



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Invitation Program for High School Students (National Museum of the Pacific War)

Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Four high school students selected by the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, USA, participated in a program aimed at deepening their understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history through site observations in Tokyo and a homestay and school exchange in Fukuoka. The friendships fostered and attractions of Japan disseminated by the high school students are expected to contribute greatly to the future of Japan-U.S. relations.

【Participants】 Total: 5 participants (4 high school students and 1 chaperone from the U.S.)

【Locations】 Tokyo, Fukuoka

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Nov. 22 (Fri) **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warnings, precautions of infectious disease, etc.

Set Period Prior to Arrival **【Video Viewing】** “Lecture on Japan” (Choose on Web Japan)

■ Invitation Program:

Nov. 28 (Thu) Arrival at Narita International Airport

【Orientation】

Nov. 29 (Fri) **【Observation】** Meiji Shrine, Harajuku (Japanese pop culture)

Travel from Tokyo to Fukuoka

【Meeting with the Host Families】

Nov. 30 (Sat) **【Homestay】** Homes of students attending Fukuoka Prefecture Chikushi High School and Fukuoka Prefecture Dazaifu High School

Dec. 1 (Sun) **【Farewell Party with the Host Families】**

【Cultural Experience】 Mochi making

Dec. 2 (Mon) **【School Exchange】** Fukuoka Prefecture Chikushi High School

Travel from Fukuoka to Tokyo

Dec. 3 (Tue) **【Workshop】** Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)

【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans

【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building

Dec. 4 (Wed) **【Observation】** Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center

Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Online Pre-study Program

	
November 29, 2024 【Observation】 Meiji Shrine	November 30, 2024 【Homestay】
	
December 1, 2024 【Cultural Experience】 Mochi making	December 1, 2024 【Cultural Experience】 Mochi making
	
December 2, 2024 【School Exchange】 Fukuoka Prefecture Chikushi High School	December 3, 2024 【Reporting Session】 Group photo
	
December 3, 2024 【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building	December 4, 2024 【Observation】 Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

The school exchange was the most impressive. It was truly immersive, and I got to form a lot of connections with the students. I had a lot of fun in both the math and geography class and lunch time.

◆ High School Student

The homestay was the most impressive to me as I found the hosts extremely accommodating.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Exchange School Student

I am so glad that I was able to feel so familiar with a different culture. I hope to one day find a job that requires English, so this experience was very meaningful to me.

◆ Host Family

I was amazed at how popular ramen noodles are. I also liked how we all played games together. Everything is a good memory. I was also happy to receive a letter in both English and Japanese at the end of the homestay. I will never forget how my mother was so moved that she cried. I believe that this was a good opportunity for my whole family to start learning English. I also went to the U.S. as part of the KAKEHASHI Project's dispatch program, and I imagine that this is how my host family in the U.S. must have felt. I am very interested in intercultural exchange, so I hope I get to experience different cultures like this in the future!

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

 77 2 3 🌟 This year's students participating in the Kakehashi Project are currently in Japan, learning about the country's... more 2 days ago	 The exchange students went to a local Japanese farm, harvested some veggies, made mochi and did a bit of grilling
November 29, 2024 (Instagram) This year's students participating in the Kakehashi Project are currently in Japan, learning about the country's culture in Harajuku .	December 1, 2024 (Facebook) The exchange students went to a local Japanese farm, harvested some veggies, made mochi and did a bit of grilling.

	
December 11, 2024 (LinkedIn) This week the exchange students from the Kakehashi trip returned to America! Their adventures in Japan took them to all kinds of interesting places where they were able to learn about the country's economy, society, history, and culture. They saw the Meiji Shrine, walked around Harajuku, did a homestay in Fukuoka, visited a Japanese high school, harvested and grilled their own veggies, met representatives from JICE and the Foreign Ministry and went through an immersive disaster preparedness experience.	December 2, 2024 (Fukuoka Prefecture Chikushi High School's Instagram page) Today, as part of the "FY2024 KAKEHASHI Project," four American high school students and one accompanying teacher visited our school for a school exchange program. The students participated in math and geography classes, had lunch with our students in the cafeteria, and engaged in many other activities to deepen their relationship with the Japanese high school students. We hope that your time spent at Chikushi High School was enjoyable and fruitful.

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

Locations: Tokyo, Fukuoka – Presentations by a total of 2 groups

	
【Results of the Program】 We found many amazing things such as interesting food, ancient customs, and new friends. Japan is beautifully forested, and many people have cars and family pets. A traditional breakfast in Japan	【Results of the Program】 We were very surprised by the many types of food in Japan. There were many things we don't eat in the U.S., like unsweetened yogurt, yogurt with aloe, shredded cabbage, hot or cold egg dishes for

consists of onigiri and miso soup, and the air in Japan is fresher and the streets are cleaner. We were able to enjoy the air and nature while walking around Fukuoka with our host families. We were given insight into not only Japanese culture but a day in the life of someone our age. We saw buildings integrated with nature and gardens, and experienced lively classes including discussions at a high school, and we intend to disseminate these experiences in the future. 【Action Plan】 <u>1st Month</u> •Coordinate with the National Museum of the Pacific War to speak as a guest on Webinar: <i>Untold Stories</i>. •Plan with the local rotary club, school, and museum to speak on our experiences. •Share experiences with classmates, family, and community on social media. <u>2nd Month:</u> •Plan, compile, and rehearse presentations. •Submit pictures to local sources of dissemination (newspaper, blogs, etc.) Write article and submit for publication <u>3rd Month:</u> •Execute presentations and to remain in contact with the Museum and JICE and provide assistance for upcoming trips	breakfast, mackerel, natto, and foods like matcha and mochi such as umegae-mochi. At ramen shops, you buy meal tickets from a dispensing machine and can select options like spiciness level, amount of chashu pork, and amount of onions. We didn't know that traditional Japanese mochi is made by pounding it. Also, we were surprised that the Chikushi High School students' bento boxes were as cute as we had seen on Instagram. We want to share our experiences with Japanese food and everything else we've learned with people around us. Something we also noticed in Japan was that driving on roads, parking, and people's walking are all done efficiently, and we realized that culture is deeply rooted and respected in society and among people. Regarding walking, while people in the U.S. might bump into or push each other, in Japan there are arrows on the floor showing directions and various arrangements to help people walk without colliding, like one-way pedestrian flows. And we noticed that Japanese advertisements often use anime-style characters. [Action Plan] <u>First month</u> - Plan to present about the Kakehashi Project experience to classmates in elective courses while offering Japanese snacks. - Share this experience with family and friends and post on social media. - Present this experience in JROTIC class - Contact the Pacific War Museum to participate in interviews. <u>Second month</u> - Invite friends to make mochi, sushi, and onigiri. - Prepare questions and answers for the museum interview.
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	<u>Third month</u> - Coordinate with the museum and participate in the "Untold Stories" webinar event at the Pacific War Museum to share this experience with participants in Texas. We want to give advice to people who want to participate in the next Kakehashi Project
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)