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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 down-
loaded from here:



Applications for the 2023 KKC Japan Study Tour are Due on March 1, 2023

Keizai Koho Center (KKC), in cooperation with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS), will offer the "KKC Study Tour to Japan 2023" for U.S. and Canadian social studies teachers.

Since 1980, more than 700 social studies teachers have taken part in the "KKC Study Tour to Japan". The project aims to deepen participants' understanding of Japan and contribute to international mutual understanding across the Pacific. Their experiences and findings in Japan have significant value to their students, who will build future ties with Japan.

Dates in Japan

June 19 (Mon) – June 27 (Tue), 2023
(Program date is subject to change by the organizer.)

Primarily in Tokyo, the itinerary will be developed to provide vivid and enjoyable experiences with participants, which include:

- Visits to Japanese schools to interact with students and teachers,
- Meetings with scholars and experts on Japanese society and its education system,
- Visits to major Japanese companies and meetings with senior company executives,
- Cultural and fun events.

Costs covered by

KKC provides round trip air transportation from participants' home city to Japan, as well as accommodations, ground transportation and meals associated with the program.

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have skills and experience in developing curriculum and a strong interest in Japan,
- Have never lived in Japan nor visited Japan on a similar study tour,
- Be middle or high school classroom teachers of Economics, Social Studies, Geography or History (grades 6-12).

**Further details of the 2023 KKC Study Tour to Japan and how to apply
can be found on our website at:
<https://us-japan.org/kkc> and <http://en.kkc.or.jp/programs/stj/>**

Comments from KKC Alumni

Kate Todhunter

2022 KKC Fellow, Northampton, MA

My participation in the KKC fellowship left deep and profound impressions not only on my teaching, but myself personally. Despite the challenges and limitations of the Covid Pandemic, my experience in Japan was meaningful and rich. I was able to meet with a wide range of people from members of government, experts in various fields, to educators and students. I learned about Japanese history, culture, economics, politics and society which are all themes relevant to my teaching of the social studies. I was able to compare and corroborate my past education on Japan, and stockpile endless anecdotes and stories that my American students have found riveting.

In short, I obtained multiple resources and experiences that have had a tangible effect on my teaching, making Japan a more real and significant place whose history and contemporary society is deeply relevant and intertwined with America's. These connections, resources and experiences will have a positive impact upon not only my classes, but those of my colleagues and the Northampton community at large.



(Left: Kate's newly decorated classroom)

(Below: Image of Kate's lesson plan being implemented in her classroom)



Sharolyn Stauffer
2022 KKC Fellow, Afton, WY



My summer 2022 KKC fellowship greatly impacted my life and teaching. I am grateful for my participation in a myriad of ways. I enjoyed working with three incredible and passionate teachers in the U.S. It will be terrific to network with them, and I already have, being able to recommend one for another program he was applying for. I also loved the relationships I developed in Japan and learning about various aspects of modern politics and society, as well as a great deal about Japanese culture and history. It was fun to share about my small community and how teachers and schools work with businesses and organizations, which is a much smaller scale than that of my colleagues who are in big cities with large businesses. Every part of the experience affected me, and I cannot wait to return to Japan. Below are some highlights, which I have already been able to discuss or use with students, even though I am not even to modern Japan yet in my teaching, which will happen soon.

I really loved our visit with the former ambassador, Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki. He was so friendly, genuinely interested in us, and shared many valuable perspectives about Japan's role in the world, especially right now with the invasion of Ukraine, and with the tension over Taiwan with the Chinese. It was also a real treat to go to places like Canon and see how they are recycling 99% of a machine. I further felt lucky to tour some of the Bank of Japan and listen to economists discuss the monetary policies and give insights. Especially, I loved being able to have a private and quiet visit to the Japanese parliament building and meet with a prominent politician, the Honorable Keisuke Suzuki, over breakfast. These were incredible moments that a regular tourist does not get to experience. I was able to share a little about these memories with students and other colleagues, which has shown them that this experience was a valuable learning tool for me and something I can share perspective on in my classroom.

I also enjoyed the beautiful historical and religious sites we visited, including the Meiji Jingu Shrine and the giant Buddha at Kamakura. I love to teach about world religions and always have an extensive unit. This year I was able to add more information about Shintoism and Buddhism with what I learned. I used some photos and objects in an activity I do with separate religious "stations" where students could view and touch objects and photographs and learn things other than through a boring textbook. I had many students ask engaging questions about Shintoism, and it was interesting to see how they connected that with some of the spiritual practices of Native Americans, which we discussed some.

Probably the most fun of all was being able to watch classrooms in action and teach part of a lesson. I valued the discussions with teachers in these and the setting at the KKC. The students showed their friendliness and were wonderful to show us around, answer our questions, and also had some opportunities to chat with us and ask us questions. I loved seeing how my students share interests, and I have discussed this with my own students and how there are so many more ways we are alike across the world than we are different.

KKC Participation in the 2022 NCSS Annual Conference December 2-3, 2022 in Philadelphia

Keizai Koho Center participated in the 2022 NCSS Annual Conference. The Japan Study Tour booth in the international alley attracted more than 100 teachers who were interested in the KKC program. A reception was also held in the evening and many KKC alumni and interested teachers gathered to share and update their knowledge about Japan.

A Japan Session was also held and alumni and teachers shared their views on how teachers can incorporate contemporary Japan in their teaching and foster global perspectives.



KKC School Visit in Massachusetts

Masafumi Akimoto and Ikuyo Watanabe of Keizai Koho Center visited the school of KKC alumni Mr. Norman Everett in Massachusetts on Dec. 5, to observe him teach his lesson plans on Japan to his students. KKC has visited the schools of alumni periodically as a follow-up of the Japan Study Tour. It was fascinating to actually see the knowledge gained from the tour being passed on to young American students. The KKC school visit was reported in the front page of the local newspaper, *New Spencer Leader*, on December 23, 2022.

After participating in the Japan Study Tour, KKC Fellows produce and submit "Japan Lesson Plans" which help teachers teach about Japan and promote understanding of Japan in the classroom.

The "Japan Lesson Plans" are posted on Keizai Koho Center's website and are made available for teachers.

Fellows are encouraged to report to KKC about their Japan-related teaching and activities after participating in the Japan Study Tour.

We look forward to hearing from you!

E-mail to fellowship@kkc.or.jp

