



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Visiting Japan Program for Okinawa Program the 1st Slot (Lindbergh High School)

Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

The Okinawa Program is a mutual exchange program between high school students from Japan and the United States. With the goal of promoting mutual understanding between the two countries, nine high school students from Lindbergh High School in Seattle, Washington, were invited to Tokyo and Okinawa. During their stay in Tokyo, the students visited TEPIA Technology Utopia, Meiji Jingu, and around Harajuku, and gained knowledge and skills in disaster prevention at the Tokyo Fire Department Disaster Prevention Education Center (Honjo Disaster Prevention Hall). In Okinawa, they experienced Japanese culture through homestays and interacted with Okinawa Prefectural Itoman High School to deepen mutual understanding and friendship. The participants shared what they learned and gained through these experiences of coming into contact with Japanese culture and society.

【Participants】 Total: 10 participants (9 high school students and 1 chaperone from the U.S.)

【Locations】 Tokyo, Okinawa

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Feb. 12 (Wed) **【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:

Feb. 18 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport

【Post-arrival Orientation】

Feb. 19 (Wed) **【Observation】**

TEPIA Technology Utopia, Meiji Jingu, Harajuku (Japanese pop-culture)

Travel from Tokyo to Okinawa

Feb. 20 (Thu) **【School Exchange】** Okinawa Prefectural Itoman High School

【Meeting with the Host Families】

Feb. 21 (Fri) **【Lecture】** Peace talk - Speaker: Mr. OSHIRO Wataru

【Observation】 Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum and Park, Nuchi Masu Salt Factory, Nakagusuku Castle Ruins (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

【Homestay】

Feb. 22 (Sat) **【Farewell Party with the Host Families】**

Travel from Okinawa to Tokyo

Feb. 23 (Sun) **【Observation】** Tokyo Fire Department Disaster Prevention Education Center (Honjo Disaster Prevention Hall)

Feb. 24 (Mon) **【Observation】** SUGINAMI Animation Museum

【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)

【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans

 Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Invitation Program

	
February 19, 2025 【Observation】 TEPIA Technology Utopia	February 19, 2025 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu
	
February 20, 2025 【School Exchange】 Okinawa Prefectural Itoman High School	February 21, 2025 【Lecture】 Peace talk
	
February 21, 2025 【Observation】 Nakagusuku Castle Ruins	February 22, 2025 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】

	
February 23, 2025 【Observation】 Tokyo Fire Department Disaster Prevention Education Center (Honjo Disaster Prevention Hall)	February 24, 2025 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

The Itoman high school visit was easily my favorite part of the trip. I loved that we got to go to and participate in so many different classes to help gain understanding of the school life, and all of the activities were very fun. It helped meet many other students and give chances to interact with all sorts of people while also moving around, seeing the school and learning new things.

◆ High School Student

The homestay left the strongest impression on me throughout this trip. I learned so much about culture and genuinely had a good time experiencing the lifestyle through Japanese people. It was extraordinary, I truly believe this 1 week should be more like 9-10 days.

◆ High School Student

Every part of this trip I found insanely impressive. From the atmosphere to the different buildings, activities and facilities. The way things work differently verses America such as Japanese schools, mannerisms, dedication etc. I like America as well, but I found Japan to be way cooler than I imagined it to be. It may seem all normal to the locals who live there but to me it was just so amazing to see everything all at once.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Exchange School Faculty

I could see how our school students were really trying to communicate with the participants in English without worrying too much about making mistakes such as like grammar. I would like to cover school life and daily life in the U.S. in future classes. It was touching to see the American students shed tears as they said goodbye at the farewell party.

