



# 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, 75 high school students and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from July 30 to August 6, 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: 75 participants,

(Breakdown)

Group A (25 participants): Lafayette High School (Commonwealth of Kentucky)

Group B (25 participants): Deerfield Beach High School (State of Florida)

Group C (25 participants): Kennedy High School, Jefferson High School, Washington High School (State of Iowa)

#### [Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo (All), Aomori (Group A and B), Hiroshima (Group C)

#### 2. Program Schedule

7/30(Tue)	【Arrival】	
7/31(Wed)	【Orientation】	
	【Lecture】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA) (Japan Today)	
	(1) Group A/B:Aomori	(2) Group C:Hiroshima
	【 Observation 】 Asakusa Sensoji, Nakamise 【Cutting-Edge Technology】 Chiba Institute of Technology Tokyo Skytree Town®Campus 【Observation】 Tokyo Sky Tree	【Observation】 The Imperial Palace (Nijubashi Bridge), Tokyo Sky Tree 【Cutting-Edge Technology】 Chiba Institute of Technology Tokyo Skytree Town®Campus

8/1(Thu)	Move to Aomori from Tokyo 【Courtesy Call】 Nanbu Town 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen Meditation (Hokoji Temple)	Move to Hiroshima from Tokyo 【Courtesy Call】 Hiroshima Prefectural Government 【Cultural Experience】 Calligraphy, Old Japanese Games
8/2(Fri)	【School Exchange】 Aomori Prefectural Nakui Agricultural High School 【Meeting with Host Family】	【School Exchange】 Koryo High School Summer Camp
8/3(Sat)	【Homestay】 Nanbu Town	【School Exchange】 【Observation】 Koryo High School Peace Tour 【Meeting with Host Family】 【Homestay】 Etajima City
8/4(Sun)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】
8/5(Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Aomori 【Reporting Session】 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine / Harajuku	Move to Tokyo from Hiroshima
8/6(Tue)	【Observation】 Odaiba (Group A) 【Departure】	【 Observation 】 Asakusa Sensoji, Nakamise

### 3. Program Photos

#### All groups (Tokyo)



7/31 【Orientation】

7/31 【 Lecture 】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo,  
Executive Managing Director, Strategic  
International Management Associates  
(SIMA) (Japan Today)



7/31 【Cutting-Edge Technology】 Chiba  
Institute of Technology Tokyo Skytree Town  
®Campus



8/5 【Reporting Session】

### Group A and B (Aomori)



8/1 【Courtesy Call】 Nanbu Town  
(Health Welfare Facility "Yutoria")



8/1 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen  
Meditation (Hokoji Temple)



8/2 【School Exchange】 Aomori  
Prefectural Nakui Agricultural High School



8/3 【Homestay】 Nanbu Town



## Group C (Hiroshima)



8/1 【Courtesy Call】  
Hiroshima Prefectural Government



8/2 【School Exchange】 Koryo High  
School Summer Camp



8/2 【School Exchange】 【Observation】  
Koryo High School Peace Tour



8/3 【Homestay】 Etajima City

## 4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

### Group A (Aomori)

◆ I thought that the lectures we attended were informative and interesting. I believe the lectures effectively explaining Japanese history, technology, industry, and culture. The school exchange gave me an insight into the local educational institution, economy, and lifestyle of Nakui residents, and I was able to experience events firsthand at the school, such as a taiko exhibition, and archery practice. The homestay experience was a great supplement to the lectures since it gave participants like myself an in-depth and personal experience of Japanese lifestyle, culture, and interests—something the lectures couldn't provide. I also enjoyed visiting the ocean, the Hachinohe festival, and the hot springs.

### Group B (Aomori)

◆ Lecturer Hideo Kimura was very entertaining and enlightening. I thoroughly enjoyed his personal input on social issues. Schools in Japan are very clean and big. Lots of activities for all interests. Nanbu Town was beautiful and the Deputy Mayor was very welcoming to us all. I enjoyed listening to his presentation on the town. Lots of agriculture which I enjoyed. My host from homestay was amazing and we enjoyed cooking with her.

