

## 2017 IIME REPORT

Country/Region [ USA ]

School [John Adams Middle School] Teacher [ Jennifer Joyce ] Grade ( 7/8 ) Member ( 32 )

JP school [ Ashiya International Secondary School ] Teacher [ Chikako Sadamatsu ]

### # Subjects, Activities and Hours of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Hours
Visual Art	Conception of mural, sharing communication across forum, etc.	32
Visual Art	Painting	32

### # Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	“Oceans don’ t divide us”
Message United thoughts to share with the world	We feel as though we have a made a deep connection with our partner school through a lot of meaningful conversation. We share some of the same worries, concerns, likes, and dislikes despite being an ocean apart. Despite looking different, and living in a different culture, we are all human.



### # Effects and the Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
Communication skills, empathy, intensified understanding of the global connection among humans. Improved visual art strategies in conceptualization and collaboration. Improved visual art skills in composition, color theory, paint mixing, and skill in application techniques.	This was a very successful collaboration, and I would not change a thing other than our time difference which cannot be helped.

### # How has your impression toward your partner’ s country/region and the world changed?

Changes in the students	Changes in the teachers
Students felt a very close connection with our Japanese partners due to frequent pictures, video, and conversation. Our students are quite diverse, cultured, and cosmopolitan, so they came into this with a good foundation of understanding many of Japan’ s cultural similarities and differences with us.	Since I have participated for several years now, I finally became motivated enough to visit Japan. It has always been a dream of mine, but I finally pushed myself to plan for it. I will be visiting Viet Nam, and Japan over our Spring vacation. My friends and I will be in Japan the first week of April.

### # Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
MEET Self-introduction	Sep.- Oct.	We created videos, wrote introduction sheets and exchanged them back and forth.	They loved meeting the other students, seeing the videos, finding common interests, and seeing responses to their own videos and introductions	Art
SHARE Research on the theme	Oct.	We continued sharing videos and taking surveys with one another and were introduced to the "Tegami" song which inspired the design of the mural.	Our students were very moved by learning about the common worries we share and the song. Our students immediately began to envision a mural with paper airplanes or "letters" being shared between us.	Art
UNITE United message/ Mural design	Nov.	Our Japanese partners sent us a variety of theme ideas that they worked very hard on. We looked them over, voted and discussed options in order to come to a final decision about how to best word it in English	Because our students had such a strong attachment to the Tegami song, and felt so inspired, they easily came up with a layout plan for our side of the mural. We were able to share this with our Japanese partners and they were very excited about our work together.	Art
CREATE Mural painting	Feb.- Mar.	We painted our side of the mural and divided up the jobs very carefully. Some students were in charge of color mixing, others sketched the layout, and students divided into pairs or small groups to paint individual aspects of the mural.	Group work on this large scale type of project with so many people involved always pose challenges. It is always a great opportunity for students to learn how to work together, be kind and collaborative, supportive, and not an imposition. We have much to learn from Japanese culture in this capacity. Regardless of how students felt about the process, it is a valuable one. Once Complete, students were overall very satisfied with the final outcome.	Art
APPRECIATE Reflection/ Appreciation	Mar.	Hung the mural up at the front of the school for one day. Final reflections shared in class through personal and private surveys and essays, as well as class discussion. Sent the mural back with treats and notes from students.	Students were very proud of the work they accomplished. They felt like they worked on something very important and reflected on how it felt like they were sending a piece of themselves to our Japanese friends.	Art

### # Effect and evaluation gained through the collaborative learning

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

Expected effect	Evaluation	Scenes / points teachers felt the effects
Understanding your own cultures	5	Through video and constant contact with our partners on the forum, and discussing the similarities and differences we encountered.
Understanding your partner's cultures	5	The forum and internet access allowed us to dive deeply into the concepts we discussed.
Information literacy (research, share)	5	The Forum was a great way for us to interact.
Communication ability (interactive exchange)	5	We didn't encounter any technical issues and were very happy an active partner on the forum.
Critical thinking (objective, critical views)	5	We had many discussions and healthy debate on everything from topics, to the development of our plans, to the problems we encountered through the actual painting of the mural.
Active learning and action	5	Students were actively engaged at every point of the process.
Collaboration (in the class, with partners)	5	Always a learning process, students were guided through the process of working as a group (I teach this).
Expression ability (in words, in pictures)	5	Students were able to contribute in ways they felt confident. Some preferred to draw, paint, document, or organize. Everyone was involved, and everyone was appreciated for how they helped.
Appreciation ability (the mural, the whole collaborative learning)	3	While we wish we had more time to appreciate and share our work with our school as a whole, we had a very good experience with self-reflection.