



KAKEHASHI Project Invitation Program for High School Students the 7th Slot (Curtis Senior HS, Chalmette HS, Clements HS) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was conducted with the objective of having high school students from the U.S. deepen their understanding of Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy, and to have them actively disseminate the attractions of Japan from their perspective as high school students.

High school students from Curtis Senior High School in Washington, Chalmette High School in Louisiana, and Clements High School in Texas came to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history through homestays, school exchanges, and observation visits in Miyagi.

【Participants】 Total: 25 high school students and their chaperones from the U.S.

8 students and their chaperone from Curtis Senior High School, Washington

9 students and their chaperone from Chalmette High School, Louisiana

8 students and their chaperone from Clements High School, Texas

【Locations】 Tokyo, Miyagi

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online):

Dec. 13 (Wed) **【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. 19 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport or Narita International Airport

【Orientation】

Dec. 20 (Wed) **【Observation】** Nishiiwabeya (observation of Sumo training)

【Observation】 Asakusa (Nakamise Shopping Street, Senso-ji Temple, Asakusa Shrine)

【Cultural Experience】 Tote bag making experience with Tokyo Fin-
Patterned Dying (TOMITA SEN KOGEI- Tokyo Some Monogatari Museum

【Observation】 Panasonic Center Tokyo AkeruE, Panasonic GREEN

IMPACT PARK

Dec. 21 (Thu)	Travel from Tokyo to Miyagi 【Observation】Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake Sendai Arahama Elementary School 【School Exchange】Miyagi Prefecture Sendai-Higashi Senior High School
Dec. 22 (Fri)	【Observation】NanoTerasu (3 GeV Synchrotron Radiation Facility) 【Observation】Sairi Yashiki
Dec. 23 (Sat)	【Meeting with the Host Families】Marumori Town, Igu-gun, Miyagi 【Homestay】8 households in Marumori Town, Igu-gun, Miyagi
Dec. 24 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with the Host Families】Marumori Town, Igu-gun, Miyagi 【Workshop】Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Dec. 25 (Mon)	Travel from Miyagi to Tokyo 【Observation】Meiji-jingu Shrine, Harajuku (Japanese pop-culture)
Dec. 26 (Tue)	【Reporting Session】Presentation of program findings and action plans Departure from Haneda Airport or Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program



December 20 【Observation】 Nishiiwabeya
(observation of Sumo training)



December 20 【Observation】 Senso-ji Temple



December 20 【Cultural Experience】 Tote bag
making experience with Tokyo Fin-Patterned
Dying (TOMITA SEN KOGEI- Tokyo Some
Monogatari Museum



December 20 【Observation】 Panasonic Center
Tokyo AkeruE, Panasonic GREEN IMPACT
PARK



December 21 【Observation 】 Ruins of the Great
East Japan Earthquake Sendai Arahama
Elementary School



December 21 【 School Exchange 】 Miyagi
Prefecture Sendai-Higashi Senior High School



December 22 【Observation】 NanoTerasu



December 22 【Observation】 Sairi Yashiki



December 22 【Meeting with the Host Families】



December 23 【Homestay】



December 24 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】



December 24 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session



December 25 【Observation】 Meiji-jingu Shrine



December 26 【Reporting Session】

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

The parts that I found the most impressive were the emphasis on cleanliness and how much sense of unity that many people have in Japan. I never seen any signs of littering and the air quality was very clean. I was able to discover that Japan really cares about helping lives of people and they would risk anything to help out as much as they can.

◆ High School Student

I really enjoyed the school exchanged because I made many Japanese friends that I still talk to over text. I also enjoyed Asakusa Sensoji Temple! It was very pretty and the tour was very interesting.

◆ High School Student

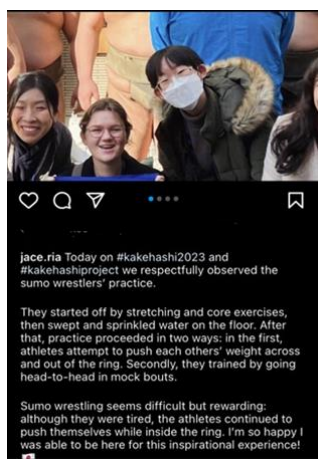
The homestay program was definitely my favorite as we got to go to a town in the country side of the Miyagi Prefecture and got to experience what it feels like to live there. The people in Marumori Machi were so welcoming of us that I felt like one of their own. It was definitely an experience that I will never forget.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Observation Destination

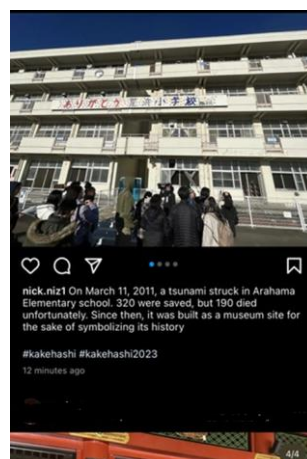
I'm so glad everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. I was surprised to see how focused the participants were with the lecture, especially in comparison to sightseeing.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)



December 20, 2023 (Instagram)

We respectfully observed the sumo wrestler's practice. They started off by stretching and core exercise, then swept and sprinkled water on the floor. After that, practice proceeded in two ways: in the first, athletes attempt to push each others'



December 22, 2023 (Instagram)

On March 11, 2011, a tsunami struck Arahama Elementary School. 320 were saved, but 190 died unfortunately. Since then it was built as a museum site for the sake of symbolizing history.

weight across and out of the ring. Secondly, they trained by going head-to-head in mock bouts. Sumo wrestling seems difficult but rewarding: although they were tired, the athletes continued to push themselves while inside the ring. I'm so happy I was able to be here for this inspirational experience!