### **Group C (Hiroshima)**

◆ The Homestay was definitely the most impactful. We truly got to experience Japanese culture at a personal level and really make bonds with new and old generations. The school exchange was fantastic and I hope Kakehashi can include more Japanese schools into the program and expose even more students to the new generations. I really feel like the friends we made from Koryo in the camp those two days will be friends for a long time. The Atomic bomb museum was just beyond words, truly seeing the devastation and understanding the people's dedication to destroy all nuclear weapons. The company was really interesting to see, seeing the differences between America and Japan was cool but also very important. I hope that America and Japan will continue to be different, yet work together. The lecture was definitely a learning experience, I learned a lot of different things from the talk than I've ever heard in class.

### **5. Voice from Host Families (abstract)**





#### **◆ Host family (Group A and B)**

All of the kids that we took in this time spoke Japanese with us, even if it were a few words. On the other hand we couldn't really speak any English, but they were kind enough to accept us. They made curry with us for dinner and since our family is involved in apple farming, they also helped us defoliate the apples (removing the leaves from the fruit to make them red). It was great that they had the opportunity to wear yukata and play around with fireworks, and we'd be happy if they were able to experience even just a little of a Japanese summer night.

#### **◆ Host family (Group C)**

On the first day, after we got home, they put in a lot of effort trying to learn what to say when going into a Japanese house. When they came in, they said "ojama shimasu," took off their shoes and arranged them neatly. We were all really impressed by their desire to try to blend into Japanese culture. It was great when they wrote us a letter on the day that they went back home. It was a nice experience to be able to transcend the language barrier to connect on a human-to-human basis. We are really thankful for the experience.

## 6. Dissemination by the participants

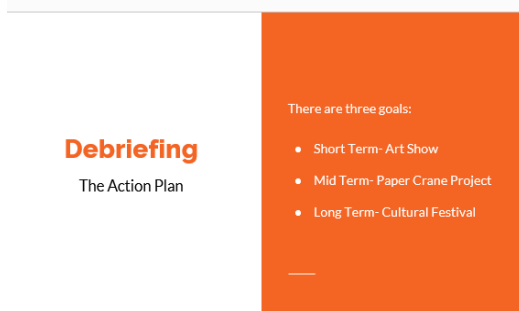
 <p>「いいね！」 97件</p> <p><b>nosprout Japan</b> 🇯🇵 day 4: Still with our host families and for a full day this time. Since they are farmers we helped them harvest apples and potatoes. That was a lot of work in the heat so we went to the beach. First a beach that was just rocks and views but then to a swimming beach. The pacific is freezing but it was insane to go to the beach in another country.</p>	 <p>35 likes</p> <p><b>dbhssensei</b> Day 5 - Part 1... The student exchange with Nakui Agricultural HS. These pics include our opening ceremony where we shared information about our schools and took a campus tour. The students are on summer break, but still came to school to share their culture with us! We're so fortunate to be a part of all this.</p>
<p>About the homestay (Instagram)</p> <p>Since they are farmers we helped them harvest apples and potatoes. That was a lot of work in the heat so we went to the beach.</p>	<p>About the school exchange (Instagram)</p> <p>The student exchange with Nakui Agricultural HS. These pictures include our opening ceremony where we shared information about our schools and took a campus tour. The students are on summer break, but still came to school to share their culture with us! We're so fortunate to be a part of all this.</p>
 <p><b>Jeremy Urquhart</b> @JeremyUrquhart2</p> <p>Had fun in Etajima and was sad to go. My host family was so much fun and showed me much kindness and hospitality. #kakehashi2019</p> <p>7 views</p>	 <p>the.veema Sensoji Temple, Asakusa</p> <p>Liked by dbhssensei and 25 others</p> <p><b>the.veema</b> Day 2, Part 1. We went to Sensoji Temple which was beautiful. We don't exactly have things like this in the US but the sense of tradition and religion in the area was awe inspiring. The gardens (see part 2) were immaculate. I noticed the Japanese sense of tradition regarding Buddhism when I saw people praying in front of the Buddha statue and temple. I participated in giving ¥100 for a fortune and I got best luck! After looking around the temple, I went down alleyways for shops and stuff. I bought ice cream and some gifts! .</p>
<p>About the homestay (Twitter)</p> <p>Had fun in Etajima and was sad to go. My host family was so much fun and showed me much kindness and hospitality.</p>	<p>About the (Instagram)</p> <p>Day 2, Part1. We went to Sensoji Temple which was beautiful. We don't exactly have things like this in the US but the sense of</p>



