



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)
Visiting U.S. Program for Okinawa Program the 1st slot
(Nago High School, Naha Kokusai Senior High School) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 The main objective of this program was to deepen the friendship and trust between Japan and the U.S. by having high school students from Okinawa travel to the U.S. and deepen their understanding of U.S. culture and society through visits to companies, the Consulate General in Massachusetts, and exchanges with local students. One of the aims of the program was to also have the participants actively disseminate the learnings and insights they gained from the different experiences and exchanges during the program. The Okinawa Program is a mutual exchange program between high school students from the U.S. and Japan.

【Participants】 Total: 20 high school students and school faculty from Okinawa
9 high school students and 1 chaperone from Nago High School
9 high school students and 1 chaperone from Naha Kokusai Senior High School

【Locations】 United States: Boston and Weston, Massachusetts

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-exchange Program (Online Pre-study Program):

Oct. 10 (Tue) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warnings, COVID-19 precautions, etc.

■ Visiting U.S. Program:

Oct. 25 (Wed) Departure from Narita International Airport, Arrival to the U.S. at Boston Logan International Airport (Boston, Massachusetts)

Oct. 26 (Thu) 【Orientation】

 【Company Visit】 Food's Style USA Inc.

 Mr. SHIONOYA Shota, Manager,

 HOKKAIDO RAMEN SANTOUKA - Boston Harvard Square

 【Observation】 Massachusetts State House, The Freedom Trail (Boston Common, Park Street Church, etc.), Quincy Market

Oct. 27 (Fri) 【School Exchange】 The Cambridge School of Weston

 【Homestay】 Households of students from The Cambridge School of Weston

Oct. 28 (Sat) 【Homestay】 Households of students from The Cambridge School of Weston

	【Observation】 Harvard University, Harvard Square
	【School Exchange】 The Cambridge School of Weston
Oct. 29 (Sun)	【School Exchange】 The Cambridge School of Weston
	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (Summarizing program findings and preparation of action plans)
Oct. 30 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of action plans
	【Farewell Party】 The Cambridge School of Weston
	【Visit】 Mr. SUZUKI Kotaro, Consul General, Consulate-General of Japan in Boston
Oct. 31 (Tue)	Departure from Boston Logan International Airport (Boston, Massachusetts)
Nov. 1 (Wed)	Arrival to Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Outbound Program

October 26 【Orientation】	October 26 【Observation】 Massachusetts State House
October 27 【School Exchange】 The Cambridge School of Weston	October 28 【Observation】 Harvard University
October 29 【School Exchange】 Brunch with dormitory students	October 29 【Workshop】
October 30 【Reporting Session】 Program outcomes	October 30 【Visit】 Mr. SUZUKI Kotaro, Consul General, Consulate-General of Japan in Boston

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

The opportunity to come to Boston for the KAKEHASHI Project allowed me to learn about the differences between Japan and the United States. Everything is bigger in the U.S., and I was able to actually see and feel just how bigger the U.S. is to Japan. I hope to share my experiences during my stay with a lot of people.

◆ High School Student

My host family was very kind to me during the homestay. We became very close, and it will be very sad to leave, but I hope to stay in touch with them.

◆ High School Student

We attended classes with students from The Cambridge School of Weston and learned about the differences between high school life in the U.S. and Japan. During breaks, we swapped information and talked about sports and anime. I am so glad to have made friends my age in the U.S.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ School Faculty

The exchange with the Okinawan high school students was very meaningful. It was a great opportunity for our own students to deepen their friendships and broaden their perspectives with the Japanese students. Our students are very much looking forward to visiting the Okinawan school next March.

◆ Student from the Exchange School

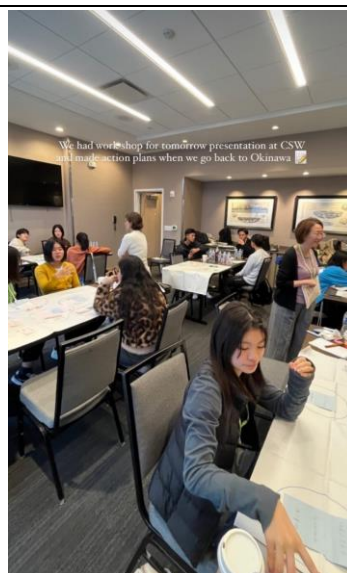
I had a great time interacting with the Japanese high school students. It was great that I could discover both the similarities and differences between my school life and that of Japan through our conversations. I am looking forward to going to Okinawa next March and meeting my new friends again.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)



October 26, 2023 (Instagram)

The last practice for the presentation at The Cambridge School of Weston



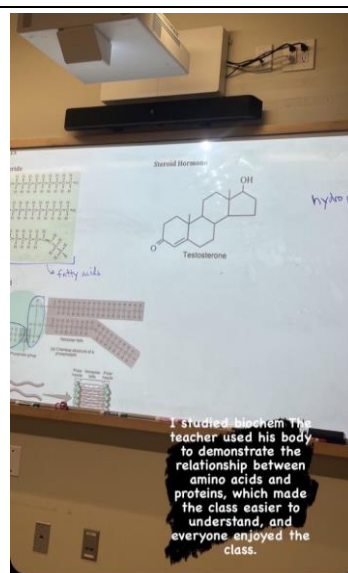
October 29, 2023 (Instagram)

We had a workshop for tomorrow's presentation at CSW and made action plans for when we go back to Okinawa.



October 29, 2023 (Instagram)

I went to see Harvard University with students from The Cambridge School of Weston. We were divided into several groups including Naha International students, Nago High School students, and The Cambridge School of Weston students, and took a walk around the campus, which is very large and has beautiful autumn leaves. There were many visitors, and I was able



October 30, 2023 (Instagram)

I studied biochem. The teacher used his body to demonstrate the relationship between amino acids and proteins, which made the class easier to understand and everyone enjoyed the class.

to feel once again the fame and splendor of Harvard University.

6. Presentations of Outbound Program Findings and Action Plans at the Reporting Session Nago High School



What we surprised
in the U.S. are

- ① Homeless
- ② Reaction
- ③ Freedom of choice

Why:

Because we want our school students to know more about Boston.

When: December

Who: Our team

To whom: Our school students

What:

「Homeless people」, 「Reaction」, 「Freedom of choice」 and so on.

How: By giving a presentation.

【What we Learned in the U.S.】

We learned that the large number of homeless people in the U.S. is a major social issue. We also learned that there are few school rules in schools and people are free to dress or wear their hair in any way they want. We also noticed that people have dynamic reactions, positive attitudes, and society allows people to openly express themselves. There was also a high level of awareness towards environmental protection.

【Action Plan】

- All group members will give presentations on homelessness, how people (in the U.S.) react, freedom of choice, etc. to students at their respective high schools in December.
- All group members will give presentations on positive thinking, diversity, and the environment to junior high school students in November.

Naha Kokusai Senior High School



Content

- Regarding the cost of living in America
- Sizes in America and Japan
- American national character

When

Within January

To whom

Our school student

How

Make posters

【What we Learned in the U.S.】

- Prices are high in the U.S. and the weak yen made it feel even more expensive for us during our stay.
- Everything is large, and there are few choices in terms of the portions of food available in stores, resulting in food loss.
- People in the U.S. are more cheerful and outgoing than people in Japan.

【Action Plan】

All group members will create posters to share facts of the U.S. with students at their respective schools, such as the high cost of living, the difference in size of things in Japan and the U.S., and

the characteristics of people in the U.S. The posters will be put up in January.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)