

Global Classmates

by Kizuna Across Cultures (KAC)

Global Classmates is a 6-month online exchange program for high schools students in Japan and the U.S., which aims to promote international friendship, cultural exchange, and collaborative foreign language learning.

Let's connect with classmates abroad and learn about each other's language and culture!

Application Process & Program Flow

KAC pairs schools based on number of students, technology capabilities, and participation structure and initiates preparation for the exchange. The students participate in Global Classmates as part of a class at least one hour per week.

- Jan ~ Apr Application & Participation Decisions
- May ~ Jun Matching Schools
- June~Aug. Training, Orientation, & Planning
- Sept. Program Begins (Create accounts & Introductions)
- Oct.~Dec. Discussion Topics & Omiyage Exchange
- Jan. Video Koshien (ビデオ甲子園)
- Feb. Farewells & Exit Surveys



Snapshot of the Students' Exchange



これは私のバッグです。バッグの中にノートやきょうかしょがあります。日本でCAMPUSノートをかいました。中国語と日本語のノートです。そして、絵のノートもっています。絵を書くことが好きです。私のホストのクラスでくれたたじきもっています。



Wed Jan 21, 2015 at 11:38 am · Unlike 😊 3 · Reply



Sarah US School

これは私のバッグです。バッグは青いです。一年生時このバッグを買った。Rirakkumaとかディズニーのストラップがある。バッグの中で、いろいろな事がある。バッグの中で、きょうかしょとかノートとか本とか計算機とかさいふとかイヤホンがある。 This is my bag. My bag is blue. I brought my bag when I was a first year student. I have a Rirakkuma and Disney strap. Inside my bag I have various of things. Inside, I have a textbook, notebook, book, calculator, a wallet, earphones, etc.



Wed Jan 21, 2015 at 11:46 am · Unlike 😊 5 · Reply

Ayako Japan School

Do you like Rilakkuma ?

I has a friend who she like Rilakkuma very much.

By the way , as for me ! Rilakkuma is very cute ☺

Do you think so , too?

Fri Jan 23, 2015 at 2:48 am · Like · Reply



Sarah US School

YES!! I love Rilakkuma it's very cute. ！まい！ Rilakkumaが大好きです。かわい！ね。

Sat Jan 24, 2015 at 12:08 pm · Like · Reply

Omiyage Exchange



Explaining manners via video



Posting comments



KAC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in June 2011 by former Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and Japanese individuals in the Washington, DC area. Its mission is build global friendships and understanding through connected classrooms.

In Global Classmates, students from Japan and the U.S. exchange messages, photos and videos via a secure and monitored educational social media website under the supervision and guidance of their teachers and a bilingual and bicultural coordinator assigned by KAC.

In the past four years, KAC has connected more than 3,000 students from 100 highs schools.



Global Classmates is run by staff in Japan and the U.S.

Sponsors

Global Classmates is sponsored by the United States-Japan Foundation, TOMODACHI, and the US Embassy Tokyo.



Media Coverage



Above: Video Message from U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy (2015.2.11)



Left: PBS special program "This is America & The World" featured one of Global Classmate's schools Ishinomaki HS (2014.6.4)



Student

I discovered that I am able to communicate using just simple English. I am now able to express more things in English. It was so exciting to talk online and learn the REAL culture.



Student

It was so fun to actually talk to someone my age who spoke Japanese. I love Japanese culture even more now! I can write in Japanese faster and don't have to use the dictionary as often anymore.



Teacher

The students' test scores went up significantly, especially in English composition and listening. I was also able to do things with the students that I couldn't in the regular class, such as doing a skit and singing songs in English. It is a highlight of our high school English program now!



Teacher

Perfect for students of the digital-age! They naturally learned language and culture in real time, things we cannot offer in a textbook or in a traditional classroom setting. As it can be incorporated into the curriculum, it was a perfect compliment to what they were already learning.

Our Supporters

KAC is supported by the Ministry of Education, Cultures, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Japan, and the Embassy of Japan in the US, as well as the educational communities in both countries.



With PM Abe during his visit to the U.S.



With then Min. Shimomura at a forum on education



At the U.S. Embassy with then Amb. Roos

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