



KAKEHASHI Project (U.S.)

Invitation Program for High School Students the 6th Slot

(East Side Community HS) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 High school students from East Side Community HS in New York State visited Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history through observation visits in Tokyo and school exchanges and homestays with high schools in Hiroshima Prefecture, with whom they had exchanged in the previous year's dispatch program for Japanese high school students to the U.S. The main objective of the program was to deepen friendship between the youth of Japan and the U.S. and to further deepen the level of friendship between the two countries, as well as to strengthen the networks between the participants.

【Participants】 Total: 11 students and their chaperone from East Side Community HS, New York (U.S.)

【Locations】 Tokyo, Hiroshima

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online):

Dec. 8 (Fri) 【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:

Dec. 12 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport

Dec. 13 (Wed) 【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum
 【Observation】 Kiyosumi Garden
 【Observation】 Shibuya Scramble Crossing, Meiji-jingu Shrine, Harajuku, Tokyo Tower

Dec. 14 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Hiroshima
 【School Exchange】 Hiroshima Jogakuin Junior & Senior High School

Dec. 15 (Fri) Travel from Hiroshima City to Fukuyama City
 【School Exchange】 Fukuyama Municipal Jr. and Sr. High School
 【Meeting with the Host Families】

Dec. 16 (Sat) 【Homestay】 Fukuyama City, Hiroshima

Dec. 17 (Sun) **【Farewell Party with the Host Families】**
【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)

Dec. 18 (Mon) Travel from Hiroshima to Tokyo
【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans
【Observation】 Odaiba

Dec. 19 (Tue) Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
December 13 【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum	December 13 【Observation】 Shibuya
	
December 13 【Observation】 Meiji-jingu Shrine	December 14 【School Exchange】 Visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park guided by the students of Hiroshima Jogakuin Junior & Senior High School

	
December 14 【Dinner】 Okonomiyaki	December 15 【School Exchange】 Fukuyama Municipal Jr. and Sr. High School (observing school club activities)
	
December 16 【Homestay】	December 17 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】
	
December 18 【Reporting Session】	December 18 【 Reporting Session 】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

I was extremely impressed by Japanese technology and modernity. Absolutely amazing bidets, showers, and infrastructure. I was fascinated by the quality and depth of instruction at Japanese schools and am eager to capture what I learned in Japan to further my own career and personal life.

◆ High School Student

I think the most impressive parts of the exchange program was the homestay along with the first day's sightseeing. The homestay was such a fantastic event to be a part of because it not only allowed me to get to know a family in Japan, it gave me insight into what a day in Japan could be like. Getting to spend time with younger kids allowed me to feel like an older brother, not wanting to leave the homestay. I also appreciated the touring we did during our first day because we were able to visit some very important places in Japan, more specifically Tokyo, and see some very engaging sights that made our trip so much better.

◆ Chaperone

As an educator, it was remarkable to see our students interact with the Japanese students and their families. Such a cultural exchange is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I know that this will stay with our students forever. The students exchanged so much with each other and the power of this exchange, I don't think, has dawned on them yet. The fact that they got to interact with Japanese families, and stay at their homes over two nights, is priceless.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

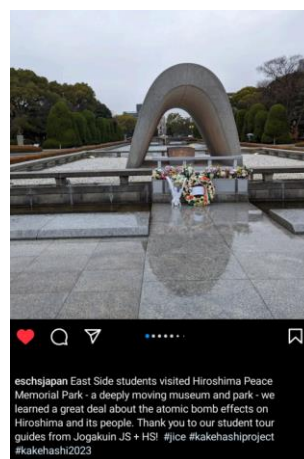
◆ Host Family

We received a youth around the same age as my only son, and it felt like he got a new older sibling. It was wonderful few days for my family. It was the first time the youth had taken a purikura (photo sticker), and it seemed to be enjoyable. I would love to be the host family for someone again in the future if given the chance. We had a full day of free-time, and I'm glad we were able to enjoy sightseeing and some experiences around the city.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)



December 13, 2023 (Instagram)
Delicious Lunch with students, Oishii desu ne!
For most students it was their first chanko meal.
Everyone thought the broth was tasty.



December 15, 2023 (Instagram)
East side students visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park- a deeply moving museum and park- we learned a great deal about the atomic

	bomb effect on Hiroshima and its people. Thank you to our students tour guides from Jogakuin JS +HS!
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6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

Locations: Tokyo, Hiroshima (Total of 2 groups gave presentations)

	
【What we Learned】 The difference in manners and etiquette in Japan was surprising to us. Meals are started with a word of thanks, "Itadakimasu" (Thank you for the food), shoes are taken off before going up to the room, trash is not dropped, and everyone, including our host families, are very kind and polite. Learning about peace in Hiroshima was really powerful. There is a big difference between just knowing and actually seeing and feeling, and this time we were able to understand many things that we did not understand before. 【Prospects】 The culture of taking off shoes is wonderful, and we would like to take the initiative in adopting it in our own homes. If we can learn from the Japanese people's politeness, we can make our world better. We would like to make the most of what we learned and found in this trip in our future careers. We definitely want to come back to Japan again. 【Action Plan】 East Side (ES) Japanese Workshops The entire group will hold workshops around February/March 2024 to share	【What we Learned】 The Japanese people are kind, courteous, and hospitable, far more so than we had imagined. Everywhere we went was clean and beautiful, and the Japanese food was delicious, too. What we learned at Hiroshima was very moving. The museum exhibits made us understand the pain of the people and their desire for peace. 【Prospects】 We are happy to be able to return home with the many superb things we have learned, and we would like to let our friends and families know how good and wonderful Japan is. Thorough cleaning and the custom of taking off shoes are also great things that we want to emulate. Japanese fashion fascinates one participant, and he would like to make the most of it in his own fashion design journey. We would like to continue to live with a mindset of being kind to others and not being afraid of taking risks, just like Japanese people. 【Action Plan】 "A Bridge between New York and Japan" We are going to share what we learned and took from our experience in Japan, such as its traditions and customs (meals, respect,

Japanese culture and promote Japanese customs and concepts to ES students, and we also propose to integrate peace studies into the 10th grade history curriculum. 2. ES Japanese Mural The entire group and art-loving students will paint "イーストサイド・コミュニティ・ハイスクール" (East Side Community High School) in katakana calligraphy on the school's hallway in around spring 2024 to wish for friendship between ES and Japan, to pledge the importance of international peace, and to encourage ES students to visit Japan.	mindset), Hiroshima's history, and sites to visit. We want to educate our peers on the rich culture of Japan and share the value of the tradition and customs that we learned during our trip.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)