◆ Host Family

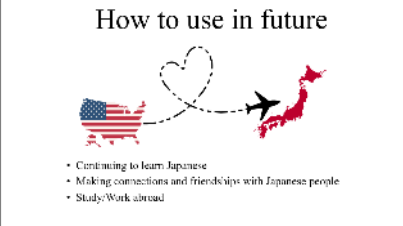
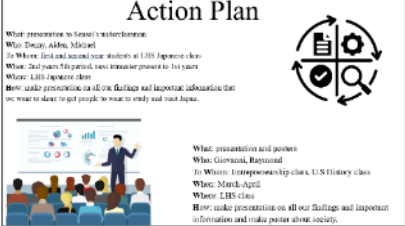
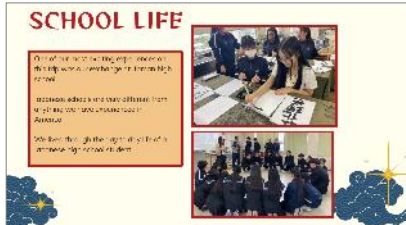
The students that stayed with us did their best to use their Japanese skills. When I asked them "Where would you like to go?" they surprised me by turning it around and asking me, "Where is your favorite place to visit?" This turned out to be a great opportunity for me to explore the attractions of where I live as well.

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

	
February 20, 2025 (Instagram) High School Student Best friends!! I hope we can all see each other again in America or Japan.	February 20, 2025 (Instagram) High School Student I am going to miss you all
	
February 20, 2025 (Facebook) High School Student Kakehashi Day3: School visit We had a reunion with the students who visited the Lindbergh High School in January. The school principal specially prepared and made speech in English, so touched! Thanks to the teacher who managed the school exchange, we could have a productive and meaningful day. Thank you so much.	March 11, 2025 (Okinawa Prefectural Itoman High School's website – Principal's Bulletin No. 20) Nine students from Lindbergh High School located in the U.S. visited our school and spent a day with our students. They participated in calligraphy, art, physical education, English, and home economics classes, and also learned about Japanese culture. In the home economics class, the students tried making Japanese sweets and made strawberry daifuku mochi. The students also had the opportunity to interact with different classes and help clean up the school. ...

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

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

Group 1		
 Findings	 How to use in future - Continuing to learn Japanese - Making connections and friendships with Japanese people - Study/Work abroad	 Action Plan What? presentation to General's understanding Who? General, address, Michael To Whom? 1st and 2nd year students at LHS Japanese class When? 2nd year 5th period, next semester present to 1st year Where? LHS Japanese class How? make presentation on all our findings and important information that we want to share to get people to want to study and visit Japan. What? presentation and poster When? General, Regional To Whom? Entrepreneurship class, U.S. History class When? March-April Where? LHS class How? make presentation on all our findings and important information and make poster about society.
【Results of the Program】 ◆ Findings - Group work is valued - Considerate host families - Cool architecture (buildings) ◆ How to use this experience in the future - We will continue to learn Japanese - Make connections and friendship with Japanese people - Study/work abroad in Japan 【Action Plan】 Action Plan 1: We will be giving presentations to 1st and 2nd year students enrolled in LHS Japanese classes, with presentations to 2nd years given during 5th period and to 1st years during the next trimester. The purpose of the presentations is to increase students' interest in visiting and studying in Japan, and to share our findings and other important information. Action plan 2: During March and April, we will present our findings and important information from our program to students in the LHS Entrepreneurship and U.S. History classes and create posters about society.		
Group 2		
 OUR EXPERIENCE OF JAPANESE CULTURE	 SCHOOL LIFE Photo of the school building, classroom, and school grounds. The school is a large, modern building with a red roof. The classroom is a large, modern classroom with a red roof. The school grounds are a large, modern school grounds with a red roof.	 OUR ACTION PLAN - Who? Us! - What? Presentation - When? End of 2nd and 3rd Trl - Where? Japanese Class - Why? To showcase and encourage other students to continue studying and participating in Japanese language and culture
【Results of the Program】 ◆ Findings *Culture So many different indigenous groups and people who have come together to create the Japanese culture *School Subjects, teachers, staff, and after school activities were all so informative		

***Society**

Prioritizing convenience and efficiency. Timely and creative.

***People**

Very kind and respectful. Everybody knows how to dance.

Different findings at each site visit such as Meiji Jingu, Peace Memorial, etc.

◆ How to use this experience in the future

- Continue learning Japanese
- Study abroad in Japan

【Action Plan】

We will give presentations to students in the Japanese language classes at the end of the second or third trimester. The purpose of the presentations is to showcase and encourage other students to continue studying and participating in Japanese language and culture.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)