



KAKEHASHI Project (U.S.)

Invitation Program for High School Students the 5th Slot

(Hayfield Secondary School) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 High school students from Hayfield Secondary School in Virginia were invited to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history through observation visits in Tokyo and a school exchange with a high school in Hiroshima that dispatched students to the United States as part of the program the previous year. The main objective of the program was also to deepen the friendship between the youths of Japan and the U.S. by continuing mutual exchanges, to further deepen the level of friendship between Japan and the U.S., and to strengthen the networks among the participants.

【Participants】 Total: 10 high school students and their chaperone from Hayfield Secondary School in Virginia, USA

【Locations】 Tokyo, Hiroshima

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online):

Nov. 21 (Tue) **【Pre-arrival (pre-departure) Orientation】** Program objectives and mission, itinerary outline, travel precautions, COVID-19 preventative measures, etc.

Set Period Prior to Arrival **【Video Viewing】** Lecture: “Japan and the United Nations”, “Lecture on Japan” (selected from Web Japan)

■ Inbound Program:

Nov. 28 (Tue) Entry from Haneda Airport

Nov. 29 (Wed) **【Observation】** National Diet Building (The House of Councilors)

【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine

【Observation】 Harajuku Takeshita Street (Japanese pop culture)

【Observation】 team Lab planets TOKYO DMM TOYOSU

【Observation】 Daiba 1-chome Shoutengai (streets of the past)

Nov. 30 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Hiroshima

【School Exchange】 Hiroshima University (Higashi-Hiroshima campus)

Dec. 1 (Fri) **【School Exchange】** Hiroshima Global Academy

Dec. 2 (Sat) **【Observation】** Fudenosato Kobo Brush making

	【Observation】 Hiroshima Castle
Dec. 3 (Sun)	【Observation】 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Dec. 4 (Mon)	Travel from Hiroshima to Tokyo 【Observation】 Akihabara (Japan electric appliance technology) 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans
Dec. 5 (Tue)	Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
November 29 【 Observation 】 National Diet Building (The House of Councilors)	November 29 【Observation】 team Lab planets TOKYO DMM TOYOSU
	
November 30 【School Exchange】 Hiroshima University (Higashi-Hiroshima campus)	December 1 【School Exchange】 Hiroshima Global Academy



December 1 【School Exchange】 Hiroshima Global Academy



December 2 【Observation】 Fudenosato Kobo Brush making



December 3 【Observation】 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park



December 4 【Reporting Session】

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

The most impressive parts during the exchange program would be visiting the Peace Museum because I learned a lot about the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. This broadened my perspective on Japanese society and I realized although they have suffered a lot, most Japanese people, the society and norms are completely way more advanced compared to the United States. I also thought that visiting a school in Hiroshima gave me a different perspective on school systems. I didn't know that Japanese students are so advanced that they could even speak English at school in several subjects and talk about difficult and challenging topics such as Peace.

◆ High School Student

I have already been to Japan before, and I think since I have previously been, I assumed that I already knew what to do when traveling. However, I still managed to make mistakes like doing things that are considered rude while eating or not understanding how some small operations work. The thing that most impressed me was the intricacy and precision of Japanese culture, mostly shown to me during the Fude no Sato workshop where we made our own calligraphy brushes. I realized the number of steps needed to make one product, and the accuracy needed to make it means it requires patience and vast knowledge. Whenever we were served meals, every part of it was nicely plated and freshly made. Japanese mannerisms are very precise and there are a lot of customs to learn about the country, some of which I will admit I messed up, resulting in me looking rude or uneducated. However, those small embarrassing moments have taught me what to apply to my behavior in the future when I come back.

◆ Chaperone

The most impressive moments were to witness how my students interacted with students who are in school in Japan, whether boarding school, or tour guides. I believe students learn more from each other. Students were able to experience that they have similarities and differences with their Japanese friends. The level of appreciation for culture, learning, and making good choices has increased. I believe our students learned more by visiting Japan and interacting with the community as a long lifetime opportunity. They will remember these experiences for the rest of their lives and will be able to adapt and appreciate more of humanity. My students' level of empathy from experiencing the Hiroshima memorial environment has left imprints into their hearts.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Faculty from the Exchange School

What stood out the most was when students from our school actively talked and interacted with the visiting high school students and when the visiting high school students were interested in and asked questions about the experimental equipment made by the researchers themselves during the lab visit. Students who had never participated in such exchanges with high school students before also participated in the program and expressed how they wish to participate in

future programs as well. We would like to actively accept overseas students who want to visit us again for other programs.

