

Japan Exchange Program

DAVID THOMPSON MISSION STATEMENT

By providing programs and activities that are both nurturing and challenging, David Thompson encourages students to realize their creative, intellectual, and physical potential and develop the personal and social skills necessary for responsible citizenship in a diverse society.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Exchange to Japan

David Thompson Secondary School is providing an opportunity for all students to take part in the Japanese Exchange Program with our sister-school, Yokohama Science Frontier High School (YSFH), while visiting several cities in Japan. Students will embark on a 10-11 day educational journey to Tokyo, Kyoto, Yokohama and other possible locations including Osaka, Hiroshima, Miyajima, and Himeji in March or June. There will be 20 spaces available for students participating in this exchange.

Accommodations

Students will live with a YSFH homestay family during their stay in Yokohama, while attending sister-school YSFH. While on tour in Japan, accommodations will be at hotels.

Hosting Students from Yokohama Science Frontier High School (YSFH)

Twenty students from Yokohama Science Frontier High School (YSFH) will stay with host families of David Thompson students for seven days, from the end of March to the beginning of April. Participants of the exchange are expected to host a student unless there are extreme circumstances that prevent families from doing so. Students outside of the exchange program are welcome to host a YSFH student as well. Service points will be rewarded to host students.

FORMS

Exchange applications forms and homestay application forms are available in the office.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration usually starts at the beginning of the school year. Please listen to PA announcements and look out for Japan Exchange program posters around the school for more information.

Applicants must hand in forms with a deposit of \$500 (make cheques payable to MYK Enterprises LTD., and include the student name, student number and homeroom) with the total cost being \$2998 - \$3100 (based on 18 students), as well as three photocopies of their passport to Ms. Huey in the Library. Two of those copies must be valid 6 months after the return date of the trip. The final payment of \$2498 - \$2600 is due two months before the commencement of the exchange. An informational session will be held one month prior to the exchange; mandatory attendance from both applicants and their parent(s)/or guardian(s). An information meeting regarding hosting a student from YSFH will also be held at this time.

REQUIREMENTS

The program is open to students in grade 8-12 that demonstrate CARES qualities and attendance records, as they are representing David Thompson on this excursion. During a reference check, inquiries will be made by other staff members, administrators, and counsellors.

Students are expected to follow the CARES school code of conduct at all times throughout the trip.

<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thompson/About/Pages/Code-of-Conduct.aspx>



Listening to Hiroshima survivor's testimony



Hiroshima Memorial Park

EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE OF EXCURSION

Students will extend their learning of the British Columbia curriculum by participating in a number of meaningful scientific, technological, cultural, commercial and historical activities in Japan. In addition, students will be provided with a rare opportunity to visit our progressive sister-school, Yokohama Science Frontier High School and stay in the homes of host families for four-six days. It is also expected that those who participate in this exchange program will host a Japanese student in their homes from our sister-school when they arrive (unless under extreme circumstances where this is not possible).

In some years, arrangements are made for students to have the rare opportunity to meet an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima either locally or when they go to the Peace Park Museum. In addition, Kyoto will provide an interesting location for students who have studied world religions and feudal society, as there will be ample opportunities to visit temples and castles. At the same time, Tokyo and Yokohama will offer students some glimpses into the fields of: science, physics, engineering, robotics, history, and technology.

As future members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Canada is committed to working with our economic partners, like Japan. Students who participate in this exchange will learn more about how both countries can benefit from working together in the areas of trade and commerce. Furthermore, learners will gain unique perspectives from their exposure to both ancient and modern Japanese culture and practices.

Ultimately, the exchange to Japan will be a wonderful opportunity to continue to build upon our relationship with our Yokohama sister-school. Our students will have the first-hand experience and background knowledge to equip them for meaningful interactions with the exchange students. David Thompson Secondary students who return from this trip will have an opportunity to discover their own global citizenship and move toward becoming agents of peace (the recurring theme throughout the Peace Park Museum).

Significant Educational Opportunities (places may vary depending on the year's itinerary)

- Science and Technology/Business:
 - Ueno/Akihabara (Electric Town), Science Museum
 - Tour of Shibuya and Harajuku Area (Tokyo)
 - YSFH: Science First Conference
- History and Culture:
 - Tour of downtown Kyoto
 - Hiroshima: Peace Memorial Park (A-Bomb Dome, Peace Memorial Museum – first atomic bomb dropped during World War II)
 - Group conversation with Eye Witness of the Atomic Bomb Experience
- Feudalism (students have learnt about feudalism in Social Studies 8)
 - Osaka Castle, Nijo Castle, and Himeji Castle (White Heron Castle), a national treasure and world heritage site
- World Religions (Students learnt about other belief systems in Social Studies 8)
 - Temples: Tour of Asakusa: Senso-Ji, Kiyomizu, Nakamise Dori, and Itsukushima Shrine.
- Modern City:
 - Tokyo (capital of Japan) – architecture, urbanization and technology.
 - Yokohama (second largest city)
- Ancient City:
 - Kyoto (former capital of Japan) — “voted number one city to visit in Asia.” Historical and natural landscapes and buildings; cultural traditions maintained.
- Yokohama Science Frontier High School
 - School Exchange: Home stay and visit sister-school
 - Science Forum (YSFH First) and Global Issues Forum

ABOUT OUR SISTER SCHOOL

Yokohama Science Frontier High School opened in 2009 with a focus on advanced science and technology. The sister-school status was established in 2008. Experiment-based science subjects are taken with care as the city of Yokohama provides the school with advanced equipment. Students of the sister-school are also expected to maintain a high English language standard.

Additional Information (In English):

<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/kyoiku/sidou2/koukou/sfh/image/ysfh-english.pdf>

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Travel Company: MYK Enterprises, LTD., Vancouver

Air Flight: Japan Airlines (JAL), All Nippon Airlines (ANA), Air Canada

Transportation: domestic flights, buses, trains and/or Japanese Bullet Train: Shinkansen

SAFETY INFORMATION

Students must follow the explicit instructions given by the exchange supervisors at all times. Significant pre-trip planning and preparation will be undertaken to ensure that exchange participants are safe for the duration of the exchange. However, there are certain risks inherent to travelling and spending time in a foreign country. These risks include but may not be limited to the following:

- Risks associated with air travel
- Risks associated with travel by train and/or bus and/or taxi
- Risks associated with foot travel in an urban and suburban environment
*Note that in Japan, traffic travels on the left side of the road!
- Risks associated with geographic locations of the country
- Risks to personal security, and property security e.g. theft, loss of money and documents

Comprehensive travel insurance is included, but any additional insurance coverage must be paid by the student. Trip price does not include: excess baggage fees, baggage loss, charges for inoculations, items of personal nature such as laundry, travel expenses during the exchange.

CONTACT

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