

2014 IIME REPORT

Country [United States]

School [Scales Mound JHS] Teacher [Karen Kelly] grade (8) student number (14)

JP School [Otemon Otemae JHS] Teacher [Tetsuya Fukuda]

Subjects, Activities and Times of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Times
Social Studies	Geography of Japan	Chapter from text
Social Studies	Brief history of Japan	Chapter from text
Social Studies	Japan today – cultural understanding	1 week
Social Studies	Describing the United States culture (our views and how others view us)	2 days

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Cultural understanding
Message	Cultural understanding, important images or symbols of our country/community



Effects and the Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
The students have learned that teenagers are the same in others countries. They learned about food, games, and interests of our partner students. They also thought about the culture and symbols of their own country and how people view us. The students were very proud of the completed mural and are excited about the mural returning to Japan.	We do not have any suggestions. We think it is a wonderful, well run program

How has your impression toward your partner country and/or the world changed?

Change in student' s impression	Change in teacher' s impression
The students have a better understanding of other teenagers around the world. They found so many similarities in their interests and likes/dislikes.	I found that all teachers around the world are very busy and totally committed to their students education.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
Introduction	September	Posted messages on forum and mailed letters of introduction with pictures	Students were excited to read letters, writing letters and making cards for our partners.	Social Studies
Research	October	Taught textbook chapters on geography, history, and Japan today. Led a discussion activity on understanding the United States culture. Also shared my travel experiences in Japan (2009) Students created a video explaining ideas about the United States culture and then sent the youtube link to our partner school	Students were very interested in learning and comparing the culture of the United States to that of Japan.	Social Studies
Composition	October	We held a video conference to talk about the design and sent messages through forum	Students enjoyed the video conference and we had 100% participation	Social Studies / after school

Painting	January	Students as a group created our design ideas, then painted. A high school art student joined the students to give them instruction on painting to show shadows to create depth	Students learned a lot from the painting project. It was a great experience for 8 th grade students and high school students to work together. The high school students instructing on art techniques and the 8 th graders painting.	Social Studies
Appreciation Reflection	February	The completed mural hung in the hallway for students, teachers, and community to see. A newspaper reporter did a story about the mural, students, and program	We were sad to see the mural go. The community and teachers gave the students many good compliments	Social Studies

Aim of the Lessons and Result

Aim: Rank A to C in order you put emphasis on (A: very much/ B: much / C: not so much)

Result: Rank 5 to 1 (5: very effective / 4: effective / 3: so- so / 2: not so effective / 1: not effective at all)

Expected Effect	Aim	Result	How your students have reached it
Understanding our own cultures	A	5	Students analyzed our culture and how other people see us
Understanding the other's cultures	A	5	Students shared an understanding of culture through the 2 video conferences and sharing our favorite snacks with our partner school
Communication ability in the class/with partners	A	5	We used the forum, sent letters and cards, and did 2 video conferences
IT skills	C	3	Forum post were shared in class, students learning how to video conference
Creating friendship in the class/with partners	A	5	Working together, sharing our thoughts and feeling, writing letters, and cards
Collaboration in the class/with partners	A	5	Working together to make decisions about painting, video conferencing
Attitude in learning	A	5	Students were excited to learn about Japan and especially excited to meet our partner students through video conferencing
Expression ability	A	5	Encouraging each other, working closely with partners, and learning from our high school student teachers
Appreciation ability	A	5	Talking about the meaning of the painting and completing a beautiful masterpiece