



# KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

## Inbound program for High School Students the 2nd Slot

### Program Report

#### 1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 100 high school students and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from July 23 to July 30, 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: 100 participants,

(Breakdown)

Group A (50participants): Glendale Unified School District (State of California)

Columbus North International School (State of Ohio)

Group B (50 participants): Forest Hills High School (State of New York)

Boston Latin Academy (Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

#### [Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo (All), Nagano (Group A), Aichi and Mie (Group B)

#### 2. Program Schedule

7/23(Tue)	【Arrival】	
7/24(Wed)	【Orientation】	
	【Lecture】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA) (Japan Today)	
	(1) Group A:Nagano	(2) Group B:Aichi/Mie
	【Observation of Cutting-Edge Technology】 Mori Building Digital Art Museum (EPSON teamLab★Borderless)	【Observation】 Odaiba 【Observation of Cutting-Edge Technology】 Honda Welcome Plaza Aoyama
7/25(Thu)	Move to Nagano from Tokyo 【Lecture on the Region】	Move to Aichi from Tokyo 【Observation】 Tokugawa Art Museum

	Hakuba Goryu Tourist Office 【School Exchange】 Nagano Prefectural Nagano Commerical High School 【Meeting with Host Family】	【Cultural Experience】 Making "Nagoya Folding Fan" 【Historical Landmark】 Nagoya Castle
7/26(Fri)	【Homestay】 Hakuba Village	【School Exchange】 Nagoya University Affiliated Upper and Lower Secondary Schools 【Meeting with Host Family】
7/27(Sat)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Cultural Experience】 Kimono, Bon Odori Festival 【Observation】 Summer Festival (Nyakuichiouji Jinja Shrine)	【Homestay】 Taiki Town
7/28(Sun)	【Observation】 Daio Wasabi Farm 【Observation】 Rice Field Art (Azumino Swiss Village) 【Historical Landmark】 Matsumoto Castle 【Cultural Experience】 Taiko Drum Festival (Matsumoto Castle) 【Workshop】	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】
7/29(Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Nagano 【Reporting Session】 【Observation】 Sensoji Temple, Nakamise	Move to Tokyo from Mie
7/24(Wed)	【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku 【Departure】	

### 3. Program Photos

#### All groups (Tokyo)

	
7/24 【Orientation】	7/24 【Lecture】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA) (Japan Today)



7/24 【Observation of Cutting-Edge Technology】 Mori Building Digital Art Museum (EPSON teamLab★Borderless) (Group A)



7/29 【Reporting Session】 JICE KAKEHASHI Award ceremony

### Group A (Nagano)



7/25 【School Exchange】 Nagano Prefectural Nagano Commercial High School (Archery)



7/25~7/27 【Farewell Party with Host Family】



7/27 【Cultural Experience】 Kimono



7/28 【Observation】 Rice Field Art (Azumino Swiss Village)



## Group B (Aichi/Mie)



7/25 【Cultural Experience】 Making "Nagoya Folding Fan"



7/26 【School Exchange】 Nagoya University Affiliated Upper and Lower Secondary Schools



7/26~28 【Homestay】 Taiki Town



7/28 【Workshop】

## 4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

### Group A (Nagano)

◆ The lectures were generally quite interesting and informative; the speakers were knowledgeable and the subject was relevant. The school exchange was so fun! Though it was difficult to communicate with the students, we managed and everyone was very kind. I participated in Kendo and Kyudo, and in both cases I was surprised by my interest in the sports (as I am not generally an athletic person). The sports truly demonstrated the mindfulness that is such a big part of Japanese culture. I greatly enjoyed the homestay. My host family was so kind and welcoming, and we enjoyed conversing (or tried to—the phrase books came in handy) during the delicious traditional and modern meals that the family prepared. We made our own rice balls, went hiking, and learned to use a kendama, to name a few notable experiences. We also drove to the forest at night to see the stars and the fireflies (something we can't access in Los Angeles). The other experiences included cultural immersion, such as the Nyakuichiohji Shrine, Matsumoto Castle, Daio Wasabi Farm, the Digital Art Museum, and Swiss Village Rice Art. All portrayed Japanese culture, from the Digital Art Museum's demonstration of modern art, tourism and expression (the images took a modern form while still referencing traditional patterns, designs and customs) to the

tranquility of the centuries-old Matsumoto Castle.