#KAKEHASHI2019	tradition and religion in the area was awe inspiring. The gardens (see part2) were immaculate. I noticed the Japanese sense of tradition regarding Buddhism when I saw people praying in front of the Buddha statue and temple. I participated in giving ¥100 for a fortune and I got best luck!
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## 7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p><b>WHAT: (What are we planning on doing?)</b></p> <p>We are going to share our experience in Japan through school and community outreach. We will begin regular visits to Picadome Elementary School to inform students and others about Japanese language and culture. This includes traditional music, meals, calligraphy, the Japanese alphabet, and other fun activities related to Japan. In addition, we will also participate at our school's multi-cultural fair and the Kentucky Japan Festival in downtown Lexington by creating a booth about our experience and knowledge of Japan.</p>	<p><b>ACTION PLAN (CONTINUED)</b></p> <p><b>WHAT ARE WE PLANNING ON DOING?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CREATE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS TO CONTINUE ENRICHING OUR KAKEHASHI EXPERIENCES.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>A TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT WILL ENABLE JAPANESE STUDENTS AND ALUMNI TO BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION OF OUR EDUCATION ABOUT JAPANESE CULTURE, HISTORY, AND LANGUAGE.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>CREATE 12-MONTH CALENDAR FEATURING PHOTOS OF OUR KAKEHASHI EXPERIENCES, AND INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT DATES SUCH AS JAPANESE HOLIDAYS AND JAPAN CLUB MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Group A</b></p> <p>We are going to share our experience in Japan through school and community outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will begin regular visits to Picadome Elementary School to inform students and others about Japanese language and culture. This includes traditional music, meals, calligraphy, the Japanese alphabet, and other fun activities related to Japan.</li> <li>- We will begin by opening a kakehashi club at Lafayette high school and get an outreach to Picadome elementary kids.</li> <li>- Over time we will expand to monthly activities to help the students learn more about Japanese culture and the program.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group B</b></p> <p><b>WHAT : (What are you planning on doing)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will create a digital platform, Twitter and/or Instagram, to feature Japan Club and Japanese classes through the Kakehashi project.</li> <li>- We will create a 12-month calendar, featuring photos of Kakehashi experiences, and include significant dates like Japanese holidays and Japan Club meetings and activities. At the above named events, we will distribute information about these calendars to be published and distributed in the next 2 months.</li> <li>- We plan to share our trip souvenirs for purposes of display and student interaction at the Freshman Round Up and the IB Freshman/Sophomore Student/Parent Meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>HOW : (How will you implement your plan)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communications and Broadcast Arts (CBA) students and IB (International Baccalaureate) students in the Japan Club who participated in the Kakehashi Project</li> </ul>

	<p>will collaborate to create the websites and folders to highlight different posts.</p> <p>- We plan to make potential members aware of the address for digital access to the Japanese club and the Japanese class. This information will also be published on the calendar we distribute at these two events.</p>
	
<p><b>Group C</b></p> <p><b>“The One-Two-Three Project”</b></p> <p><b>WHY :</b> (Reasons to do it)</p> <p>To build bridges across the world</p> <p><b>WHEN :</b> (When will it be done?)</p> <p>Phase 1- Within 3 months / Phase 2- Within 1 year / Phase 3- Ongoing indefinitely</p> <p><b>WHO :</b> (Who will do it)</p> <p>Kakehashi students and Japanese students from all three high schools</p> <p><b>WHAT :</b> (What are you planning on doing)</p> <p><b>HOW :</b> (How will you implement your plan)</p> <p>Phase 1- Art show showcasing Japan to be shown at each high school for one month</p> <p>Phase 2- Paper Crane Project: all schools make paper cranes and we establish our own peace wall in Cedar Rapids.</p> <p>Phase 3- Culture Festival: to be shared city wide to showcase Japanese art, culture, food ( we will be on going Paper Crane Project)</p>	