



2025 Japanese Exchange Program

Part 1: Charlotte Christian hosts Yamate Gakuin
April 11-25, 2025

MISSION STATEMENT

Charlotte Christian School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory school, equipping and developing students to effectively integrate Biblical truth and learning into their daily lives and to impact the culture for Christ.



Charlotte Christian hosts Yamate Gakuin

Japanese Exchange Program

The Japanese Exchange Program is an annual student cultural exchange between [Yamate Gakuin High School](#) and several North American schools. Charlotte Christian School has participated in the exchange four times since 2012. The program is broken into two parts:

- **April:** Each YGHS junior class homeroom is hosted by a participating school either in the United States or Canada for a two week homestay. The students live in pairs with host families provided by the participating school. YGHS students are fully immersed in North American culture while also sharing Japanese culture with the host families and schools.
- **July:** Students from each North American school who hosted in April are invited to travel to Yokohama, Japan for a two week homestay. The students live in pairs with host families provided by YGHS. North American students are fully immersed in Japanese culture in this unique experience.

Yamate Gakuin High School

Yamate Gakuin Junior and High School is a privately owned junior high and high school located in Yokohama, Japan, approximately an hour from Tokyo. The school was founded in 1966 by a brother and sister living through the devastating aftermath of World War II with a desire to teach the next generation of students the importance of being friends, rather than enemies, with other countries. The annual exchange with North America is a graduation requirement for the students of Yamate Gakuin.

Why Charlotte Christian participates in the exchange program

Less than 3% of the Japanese population claim Christ as their Savior. The major religions in Japan are Buddhism, Shintoism, and no religion. Charlotte Christian first learned about Yamate Gakuin's exchange program in 2011 and decided this is a way for us to "impact the culture for Christ" as our mission statement reads. We have the unique opportunity to host around 40 students and their teacher chaperones on our campus and in our homes. We have two short weeks in April to not only immerse them in the American way of life but also show them God's love and teach them about Jesus. As part of Japanese culture of honor and respect for others, they do justice, love kindness and walk humbly, but they are missing the knowledge and understanding of the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Charlotte Christian School is the only participating Christian school, giving us the unique opportunity to share the Gospel. This year's exchange will happen during the Easter season, giving host families the opportunity to teach and celebrate our faith in a way that they probably would not experience in Japan. The upper school students who travel to Japan in July will gain a better understanding of Japanese culture, including their religions. The bond between the host families and the students can be a long-lasting, and sometimes life-changing relationship.



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Charlotte Christian families needed

This is a community event! Parents and students of all ages with welcoming hearts are needed to make this exchange a success:

Host Families

- Any Charlotte Christian family with current lower, middle or upper school students may sign up to host two Yamate Gakuin students (two male students or two female students).
- On school days, host parents will bring the visiting students to/from school as part of their regular routine.
- Host families are expected to provide a safe home environment, snacks and meals, and transportation. The two visiting students are allowed to stay in the same bedroom together, however, they may prefer separate beds or air mattresses.
- After school and on non-school days, host families will plan activities with their visiting students to give them an “American life” experience. Example activities include: church service, your family’s favorite places to eat and play around Charlotte, shopping, etc. Even visiting the grocery store is a culturally different experience. Weekend trips outside of Charlotte are allowed.
- [Click here](#) to sign up to be a host family. Middle and upper school students who host for two weeks will receive 18 service hours per week for a total of 36 service hours.

School day buddies

- Upper school students who are not hosting in their home may sign up to be a buddy to a Yamate Gakuin student while they are on campus. Yamate Gakuin students will be going on field trips and will be participating in several on-campus planned activities. Some days, they will be attending classes by shadowing current students.
- Buddies are expected to meet their student in the morning, take him/her to classes, eat lunch together, introduce them to their friends and classmates to make them feel welcome. Buddies will be notified regarding days/times the student will not be attending classes due to a field trip or other event and will be expected to make sure the student gets to the appropriate location.
- [Click here](#) to sign up to be a buddy to one visiting student. Buddies will receive 5 service hours per week for a total of 10 service hours.

In early spring, there will be a meeting for the host parents as well as a meeting for the upper school student buddies to go over final details. If you have any questions, please contact the Japanese Exchange Program coordinator:

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