

Press from:

The New Providence School District
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Subject: New Providence High School welcomes students from Koshi High School in Japan

The New Providence School District and the Fukui Board of Education in Japan are thrilled to be continuing their educational and cultural partnership established on October 28, 1994. In 2009, a partnership between New Providence High School and Fukui Prefectural Koshi High School was forged with the purpose of fostering international and intercultural relationships through the lens of the study of science.

Since its creation, the program has expanded to include multiple areas of interest in addition to science. The exchange encourages mutual participation in classes, creation of *gyotaku* fish stamping (Art), participating in physical education and cooking classes, a STEM Challenge, and interacting with American cultural booths delivered entirely in Japanese by NPHS sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

For only the second time since 2019, Koshi High School students visited New Providence on October 21st and 22nd this year. Approximately 28 Koshi students and two chaperones participated in the visit to New Providence High School, with New Providence High School students in Japanese 1, 2, 3 and AP hosting their counterparts. The exchange is organized by NPHS Japanese teacher, Mrs. Mitsuru Noguchi, with help from many other faculty and staff including Department Heads, Mrs. Leah Bromley, Mrs. Jennifer Florencio, Mr. Michael Santoro, Mrs. Jennifer Pasuit, and Mr. Byron Tracey.

Most of the NPHS students involved had a buddy from Koshi High School, and they showed great responsibility in supporting their buddies while engaging in meaningful cultural and language exchanges. This year, the Koshi students visited some of our students' homes for a "Home Visit," where they experienced being part of an American family. Both the Koshi and NPHS students had a memorable and enriching time.

The Home Visit provided a unique opportunity for the students to connect on a deeper level, not only strengthening their friendships but also enhancing their understanding of each other's cultures. Many students expressed how much they learned from sharing meals, practicing language skills in real-life settings, and gaining a firsthand perspective on family life in a different country. Overall, it was an invaluable experience that fostered lasting bonds and broadened their global perspectives.

In addition to their time spent at NPHS, Koshi students also explored American history and culture at the Salt Box Museum, organized by the NPHS Social Studies Department and hosted by the New Providence Historical Society.

The New Providence School District is proud to create and participate in programs such as the Fukui partnership, which provides students with life-changing and unique experiences, empowers them to forge international friendships and contacts, and fosters global awareness and understanding.