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

Locations: Tokyo, Miyagi (A total of 3 groups gave presentations)

Curtis Senior High School		
 Supervisor: Fujiwara Haruka Students: Alex N, Gloria S, Grace K, Jayda F, Jerry B, and Vanessa S	Action Plans 1. Youtube 2. Speech Contest 3. Curtis Highschool News (CHN) 4. Presentation (Japanese Class) 5. Presentation (History Class)	Video presentation (History class) • Why: To teach students already learning history about Japanese history • Where: February 1st • What: Video presentation of findings from our trip to Japan • To whom: All 11th grade history classes at Curtis • How many people: About 200+ students • How and where: Through video shown in classrooms 
【What we Learned】 • The Panasonic center in Tokyo was full of cutting edge tech, with a large focus being on reducing CO2 emissions • NanoTerasu is a Japanese radiation and light technology center where brilliant scientists aim to capture revolutionary footage of energy. This is the most high-tech facility of its kind in the world. • I spent 2 nights living in a traditional Japanese style home. We made tofu, explored the farm where they grow a lot of their food, received handmade yukata and ate traditional foods. It was fascinating to see both contrasting sides of Japan with both the futuristic tech and the very traditional way of life. 【Action Plan】 1. YouTube While there is lots of coverage and general knowledge on the time the tsunami was on land, the aftermath is often overlooked. There needs to be more education on the aftermath of the tsunami, so that's why we are going to make a YouTube video. By February 29, we will make a video on the 2011 tsunami and the environmental consequences of the Tsunami in both Japan and around the world. We will present videos in an informative series to high school class(es) (~30-60 people). 2. Speech Contest To showcase many aspects of Japanese life and culture, we will show a video of our speeches by February 17 to students taking Japanese class about the project in general. 3. Curtis High News We will create a video of the characteristics of Japanese students and high schools to show the		

differences between American and Japanese schools to students at Curtis High School (~1000 students).

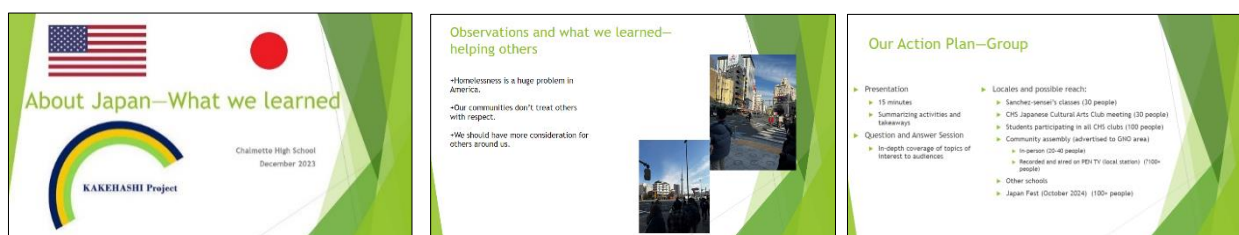
4. Presentation (Japanese Classroom)

On February 16th, we will present to students taking Japanese courses about Japanese culture to encourage further interest in Japanese culture.

5. Video Presentation

We will do a video presentation on February 1st of findings from our trip to Japan to teach students already learning history (in the 11th grade) about Japanese history (approx. 200 students).

Chalmette High School



【Findings】

• Cleaning at school

Students in Japan enjoy cleaning their classroom because that is where they spend their school day. The cleaning of the classroom provides the teachers transition time to get to their next group of students and gives the kids a sense of pride in their work. If we were to implement the same work ethic in American Schools, students would not trash their school if they know they are going to clean it.

• Conclusion

We noticed how quality of life is high, society is successful, and technology is for the people in Japan.

【Action Plan】

Our group will give a 15 min. presentation, summarizing the program's activities and our takeaways. We will cover the audience's topics of interest in depth during the Q&A session. The presentation is intended for our classmates, community members, people we personally know, Japan Fest participants (in October), etc.

Clements High School



【What we Learned】

- Create our own Tote Bag

By observing the traditional fabric making process during the tote bag making experience, we learned how it takes a long time to be a pro!

- Arahama Elementary School

Visiting the Elementary School that was struck by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, we learned about the history of Arahama. We understood how things like improved evacuation plans, restricted residential zones, and upgrading seawalls can help lessen the blow of disasters in the future.

【Action Plan】

We will promote and share our stories at “iFest” (cultural event in March). iFest is hosted by the Japanese American Society of Houston. We will run the Japan booth and share our collective experiences to promote Japanese culture to our peers.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)