◆ Faculty from the Exchange School

One of the things that left an impression on me during this exchange was when a student who had actually gone to the U.S. in February yelled out in glee, “My buddy has made a comeback!” I thought it was good that we could have a continuous exchange rather than just one visit. We tried to make it possible for students from as many different grades as possible to come into contact with each other. We believe that this helped to motivate many of our students to learn new languages.

◆ Student from the Exchange School

The students we exchanged with in the U.S. came to our school. Although it was a very short visit, we could see that the American students were surprised by their new experiences in Japan and that they enjoyed the exchange with us. After this one day, we were able to rediscover the appeal of international exchange, where people can respect each other and gain new experiences, even if they are from different cultures or use different languages.

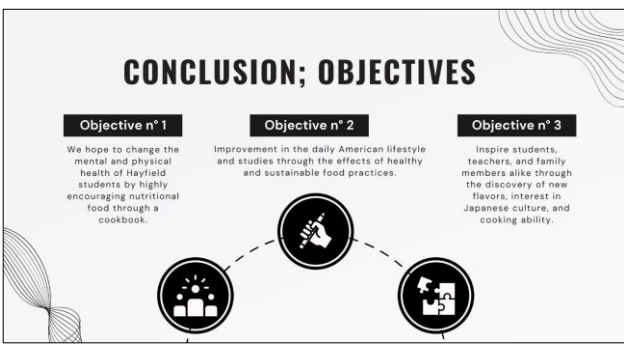
5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt), Articles, etc.

 hayfield_ss_japanese Thank you so much for having us! We had an amazing time with HiGA students and the teachers! This was the highlight of the trip and we will keep learning each other after we go back home 🙌 広島観智学園の皆さん本当にありがとう 🙌素晴らしい一生の思い出になる一日でした。これから一緒に色々学んでいきましょう 🎵	 Today, we went to make Fude for Kanji. It was so inspiring and the scenery here in Hiroshima is immaculate. We went then to the nearby Cafe and ate snacks that tasted so fresh and amazing. Finally, we went to the Hiroshima castle. The view on the top floor was amazing and the atmosphere was refreshing to feel. The wind was blowing my hair with grace and I could sense peace in my own way.
December 1, 2023 (Instagram) Thank you very much for having us! We had an amazing time with HIGA (Hiroshima Global Academy) students and the teachers. This was the highlight of the trip, and we will keep learning from each other after we go back home.	December 2, 2023 (Instagram) Today we went to make Fude for Kanji. It was so inspiring and the scenery here in Hiroshima is immaculate. We went then to the nearby Cafe and ate snacks that tasted so fresh and amazing. Finally, we went to the Hiroshima castle. The view on the top floor was amazing and the atmosphere was

	refreshing to feel. The wind was blowing my hair with grace and I could sense peace in my own way.
	December 4, 2023 Hiroshima Global Academy's website High school students from the Hayfield Secondary School in Virginia, USA came to our school!

6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans at the Reporting Session, (excerpt)

Locations: Tokyo, Hiroshima (Presentations by a total of 2 groups)

	
Group A 【What we Learned】 The most memorable experience was our visit to Hiroshima Global Academy and the exchange we had. It was a valuable experience for us to discuss the meaning of peace together and to come up with a joint statement, which was "Understand yourself, so you can understand others. We love everyone, respect each other, and are willing to listen to one another" 【Action Plan】 We feel the preciousness of peace and we too want to take action to change the school environment. After returning home, we will improve the current	Group B 【What we Learned】 1. Japanese people, students around us live in a sustainable way. -Fashion: They take care of their style, and how they dress in every situation -Food: They often use the highest quality from farms in every ingredient -Daily life: They are efficient in subjects such as water and energy. 2. We learned about how the Hiroshima that exists today had to overcome the 1945 A-BOMB TRAGEDY 【Action Plan】 Food that we have observed from schools in

situation of skipping classes and discrimination together with school administrators and other students. A safe and secure environment is the only way to learn. We will reach out to those in need and encourage everyone to build a safe and sound environment.	Japan appears to be made fresh and on the spot; with careful consideration as to what students consume daily, in addition to assuring that meals are hot, fresh, and satisfying to keep students energized. We plan to try and improve the lunches served at our school. We will start planning in December and finish a digitalized cookbook by the end of February. The content will be inspired by the nourishing, delicious, and sustainable way of eating in Japan, and we aim to change the attitudes of the people around us.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)