◆ I found the lecture given by Dr. Kimura was very informative and interesting. I learned about the economic relationship between Japan and the world in the global trade. I also found it cool how prominent Japan is in the technological industry. I found the school exchange very fun. It was amazing to learn about the art of the Japanese tea ceremony. The Mori Building Digital Art Museum was amazing and a very fun experience. The Athletic Forest Exhibition was very fun. I will visit again soon. As for the Homestay program, it was a great experience and very welcoming, because our host family was very hospitable.

### **Group B (Aichi/Mie)**

◆ The lecture was really interesting, I learned a lot about the purpose of this program and the history of Japan. I learned about the development of Japan and how successful it is today. The school exchange was really cool because I was able to learn about rules in the Japanese school such as students switching their shoes when entering to prevent getting the school dirty. We also met students from Nagoya University and we were able to talk to them and ask them about their interest. Through this, I was able to make friends with the Japanese students also with the Boston students that came on this trip. Going to Honda to see ASIMO the robot, gave me an impression of how advance the technology in Japan is. Seeing ASIMO sprinting and jumping caused me to be amazed of the high technology that Japan developed. During the home stay, I was able to experience living in a Japanese home and being served Japanese meals. Meeting the host family was great: I was impacted by how much they cared for me. We were also doing activities together, such as making chopsticks, engraving on a wood block, and using Hanabi. Going to places such as the Nagoya Castle and the Tokugawa Museum allowed me to see the history of Japan and landscapes of the past. Overall, these events were really fun and left an impact of how I see Japan.

◆ My homestay experience was one of the most memorable time in Japan. My foster family showed so much trust and respect despite not knowing me that well. I admire them, for deep down they exemplify the entirety of the Japanese culture in their ways of hospitality. I was very surprised to find myself so attach to the family despite my stay being only a few days. The reason for this is that though the time spent with them was short, it felt like I had known them for such a long time. When I left, I felt like I was leaving a place where treasured memories were made. This saddens me greatly.

## **5. Voice from Japanese Schools/Host Families (abstract)**

### **◆ The person in charge of accepting school exchange (Group A)**



I wish to express my appreciation for being given this precious opportunity. Our students were looking forward to the exchange experience from the time they started preparations to the day they actually met. On the day, they seemed to learn more than we all expected. We could have a wonderful experience communicating with the American students.

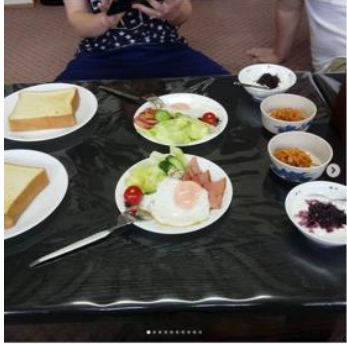

Thank you very much. If there will be another opportunity like this, we would like to be involved again.

#### ◆ Host family (Group B)


Following our homestay students' request, which was to go out and experience scenery that's only available in the countryside, we made chopsticks from uncut bamboo, wood burning art, and origami on our engawa (verandah). We also made onigiri (rice-balls), ate Nagashi-somen (flowing somen noodles) under our awning, made Kakigori (shaved ice), blew the seeds of watermelons (a type of traditional game), tried calligraphy, visited and watched from above the dynamic scene of water being discharged from the dam, experienced the solemn atmosphere at Ise Shrine's sub-shrine, Takiharanomiya Shrine, and enjoyed the fireworks in our garden. Although it was simple, we did our best for them to experience life in the countryside. The four high-school students were all polite and kind-minded children, and seemed to enjoy each activity with great enthusiasm. On the other hand, I was really fond of those rare moments when they belted out in laughter, demonstrating their lively energy as students. They seemed to particularly like the chopstick making, in fact, they enjoyed it so much they began working on it from early morning even onto the last day. It was also a precious experience for my children to feel a connection beyond culture and language, and it might possibly be the best experience they will have while growing up.

