



GLOBAL CLASSMATES

BY KIZUNA ACROSS CULTURES (KAC)

Fostering Global Perspective through Connected Classrooms

About Global Classmates



A digital Cultural & Language Exchange for students learning Japanese in the United States and students learning English in Japan.

Through students' interactions on an educational exchange website, the program promotes 1) cultural understanding, 2) collaborative language learning, and 3) fostering international friendship.

Since its launch in 2012: **18,500** participants



97 know more about cultures of their partner country

94% are more motivated to communicate in English/Japanese

95% have a stronger desire to visit their partner country

95% learned how to better get their point across

Program Activities



Online Interactions



Gift Exchange



Live Video Call

Program Flow and Brief Timeline



- Pre-screening and pair matching of participating schools are handled by KAC.
- We ask participating schools to provide students with internet connected devices and secure at least 1 hour every week in a classroom to engage in online interactions.

Teacher & Student Testimonials



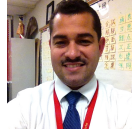
I could interact with people my age online and it was so much fun learning the cultural differences. I wasn't very interested in English class before, but now I look forward to it. (Student, Japan)



Their feelings of fear and nervousness towards international exchange and using English have disappeared and they started to have strong desires to express themselves in English. (Teacher, Japan)



Interacting with Japanese students made me want to learn more Japanese and communicate with people of different backgrounds. Talking daily with classmates from another country has allowed me to see how similar my peers are, despite differences in language and nationality. (Student, USA)



The program appeals to students' genuine curiosity and their interactions online with partner school students even builds a sense of community. Students are becoming truly international through the Global Classmates program. (Teacher, United States)

GC Summit: Summer Leadership Program

The Global Classmates Summit is a summer leadership program that brings together a group of 14 to 16 Japanese and American students competitively selected from over 2,000 Global Classmates Program participants.

Through discussions with international leaders and professionals, as well as workshops led by experts, students broaden their perspectives and deepen their thoughts on topics such as "The Role of Citizen Diplomacy," "Media Literacy," "AI and Journalism," "Diversity and International Society," and "U.S.-Japan Relations."



WILLIAM GARRETT - ILLINOIS

We had such interesting discussions and learned to listen openly to each other, and the guest speakers' talks were always really interesting. I think the connections and eye-opening experiences were what really made the Summit so great. I always wanted to study abroad in Japan, and attending this Summit only heightened those feelings for me.



KOKO INOUE - KYOTO

I absorbed a lot of ideas through engaging deeply with people from across the U.S. Everyone had such a wide variety of backgrounds, beliefs, and culture, yet I was happy that we connected through our differences more than our commonalities. I have gained confidence that I will be able to get along with many different people in the future, and I developed a desire to work internationally through in-depth conversations with speakers.



About Kizuna Across Cultures (KAC)

KAC is a non-profit organization established in Washington, D.C. by a group of Americans and Japanese inspired by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

KAC is drawing attention as a pioneer in developing a program model for foreign language classrooms in which students can communicate with native speakers in a real-life way via a digital exchange.

KAC supports teachers by proposing customized curricula, providing know-how on effective facilitation of digital exchanges, and continually working closely with teachers throughout the duration of the program.

You can find more about our program at:



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<http://KACultures.org>



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