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Brookline High School – Kyoto Gaidai Nishi Exchange Program

International Field Trip Application

Japan: Tokyo, Iya Valley and Kyoto

April 11, 2020 to April 24, 2020

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

Approval Route:	Approved	Denied	*Returned
Copies to:			
TEACHING & LEARNING	<u>10</u>	_____	_____
SUPERINTENDENT	_____	_____	_____
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	_____	_____	_____
MEETING DATE	_____	_____	_____
*REASON RETURNED:	_____	_____	_____

**BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL-
KYOTO GAIDAI NISHI HIGH SCHOOL
EXCHANGE PROGRAM PROPOSAL
APRIL 11- APRIL 24, 2020**



SUBMITTED BY:

**Rachel Eio and Agnès Albérola
BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL**

PRESENTED TO:

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
BROOKLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OCTOBER 2019**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Japanese-American Exchange between Brookline High school and Kyoto Gaidai Nishi School:
April 11-April 24, 2020 (Brookline students in Japan)
March 28-April 4, 2021 (Japanese students in Brookline)

Brookline High School (BHS) students and teachers are continuing an exchange program with our sister school in Kyoto, Japan called Kyoto Gaidai Nishi School (<http://www.kufs.ac.jp/nishiko/>- the website is only in Japanese). This program is a bi-annual exchange. We have traveled to Japan seven times in the past fifteen years: three visits to Kyoto Gaidai Nishi in 2014, 2016, and 2018, three visits to Nagano High School, and we were also invited to participate in the Kizuna Project (a near-fully funded trip by the Japanese government for BHS students to visit Japan to learn about the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami). In addition, we have hosted nine groups of Japanese students from a variety of schools in Japan. We continue our bi-annual trips to Japan by visiting this coming spring and we are planning for students from Kyoto Gaidai Nishi to spend a week in Brookline in March 2021.

The Brookline High School-Kyoto Gaidai Nishi School Exchange directly responds to the third goal of the Strategic Plan of the Public Schools of Brookline which commits us to equipping students with the intellectual and social skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse global society. In accordance with strategy 3.1, we will "develop opportunities to enhance the global awareness of every student."

The exchange will include approximately 16 BHS students. For the first part of the exchange, students will spend 6 days in traveling to Tokyo and the Iya Valley on the island of Shikoku. Then, Brookline High School students will be hosted by the Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School students' families for one week. The eligible students study Japanese, and are interested in Japanese culture, art, architecture, or history. BHS Japanese teacher/Associate Dean Rachel Eio and World Language Curriculum Coordinator, Agnès Albérola, will chaperone the trip. For the second part of the exchange, Brookline High School families will host students from Kyoto Gaidai Nishi for one week in March 2021 as part of their travels in the US. .

The goals of this trip are to experience life as a member of a Japanese family, to speak and interact in Japanese, to visit Kyoto and Tokyo, to learn about rural life and traditional arts in Japan, to eat food typical of these regions, and to expand students' knowledge of Japanese culture.

Highlights of the itinerary will include:

Tokyo Area (not an exhaustive list)

- Shibuya and Harajuku neighborhoods
- Studio Ghibli museum
- Miraikan: National Museum of Emerging Science & Innovation
- Akihabara electronics district
- Meiji Shrine

Iya Valley

- Visit Kazurabashi bridge and the Yokai Folklore Museum
- Travel on boat cruise to see valley scenery and gorge
- Hands on soba making experience/lunch
- Hands on handkerchief making at Aizome Factory
- Attend traditional puppet show (Awa Ningyou Jyoururi)
- Stay overnight in a traditional Japanese ryokan (inn)

Kyoto and its surroundings:

- Live with a host family
- Participate in classes at Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School
- Visit the numerous Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines and castles in the region (Kiyomizu-dera, Ginkaku-ji, Nijo-jo, Ryoan-ji, Fushimi Inari Jinja, etc.)
- Participate in hands on activities such as making Japanese traditional sweets

APPLICATION FOR ALL OUT-OF-STATE, OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

Before the trip is announced to students, please submit this form to the Superintendent of Schools:

- (a) three (3) months in advance if the trip is within the United States, or
- (b) six (6) months in advance if the trip is out-of-the country.

For clarity, all forms are to be word-processed, NOT handwritten. To maintain the formatting, delete the lines.

