



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Online Exchange Program for High School Students (Hendersonville High School)

Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

This program was implemented to promote international exchange, foster mutual understanding, and strengthen networks among students taking Japanese classes at Hendersonville High School in Tennessee, United States, and students from Saitama Prefectural Koshigaya Kita High School in Saitama, Japan. Through introductions of both schools and small-group exchanges based on shared themes, participating students deepened their connections and enhanced cross-cultural understanding.

【Participants】

Total: 60 students from the U.S. and Japan (High School Students)

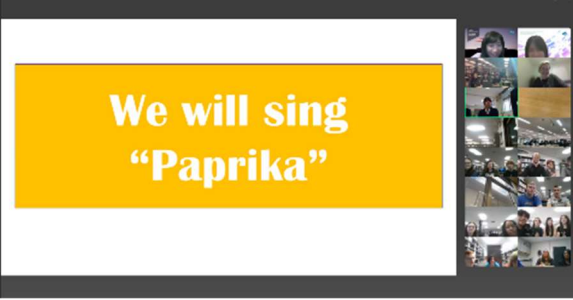
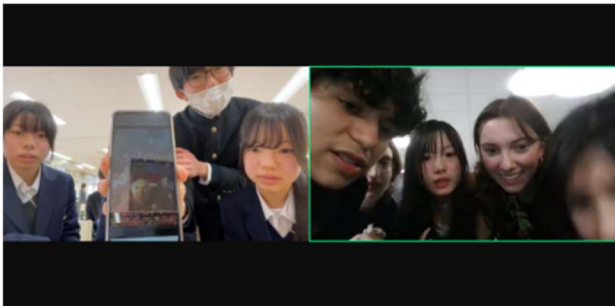
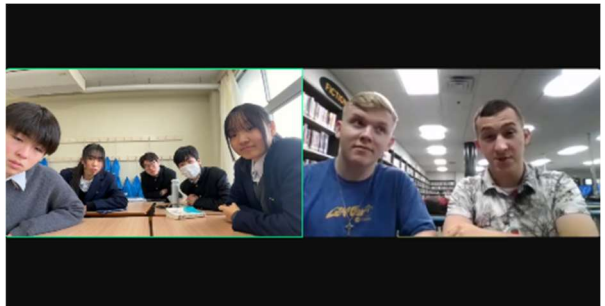
(Breakdown) 22 U.S. students, 38 Japanese students

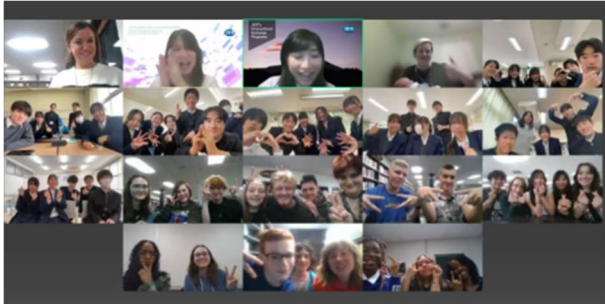
【Location】 Saitama

■ Online Exchange Program: February 13 (Fri), 2026

1. Opening Remarks
2. Address
Mr. HARADA Seitarou, Researcher, First North America Division,
North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
3. **【School Exchange】** School Introduction by Hendersonville High School students
4. **【School Exchange】** School Introduction by Saitama Prefectural Koshigaya Kita High School students
5. **【Interaction】** Group Exchange in Breakout Rooms (20 min x 3 rounds)
6. Speeches by Representatives of Each School
7. Commemorative photo
8. Information for Participants, Closing Remarks

2. Program Photos

	
February 13, 2026 【Opening Remarks】	February 13, 2026 【Address】
	
February 13, 2026 【School Exchange】 School Introduction by Hendersonville High School	February 13, 2026 【School Exchange】 School Introduction by Saitama Prefectural Koshigaya Kita High School
	
February 13, 2026 [Exchange among Participants] Group Exchange	February 13, 2026 [Exchange among Participants] Group Exchange
	
February 13, 2026【Speeches by Representatives】 Hendersonville High School	February 13, 2026【Speeches by Representatives】 Saitama Prefectural Koshigaya Kita High School

	
February 13, 2026 【Commemorative photo】	February 13, 2026 【Information for Participants, Closing Remarks】

3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests (excerpt)

- What are the current trends (Apps, SNS, trendy fashion and songs) among high school students in the United States and Japan?
- Do you know any convenient Japanese/English phrases?
- Could you share your school life (classes, club activities, rules, etc.) ?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student (Japan)

It was a wonderful experience to be able to speak and interact in real time with everyone in the United States, who usually live so far away. Some students knew about Japanese manga and anime, and others even asked questions in Japanese while looking things up. I felt that they were genuinely interested in and respectful of Japanese culture, which warmed my heart and made me realize once again how important it is to cherish and preserve our culture moving forward.

◆ High School Student (U.S.)

I was impressed with the student's knowledge of higher-level English vocabulary. The other most notable things have to have been whenever we connect over something like an anime or manga, the impact of being able to understand each other really is something beautiful.

◆ High School Student (U.S.)

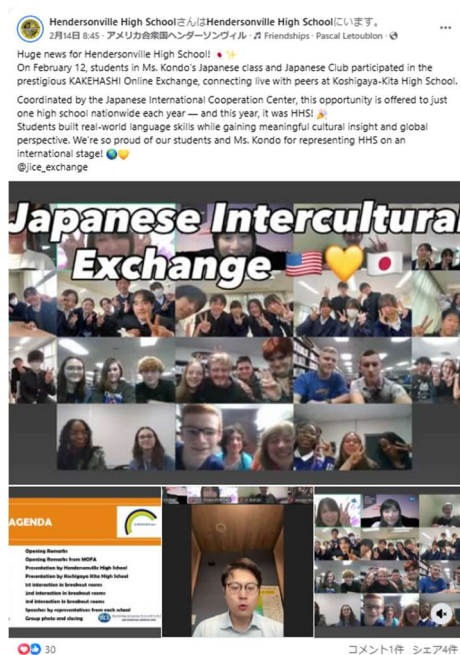
We loved that we were able to interact with the Japanese students and learn about what they like and what their school life is like.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ High School Faculty (Japan)

After the exchange, the students said that although they sometimes felt frustrated when they couldn't fully express themselves, they still had a wonderful and enjoyable time interacting. We strongly hope to have more exchanges in the future with schools where English is the native language. We are also very interested in the possibility of establishing a sister-school partnership.

6. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)



February 14, 2026 (Hendersonville High School's Facebook)

Huge news for Hendersonville High School!

On February 12, students in the Japanese class and Japanese Club participated in the prestigious KAKEHASHI Project Online Exchange, connecting live with peers at Koshigaya-Kita High School.

Coordinated by the Japanese International Cooperation Center, this opportunity is offered to just few high schools nationwide each year — and this year, it was HHS!

Students built real-world language skills while gaining meaningful cultural insight and global perspective. We're so proud of our students and Ms. Kondo for representing HHS on an international stage!

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)