Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach sustainable practices. Hawai'i is in need of a realization that we need to develop a Law for The Land. Build a Kakehashi beyond Hawai'i and Japan. Introduce values and morals of Japan Implement sustainable practices Encourage society to be more responsible. Share our experience through Social Media. Have multiple lectures in Campbell regarding practices and classes to educate Hawai'i.
	
<p>Action Plan (Group C)</p> <p>Objective: Connect Japan and the United States, improve relationships between the countries, better understanding of why connections are important</p> <p>Target Audience: family, friends, school, church</p>	<p>Action Plan (Group D1)</p> <p>Sentinel High School</p> <p>Objective: To educate our friends about Japanese culture and strengthen connections between the United States and Japan.</p> <p>Target Audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Missoulian (our local newspaper) KPAX (our local TV station)

<p>Venue: now (social media), when school starts, family gatherings</p> <p>Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers • Social media • Class presentation • Sharing omiyage • In church • School community • Videos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our school (using our school broadcasting), • Our families • The University of Montana • Montana World Affairs Council. <p>Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a group, create a video of all the fun and amazing things we did in Japan. • Since we arrived, we have been filming various activities and scenery and plan on providing audio testimonials about our experience once we return to be used in conjunction with the video footage. • we will create the video and share it with organizations to be shared with an even wider audience. <p>Timeline: Create in July and Share in August</p>
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Summary of Action Plan

WHY : (Reasons to do it)
To foster connections and solidify a relationship between cultures.

WHEN : (When will it be done?)
Fall Semester

WHO : (Who will do it?)
Gardiner High School participants on the Kakehashi Project

WHO : (To whom?)
Community members (families, students, and business owners) throughout Gardiner

WHAT : (What are you planning on doing)
Japanese Community Night

HOW : (How will you implement your plan)
We will host many members of our community for a "community night," including students, parents, children, and business owners to explain the influence of Japanese culture in our society. Once we invite people to this event we will do a presentation about our trip on the Kakehashi Project and divide into the following stations: calligraphy, origami, washoku, Zazen meditation, and geography. We hope to make each station interactive for all ages.

Action Plan (Group D2) Gardiner High School

Objective: To foster connections and solidify a relationship between cultures.

Target Audience:

Community members (families, students, and business owners) throughout Gardiner

Plan: Japanese Community Night

We will host many members of our community for a "community night," including students, parents, children, and business owners to explain the influence of Japanese culture in our society. Once we invite people to this event, we will do a presentation about our trip on the Kakehashi Project and divide into the following stations: calligraphy, origami, washoku, Zazen meditation, and geography. We hope to make each station interactive for all ages.

Timeline: Fall Semester