## 6. Dissemination by the participants



 <p>celine.khachiki Mori Building Digital Art Museum</p> <p>Liked by magda.khachiki and 170 others celine.khachiki endless lights #kakehashiaward View all 54 comments</p>	 <p>Sophie Hsu ▸ Kakehashi Project (架け橋のプロジェクト) 7月26日 23:10 · 公開</p> <p>Today we got to meet Japanese students at Nagoya University! It was so much fun!! I made wonderful new friends and got to eat an amazing lunch at the university! We also got to meet our host family's today! My... その他</p> <p>翻訳を見る</p> <p>16人が閲覧 3人</p>
<p>About the observation of cutting-edge Technology (Instagram) Moribuilding Digital art museum. Endless light.</p>	<p>About the school exchange (Facebook) Today we got to meet Japanese students at Nagoya University! It was so much fun!! I made a wonderful new friends and got to eat an amazing lunch at the university! We also got meet our host family's today!</p>

 <p>Instagram post by jerry.1: A photo of a meal with Japanese food (sushi, tempura, etc.) and a caption describing a homestay experience in Hakuba Village, Japan, mentioning a hike and ski jumping.</p>	 <p>Instagram post by stonecup: A drawing of a girl in a red dress and a caption about the KAKEHASHI Project, expressing gratitude for the program and the opportunity to share memories.</p>
<p>About the homestay (Instagram)</p> <p>It was so fun. We stayed with a host family and they showed us around Hakuba Village, took us to the home that okasan grew up in and then took us on a hike. They then took us to where they hosted ski jumping in 1998 Winter Olympics. They then took us to get ice cream, then took us the top of the mountains where there were beautiful flowers. All in all, it was an amazing day.</p>	<p>About the KAKEHASHI Project (Instagram)</p> <p>Words cannot describe how grateful I am to have done this program, applying every part of my soul to this trip has helped me grow a lot as a student and a person, and I met so many new people who I get the honor of sharing these memories with. I feel warm.</p>

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

<p>ACTION PLANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖Kendama Club</li> <li>❖Website - Blog</li> <li>❖Classroom Presentations</li> <li>❖Japanese Presentation to incoming freshmen</li> </ul>	 <p>Asian show</p>
<p>Group A1, Glendale Unified School District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kendama club</li> <li>• Website – blog</li> <li>• Classroom presentations</li> </ul> <p>Japanese presentation to incoming freshmen</p>	<p>Group A2, Columbus North International School</p> <p>School Based: Asian Culture Show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include Japanese culture and language</li> <li>• Special presentation from KAKEHASHI experience</li> </ul> <p>School Based: School Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit local elementary and middle schools and provide hands-on activities and an engaging student presentation</li> <li>• Encourage them to come to our school to pursue Japanese language and culture study.</li> </ul> <p>Community Based: Community Day</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for children and adults that emphasize Japanese language and culture</li> <li>• Presentations about trip</li> </ul> <p>Community Based: Local News, Media, and Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use existing connections to present to city council and the Mayor's office</li> </ul>
<p><b>JAPAN DAY ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p>1. Writing names in Japanese katakana about the trip</p> <p>2. Kakehashi booth- providing information</p>  <p>1. people can take pictures while wearing a traditional Japanese yukata.</p> <p>2. Making せんず (folding fan)</p> <p>3. Teach たんこぶし</p> <p>4. Include a variety of other activities focusing on Japanese culture and history.</p>	<p><b>What and How?</b></p> <p>We will teach about our experiences in the Kakehashi project to students in 7th and 8th grade. Through our teaching, many younger students will be able to understand the experiences that we had in Japan as well as be inspired to join a culture of respect at BLA. We will collect students who volunteer to tech presentations, and our headmaster, Mr Uchendu, who also attended this trip, will arrange the presentation times.</p> 
<p>Group B1, Forest Hills High School</p> <p>Japan Day Activity</p> <p>KAKEHASHI booth – providing information including a variety of other activities focusing on Japanese culture and history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing names in Japanese Katakana</li> <li>• Teaching them calligraphy</li> <li>• People can take pictures while wearing a traditional Japanese yukata.</li> <li>• Making Senu.</li> <li>• Teach Tanko-bushi</li> </ul>	<p>Group B2, Boston Latin Academy</p> <p>1) Action Plan: Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to hold this event during 7th grade advisory, and make ideas and values of Japanese culture accessible.</li> <li>• During J1 classes, we can further educate students taking Japanese, showing them our findings of the Japanese culture.</li> <li>• We will teach about our experiences in the Kakehashi project to students in 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Through our teaching, many younger students will be able to understand the experiences that we had in Japan as well as be inspired to join a culture of respect at BLA.</li> </ul> <p>2) Action Plan: Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This website is an informational tool to share our experience in Japan and what we have learned on the study abroad to future participants.</li> <li>• Our Kakehashi group plans to share our experience and what we have learned through the creation of a website that is easily accessible to all the students of BLA.</li> <li>• The website information will be shared through morning announcements.</li> </ul>