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. Name of Field Trip: Brookline High School-Kyoto Gaidai Nishi Exchange Program
2. Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: Rachel Eio & Agnès Albérola
3. School: Brookline High School Grade Level: 11-12
4. Have you reviewed the *School Committee Policy I 3 a. for School Sponsored Field Trips*? yes
5. Have you reviewed the document "*Administrative Procedures for School Sponsored Field Trips*"?
yes

*If you need copies of the documents for #4 and #5,
contact the Office of Teaching and Learning at 617-730-2432.*

6. What is your destination? Japan: Tokyo, Iya Valley and Kyoto
7. What is the date and time you are leaving school? April 11, 2020
8. What is the date and time you are returning to school? April 24,, 2020
9. Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances? Days 3-8 of Passover (Categories 2 & 3), April 12-16, 2020 and Easter (Category 1) April 12, 2020. All families of interested students will be notified of these dates prior to the application deadline and every attempt possible to meet dietary restrictions for religious reasons will be met during the travel. Families will be encouraged to discuss any concerns with the chaperones so that the calendar does not preclude any student from participating.
10. How many days will students miss from school? 5
11. How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)?
 - a. Boston-Tokyo: airplane
 - b. Tokyo: train, subway
 - c. Tokyo to Okayama: bullet train
 - d. Okayama to Oboke: JR train
 - e. Iya Valley: chartered bus
 - f. Tokushima-Kyoto- highway bus
 - g. Kyoto: city bus, host family cars, and subway
 - h. Kyoto-Boston: chartered bus and airplane

*If students are traveling via bus, please complete the
Requirements for Field Trip Transportation via Bus form.*

12. How many students will be participating in the field trip? 16
13. What members of the student body are eligible for the trip? All 11-12th grade students who study Japanese are invited to participate. Priority is given to students in Japanese 3 or higher who are in 11th and 12th grade.
14. How are students selected to participate in this field trip?

Students will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Strong academic record (good study habits, participation, attendance)
- Interest in learning the Japanese language, history and culture

- Ability to serve as an ambassador from Brookline and the United States
- Sensitivity to other people and cultures
- Previous experiences away from home
- Successful completion of the application
- Perceived potential for personal growth as a result of this experience

15. Where will students be staying?

Our first stop will be Tokyo and we will stay in a medium-sized business hotel for 3 nights. Our next stop is in Tokushima where students will stay two nights in a traditional Japanese ryokan (inn). In Kyoto, students and chaperones will be staying with host families for seven nights.

16. What are the names and cell phone numbers of the primary staff chaperones on the trip?

BHS staff, Rachel Eio (Associate Dean and Japanese teacher) and Agnès Albérola (9-12 World Language Curriculum Coordinator) will accompany the students. Rachel Eio has native-like fluency in Japanese. Rachel Eio has led groups of BHS students seven different times to Japan and Agnès Albérola has traveled extensively in Japan, speaks proficient Japanese and has chaperoned one previous BHS trip to Japan. Both teachers have travel experience around the world. Rachel Eio and Agnès Albérola will be supervising the students and be available to them on a 24-hour basis. While in Japan, the two teacher-chaperones will rent cell phones. We will report these numbers to the Office of Teaching and Learning as soon as possible (as well as to the families of participating students) so that they will be able to reach us abroad.

Rachel Eio, Japanese Teacher, BHS, Chaperone
617.713.5267 (w)
rachel_eio@psbma.org

Agnès Albérola, BHS, Chaperone
617.713.5094 (w)
Agnes_Alberola@psbma.org

17. Other than those listed in #16 above, what are the names and roles (teacher, parent, etc) of other adult chaperones who will be on the trip?

The teachers in charge of our exchange program at Kyoto Gaidai Nishi School in Kyoto are:

Mr. Tom Loafmann: loafmann@yahoo.com

Mr. Kazunori Kuboi: k_kuboi@kufs.ac.jp

When traveling in Tokyo, Rachel Eio and Agnès Albérola will be the chaperones with the students. When traveling in the Iya Valley, a licensed, English-speaking Japanese tour guide from Japan Travel Bureau will accompany the group through local areas (name TBD).

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

18. What is the purpose of the trip and how does it relate to Brookline's Learning Expectations (K-8) or BHS Course Syllabi?

The BHS-Kyoto Gaidai Nishi Exchange Program responds to the strategic plan of the Public Schools of Brookline, which commits the district to equipping students with the intellectual and social skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse global society. According to Strategy 3.1, we will "develop opportunities to enhance the global awareness of every student." This trip is a direct extension and enrichment to our BHS Japanese curriculum.

