



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Program for High School Students the 1st Slot (Columbia Heights EC) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 High school students from Columbia Heights Educational Campus in the U.S. visited Tokyo and Miyagi with the main objective of deepening their understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history through home visits, a school exchange, and observation visits, as well as to deepen exchanges and strengthen networking.

【Participants】 10 high school students and chaperones from Columbia Heights Educational Campus in Washington, D.C.

【Locations】 Tokyo (10 participants), Miyagi (10 participants)

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-exchange Program (pre-study program online)

Wednesday, May 24 **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Program objectives and mission, itinerary outline, travel precautions, COVID-19 preventative measures, etc.

Set period **【Video Viewing】** Lecture on Japan, Virtual Home Visit, Message from Minamisanriku, Allure Aichi -Industry / Cutting-edge technology -, Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto, Peace Tour in Hiroshima

■ Inbound Program:

Tuesday, May 30 Entry from Haneda Airport

Wednesday, May 31 **【Observation】** Meiji Shrine and Japanese pop culture (Harajuku)

【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building

Thursday, June 1 Travel from Tokyo to Miyagi

【School Exchange】 Miyagi Prefecture SENDAI-HIGASHI Senior High School

Friday, June 2 **【Observation】** Matsushima

【Observation】 Minamisanriku 311 Memorial

Saturday, June 3 **【Home Visit】** Minamisanriku Town

【Workshop】 Preparations for the reporting session

Sunday, June 4 Travel from Miyagi to Tokyo

【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Fukagawa Edo Museum

【Reporting Session】

Monday, June 5 Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program



May 30 【Observation】 Meiji Shrine



May 30 【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building



June 1 【School Exchange】 Miyagi Prefectural SENDAI- HIGASHI Senior High School



June 2 【Observation】 Matsushima



June 2【Observation】Minamisanriku 311 Memorial



June 3 【Home Visit】 Minamisanriku Town

	
June 3 【 Workshop 】 Preparations for the Reporting Session	June 4 【 Japanese Cultural Experience 】 Fukagawa Edo Museum
	
June 4 【Reporting Session】	June 4 Delegation's last dinner in Japan

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

The part that was the most impressive was the 3.11 museum and the home visit. The museum put the natural disaster in a new perspective for me, it was very emotional for me. The home visit was beautiful, the scenery was breathtaking. It felt like I could live there and leave everything behind.

◆ High School Student

In the student exchange I meet lots of people. The students were very nice and waved to us when we passed by. I played baseball with the baseball team. They said I did very well for my first time.

◆ High School Student

I enjoyed the high school visit and the home visit the most because we got to directly interact with new people.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Host Family

The high school students openly asked questions and I could see how interested they were in Japan. I would like to thank them for making the time they had with us so much fun.

5. Disseminations by the Participants

 mr_promomo_phase2 Day 3- Went over to Sendai Higashi High School, met a bunch of awesome people the homie Isei taught me how to get sturdy, bro is hilarious. I wish I spent more time there with everyone	 Sendai high school was probably the most fun ive had in a while, played with the marching band for a bit but not much coz i got scared 🤩 gave my music folder to one of the band members :3 2 days ago
June 1, 2023 (Instagram) Day 3- Went over to Sendai Higashi High School, met a bunch of awesome people. My homie taught me how to get sturdy, bro is hilarious. I wish I spent more time there with everyone though.	June 1, 2023 (Instagram) Sendai high school was probably the most fun I have had in a while. played with the marching band for a bit but not much coz I got scared. Gave my music folder to one of the band members.

6. Action Plans Presented at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

*3 groups in total

	
【Learnings from the Program】 • The environment of Japan was much calmer than I thought. The food is tasty and healthy. Japanese people are polite and well mannered. • In the Minamisanriku 311 Memorial, there was a map of Japan showing what areas were affected by the 2011 tsunami caused by the earthquakes and learned that the floods reached up to 23.9 meters in the area.	【Learnings from the Program】 • I was shocked by how many trees there were in Tokyo because of the urban setting depicted in media I thought it would be just a lot of buildings and not much else. • Meiji shrine was beyond beautiful, and I noticed how much history they preserve in their society. • What I noticed during the school exchange

• Minamisanriku that we went to for the home visit surrounded by nature, and it required the contribution of everyone in the area to keep things thriving and to be self-sufficient. I didn't think places like this still existed. 【Action Plan】 We will upload many photos to Instagram to share our experiences from Japan with friends, family, and other students at school. We will also give souvenirs to those close to us with message cards depicting our time in Japan.	was that the students cleaned the classrooms at the end of the school day, there were vending machines within the school grounds, and there were also beautiful paintings drawn by the students all over the school. 【Action Plan】 So that more students can be interested in learning Japanese, we will give a presentation at school. With more students interested in Japanese, we can receive more advanced Japanese classes. We can also reach out to our principal and ask for a higher-level Japanese class so we can proceed to learn Japanese.
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Implementation agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)