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Contact us at: fellowship@kkc.or.jp

Japan Study Tour:
<http://en.kkc.or.jp/programs/stj/>

Japan Lesson Plans can be downloaded from here:



Schedule of KKC Events at the NCSS Annual Conference in Philadelphia December 2-4, 2022

Keizai Koho Center will be participating in the in-person Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies on Dec. 2-4, 2022, to be held in Philadelphia.

If you are planning to attend the NCSS Annual Conference, please come and join us for the events below. We hope to see many alumni!

December 2-4, 2022 Keizai Koho Center Fellowship Booth

Stop by to see us at the Keizai Koho Center Fellowship Booth!
Place: Philadelphia Convention Center, International Alley

Friday, December 2, at 6:30-8:30 PM EST Reception hosted by Keizai Koho Center

Join us for some light refreshments and meet up with alumni and future applicants.
Place: Maggiano's Little Italy
across the street from Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
1201 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 TEL: 215-567-2401

Saturday, December 3, at 9:50-10:50 AM Keizai Koho Center Japan Information Session "Teaching about Japan and Fostering Global Perspectives"

Come and join our discussion on teaching about Japan and the importance of fostering global perspectives..

Presenters:

Norman Everett, Teacher, Leicester Middle School, MA (2022 Fellow)
Tim Dilley, Pitt Meadows Secondary School, British Columbia, Canada (2019 fellow)

Comments:

Paul Dickler, Associate Director, Wachman Center, The Foreign Policy Research (1993 Fellow)
Derek Frieling, Lafayette High School, MO (2015 fellow)

Details of the 2023 KKC Study Tour to Japan will be announced on our website at <https://us-japan.org/kkc> and <http://en.kkc.or.jp/programs/stj/> in late January 2023.

Excellent Teaching Experience



Norman Everett

2022 KKC Fellow
Leicester, MA

There are nothing but great things to say about my participation in the 2022 Keizai Koho Center Fellowship in Japan. The 2022 Fellowship marked my first experience traveling outside of the US and Canada. The KKC made my experience truly unforgettable. More importantly, I can not wait to bring my experience and knowledge of Japan back to my classroom at Leicester Middle School in Massachusetts.

The KKC's school visits were one of my favorite experiences. As a middle school teacher in the USA, it was awesome to see all of the similarities between American and Japanese schools. When we observed a private school in Tokyo, kids were utilizing some of the same educational apps in their classrooms such as Kahoot and Google Slides. During discussions with students, I saw students with many of the same interests as my own such as similar sports, music, and artistic pursuits. Discussions with teachers in Japan also showed many of the same responsibilities and goals as American teachers. Many of those we spoke with hosted similar academic and athletic clubs after school. At the end of the conference, I enjoyed speaking about my experiences as an American teacher teaching through the Covid Pandemic.

My favorite part of the trip was teaming up with another fellow to teach a lesson in a Japanese classroom. On the flight over to Japan, I remember being nervous that my teaching style would not work well in a Japanese classroom. I tend to rely on humor which I've read does not easily transfer across languages. Instead, it turned out that my co-teacher and I were able to have a lot of fun teaching our lesson. The lesson was map based, asking students to make observations. I found that the Japanese students did an excellent job studying and making observations about the maps in front of them.

The visit to Meiji Jingu perfectly demonstrated the need to visit Japan. In preparation for the study tour, I read many books on Japan. Several of those focused on Shinto. Despite the extensive reading, I found myself somewhat unclear as to what Shinto was totally about. Our tour of Meiji Jingu was guided by the Shinto priest, Ito Moriyasu. During our short time with him, he showed us Meiji Jingu's beautiful buildings, and Torii Gates. More importantly, his explanation of Japan's religion perfectly clarified any questions that our group had about Shinto in a way that textbooks could not do.

The KKC's meetings with government officials were also a major highlight of the trip. We ate breakfast with a member of the Diet, toured the Diet building, and met with officials from the US Embassy in Japan. Each year, I am part of a trip that brings students in Leicester to Washington DC. One of our stops is the US House of Representatives. I can't wait to compare my experiences in Tokyo's government buildings and officials to our experiences in Washington DC.

Our day in Kamakura is a perfect place to summarize my experience in Japan. One of our tour guides had said that "Those who see Mt. Fuji will always come back to Japan." On that day in Kamakura, we experienced a great view of the mountain. The KKC Fellowship provided me with great experiences and a desire to return to Japan.

The Keizai Koho Center Fellowship, A Life-Altering Opportunity

Sergio De Alba

2022 KKC Fellow
Los Baños, CA



As educators, we constantly seek ideas, methods, and approaches to learning that would enhance the success of our students. We seek guidance from fellow teachers, attend conferences, and read the countless amounts of information found in books and websites. Throughout my 20+ year career, I have made it a point to try to improve my craft through these outlets. Few opportunities have changed my approach to teaching and understanding our world, like the Keizai Koho Center Fellowship. In 2022, I was afforded the opportunity to visit Japan thanks to this program. Though I have taught lessons about Japan during my tenure and have researched to ensure that the information used in my units is accurate, being immersed in the culture has powerfully changed my lessons.