In addition, the purpose of the trip is to:

1. To develop communicative competence in Japanese
2. To practice intercultural communication and adaptation skills in an immersion setting
3. To foster long-term and ongoing interest in one another by providing firsthand experiences with the culture of the other
4. To experience Japanese family life
5. To learn about Japanese culture and history
6. To encourage greater understanding between the youth of Japan and the United States

19. Describe activities planned before the trip to prepare students:

- o Intensive Language Practice
- o Directed study of Japanese history, culture, geography, art, and current events
- o Meetings to build group cohesion
- o Pre-trip orientation at the Japan House in the Boston Children's Museum
- o Student and parent meetings to review logistics and expectations, and to prepare students to be ambassadors of Brookline
- o Fundraising activities to help with incidental costs not covered.

20. Describe activities planned after the trip for students to wrap-up/reflect:

- o Formal Presentations for classes, parents, and the World Language Classes (slide/ PPT presentations, photo collages, personal narratives) during the 2019-2020 school year
- o Continued correspondence (in Japanese) with host families and contacts made in the areas
- o Written evaluations

ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

21. To what extent does the field trip group reflect the diversity of the school population? What efforts will be undertaken to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the participants in this field trip reflect the diversity of the school population?

We are making every effort to create a racially and socio-economically diverse group of students to attend this study abroad trip. This trip is open to all 11th and 12th grade students who have completed Japanese 2 at BHS. Once the School Committee has approved the trip, we will make a concerted effort to encourage participation from a broad spectrum of BHS students so that the group reflects the make-up of the larger student body. The exchange will be widely advertised in class by teachers of Japanese, as well as through programs such as METCO, Steps to Success, and the African American/Latino Scholars Program. We will emphasize that there is financial aid available to students who cannot cover the costs born by students, so that they know that the cost of the trip should not stop them from applying. We will make every effort to accommodate any physical and emotional disabilities that students may have. Many of the museums and tourist sites that we plan to visit are wheelchair accessible and offer audio tours, and the transportation we plan to utilize (plane, tour bus and public transportation) are generally handicap accessible.

22. What measures are planned to ensure student safety on the trip, including chaperone coverage, student behavior contracts, etc.

We have two BHS teachers chaperoning the trip who have experience in international travel, know the students well, and have chaperoned other BHS international trips. These chaperones will be available to the students 24-hours a day. We will meet with parents and students during the planning portion of the exchange to outline our behavior expectations, and all students who participate will sign behavior contracts. In addition, students will be required to sign a behavior contract, agreeing to all rules put forth by chaperones. Japan is one of the safest countries in the world and people are extremely hospitable to foreign exchange students. We will

follow any State Department advisories in the unlikely event any are issued.

23. What is the name and location of the medical facility closest to your destination?

These hospitals have been recommended by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo as having English-speaking doctors:

- Keio University Hospital: 35 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
Telephone from the U.S.: 011-81-3-3353-1211
- Kyoto City Hospital: 1-2 Higashi Takada-cho, Mibu, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto
Telephone from the U.S.: 011-81-75-311-5311
- Tokushima University Hospital: 2-Chome 50-1 Kuramotocho, Tokushima, 770-8503
Telephone from the U.S.: 011-81-88-631-3111

24. Will students be swimming? (please note: if swimming is planned, parents must give explicit written permission for their child to swim; students who do not have this express written permission will not be allowed to swim) No

25. If travelling outside of the United States, please attach the appropriate Department of State Advisory Review and Notification and a copy of Consular statement.

Information from the Department of State about travel to Japan is regularly updated online and can be found at these links:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/japan.html>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

FUNDING

26. What is the total cost of the trip? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total. (add/edit headings as necessary)

Please see attached document for a detailed budget.

****Please note that we are aware that the costs of this trip are very high. We are working continuously with our travel agent to find ways to make the cost more affordable. If this means a change in itinerary, we will communicate those changes with the Headmaster. This budget represents a maximum amount but is not ideal.****

PER STUDENT:

Lodging	\$670
Travel	\$2230
Meals	\$500
Admissions/Tickets	\$200
Chaperone Costs	\$550
Administrative Costs	\$200
TOTAL:	~\$4350

27. How will the field trip be funded?

The trip will be funded by the families of participants. As described in #28 and #29 below, we will actively engage in fundraising efforts to raise money for financial aid, and students will be encouraged to assist their family by contributing to the cost through their own work.

28. What accommodations are made for students who cannot afford the expenses of this trip? Is there partial and/or full financial aid available?

