



KAKEHASHI Project (United States) Online Exchange for High School Students (Clarkston High School, Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】 This program was conducted to promote international exchange, facilitate mutual understanding, and strengthen networks among students taking Japanese classes at Clarkston High School in Michigan, U.S.A., and students from Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School in Hokkaido, Japan, through introductions of both schools and small-group exchanges among the students based on common themes.

【Participants】 Total: 29 students from Clarkston High School and Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School
 (Breakdown) Clarkston High School 16
 Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School 13

【Location】 Hokkaido

【Schedule】

- Online Exchange for High School Students: Dec. 7 (Sat), 2024
- 1. Opening remarks
- 2. Address
 Mr. NAKAYAMA Daisuke, Researcher, North America Exchange Division,
 North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- 3. Introduction of Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School
- 4. Introduction of Clarkston High School
- 5. Exchange sessions in groups (20min x 3 rounds)
- 6. Speeches by each school representative
- 7. Commemorative photo
- 8. Closing remarks

2. Program Photos

	
【School Introduction】 Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School	Exchange sessions in groups

	
Exchange sessions in groups	Exchange sessions in groups
	
【School Representative Speech】 Clarkston High School	Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student (U.S.)

It was fascinating learning about how similar Japanese culture is to American culture in many ways. What interested me the most was how the students described English as a very difficult language to learn, and how I felt the same way about learning Japanese.

I would love to have another meeting like this! This was an amazing experience.

◆ High School Student (U.S.)

I felt like the Japanese students were very prepared with questions and photos/presentations. They had good insights and really good conversational skills. They impressed me and really taught me a lot about the area and some of the culture. I would be very interested in visiting because of this meeting. 10/10 would love to talk again. I would love to communicate with students from Japan more. I would also be interested in gathering for a type of activity that can help us all bond together. For example: groups go bowling with each other and then out to the city on another day. Something that lets the students experience the life that the other students live.

◆ High School Student (Japan)

I was really worried if I would be able to communicate in English, but I was able to talk with students from the U.S. more than I expected. Especially about music, it was very easy to talk with them because there are artists who are common all over the world. I felt the need to study English harder so that I can talk to them more, introduce myself, and be more proactive when talking. I want to join more international exchanges!

◆ **High School Student (Japan)**

We had a great time together. It was a good experience for us to learn about each other's culture and to discover new things. Thank you very much for the experience. I want to send out information to the students who did not participate in this event so that they can become more interested in international exchange too.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **School Faculty (Japan)**

During this school exchange, the students were able to actively communicate with the program participants. The students were able to communicate about their school life, culture, and local attractions. They also became more interested in the U.S.

We plan to continue to participate in international exchange activities and contribute to the internationalization of our community. We would also like to deepen our exchanges with people and cultures from other countries.

I was particularly impressed by the fact that the students spoke more actively than I had thought they would. I was impressed that some of the students encouraged their American and Japanese peers who were relatively quiet to speak up by asking, "And you?"

After finding common ground on topics such as music and hobbies, some students were able to feel a connection with their peers overseas. I'm sure many students felt that they needed to improve their English skills, such as their listening skills to better understand what is being said, and their speaking skills to keep conversations going.

The students would be very overjoyed if we could have this kind of exchange on a regular basis. It was good to know that an exchange like this could go smoothly at this time of day in the U.S. as well.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	December 7, 2024 (Instagram) Hope to see you again.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)