What has been created by the KKC Fellowship is a program that changes how teachers see this beautiful country, changing how every student will understand Japan. The positive influence of this opening is exponential and has allowed me to develop new approaches that will benefit my students for the rest of my career. During the ten days of my visit, the KKC staff ensured that every minute was used efficiently and allowed for the most significant impact on my professional development. The variety of experiences allowed for advancements in understanding the educational system in both public and private schools, Japanese culture, a grasp of customs, and the opportunity to discuss and meet policy and business leaders that contribute so much to Japan.

I visited the Kaetsu-Ariake Junior and Senior High School, a private institution that has implemented an innovative approach to instruction. As I spoke with students and toured the campus, I noted what I could change in my classroom to improve my students' success. To ensure exposure to both systems of education, the KKC Fellowship also organized a visit to a public school. I visited the Tokyo Metropolitan Koishikawa Secondary Education School. I was especially impressed with the dedication of the staff, the variety of after-school programs provided for students, and the focus on continuous improvement by all stakeholders. I left this campus genuinely impressed by how they have achieved great success.

Additionally, I was granted excursions every day of this unique fellowship that changed how I see Japan and its people. This nation's rich culture and history were captured with over 1,000 photographs that I now use to introduce what I learned to my students. As I shared these photographs, my students were continuously amazed at the places and people. Japan has now become a place that 33 students want to visit as soon as possible, and I am sure this will be the case with every group I present this slideshow.

I was able to hear from Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki, former Ambassador to the United States, President of the America-Japan Society, and President & CEO of the Nakasone Peace Institute, about "U.S.-Japan Relations." I truly appreciated the opportunity to speak with such a distinguished individual. As if this opportunity was not great by itself, I also had breakfast and shared a deep discussion with the Honorable Keisuke Suzuki, Member of the Japanese House of Representatives.

From the many fantastic meals to watching a Giants baseball game and the numerous behind-the-scenes opportunities, I cannot thank the KKC Fellowship enough for this incredible experience and opportunity. They have greatly enhanced my understanding of Japan and enriched my students' education. I look forward to revisiting this great country and interacting with these wonderful people again.

The 2022 KKC Study Tour to Japan was held in-person after 2 years of Covid



Keizai Koho Center has invited North American Social Studies teachers to Japan since 1980 to promote mutual understanding by offering opportunities to meet with Japanese opinion leaders and representatives of government, corporations and schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was held online in 2020 and 2021, but this year, four teachers from Massachusetts, Wyoming and California were selected to participate in the program in-person, under strict anti-COVID measures.

The fellows exchanged views on the importance of U.S.-Japan relations and exchange with government and corporate leaders, as well as U.S. Embassy officials in Tokyo. They received lectures about the Japanese economy and changes in the working environment and employment. At the Bank of Japan, they discussed Japan's monetary policy and at company visits including KDDI, Mitsui Fudosan, Canon and Sony, they had the opportunity to learn about Japan's corporate efforts to deal with COVID-19, an aging population and the challenges of a carbon-free society.

The fellows visited two schools, Kaetsu-Ariake Junior and Senior High School and Tokyo Metropolitan Koishikawa Secondary Education School. They had a valuable exchange with Japanese students and teachers and even taught a 9th grade World History class. During the weekend, they enjoyed a fruitful meeting with Japanese Social Studies teachers of the Tokyo Metropolitan area and enjoyed a frank discussion of comparing the U.S. and Japanese school systems and their common daily challenges as educators.

The program concluded with a seminar titled "Economic and Social Impact of COVID-19 in the U.S. and Japan" in which some 50 corporate members and guests of Keizai Koho Center participated. Dr. Shumpei Takemori, Senior Fellow of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry made a keynote presentation and explained how COVID-19 has affected the Japanese economy and society. His presentation was followed by comments by the four fellows, who shared their views on the impacts of COVID-19 in their schools and local communities. It was revealed that although there are differences in each state, American schools are returning to normal. In the panel discussion, a lively discussion about the social disparities of students in regards to internet access, the importance of digital literacy, how students appreciate going back to school and the positive aspects of in-person classes took place.

The fellows were obliged to check their body temperatures and wear masks everyday and personally experienced the high awareness of the Japanese in preventing the spread of COVID.

After returning to their home country, the fellows will share the knowledge that they gained in Japan with their students and report to the Keizai Koho Center about the lesson plans that they will teach in their classrooms.

About the KKC Japan Study Tour:
<https://en.kkc.or.jp/programs/stj/>