Yes, financial aid will be available. As we did for the last six exchange trips, we will advertise throughout the school: at Advisory Meetings, in Japanese classes, during "InfoTime" and to students in BHS programs such as Steps to Success, METCO, and African American/Latino Scholars. In all of our outreach efforts we will include language that makes it clear that all students are encouraged to apply regardless of financial ability; and further, we will let students know that financial aid is available and that all financial aid requests will remain confidential. Student and chaperone run fundraisers will be planned to help raise money for financial aid. Acceptance to the exchange will be determined separately from financial aid awards so as not to influence selection process. Applications for financial aid need to be submitted at the same time as the trip application. Our ability to meet the financial needs of our students varies from year to year and is based on the amount of fund-raising that we will be able to generate as a group. In the past, we have not had to deny anyone admission based on financial need.

29. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here:

Fundraising activities may include the annual Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival, bake sales, Japanese food sales, t-shirt sales, and/or movie screenings. Families will have the option of contributing financially to a travel financial aid fund. We will also solicit corporate/private donations from local Japanese businesses and US companies. A committee of students and parents will be formed to assist in fundraising efforts. All students involved are expected to participate actively in all fund-raising activities.

If you need any assistance as you complete this application, please contact the Office of Teaching and Learning at 617-730-2432.

Signatures:

Educators Requesting Field Trip Approval:

 Abby  Rachel Ew

Date:

9-19-19

Principal:



Date:

9/18/19

PROJECTED COSTS 2020

This is the projected 13-day trip cost based on 16 students and 2 chaperones.

	INDIVIDUAL STUDENT COST
Projected Airfare (RT Boston to Osaka/Tokyo)	~\$1600
Bus Transportation from Airport to Hotel/KGN School to Airport	~\$55
Accommodation in Tokushima (2 nights, includes breakfast & dinner)	~\$110/night x 2= \$220
Accommodation in Tokyo (3 nights, includes breakfast)	~\$150/night x3= \$450
1 week JR Rail Pass	~\$275
Admission fees & tour guide (To sites in Kyoto, Iya Valley, and Tokyo)	~\$200
Other transportation for two weeks (local bus in Kyoto, chartered bus, etc)	~\$300
Food and drinks for two weeks	~\$500
Administrative costs (phone rentals and calls, baggage shipping, travel insurance, educational materials, administrative expenses)	~\$200
Chaperone expenses (Including meals, accommodation and transportation & airfare at \$1600)*	~\$550*
Total per student	~\$4350**

*This is the tentative cost for the chaperones; this may change depending on funding. We are trying to seek funding for plane tickets from the airline companies directly, as well as funding from the Consulate General of Japan in Boston and The Japan Society.

** The cost increases this year are due to fuel surcharges, insurance cost increases, additional tariffs, and a sales tax increase in Japan. In addition, tourist costs have gone up due to the 2020 Japan Summer Olympics.

2020 JAPAN TRIP TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DATE	EVENTS
Saturday, April 11, 2020	- Leave for Japan. Fly direct to Tokyo (arrive in the evening of Sunday, April 12, 2020).
Sunday, April 12 -Tuesday, April 14, 2020	-Visit Meiji Shrine, Studio Ghibli Museum, Akihabara electronics district, Harajuku, Shibuya, and the National Museum of Emerging Science & Innovation, a Japanese baseball game, go cherry blossom viewing in the parks, etc. -Stay overnight at a hotel in Tokyo for three nights.
Wednesday, April 15-Thursday, April 16, 2020	-Travel by bullet train to Okayama and JR train to Oboke. -Visit Kazurabashi Bridge and Yokai Folklore museum -Travel on Oboke cruise through gorge -Make soba noodles to enjoy for lunch -Stay overnight in traditional Japanese inn for two nights
Friday, April 17, 2020	-Visit Tokushima via chartered bus and learn about Japanese puppetry -Participate in making Japanese handkerchiefs -Travel from Tokushima to Kyoto by highway bus -Stay with host families for seven nights.
Saturday, April 18-Friday, April 24, 2020	-Attend Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School with host students. -There will be many programs organized by the school during the week: school welcoming assembly, attending sports and club activities, international exchanges, visiting local landmarks. -Tour the city each afternoon visiting: Kiyomizu-dera, Ryoanji, Sanjusangendo, Ginkaku-ji, the Gion district, Pontoncho, Kyoto station, Nijo-jo, Fushimi Inari Jinja, etc. -Include hands-on activities (traditional Japanese sweets, zen meditation, etc.)
Friday, April 24, 2020	-Fly from Itami Airport (Osaka) to Narita Airport (Tokyo). Fly direct from Tokyo to Boston. -Arrive in Boston.