

School Life with Everyone

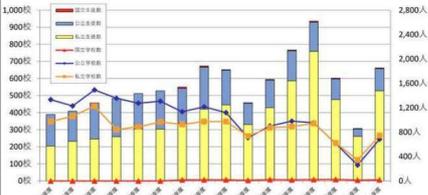
~Tutor System Of the students By the students For the students~

Ibaraki Prefectural Katsuta Secondary School



Current Situation

The number of exchange students and the number of schools accepting exchange students (longer than 3 month) ※1



※1 高等学校等における国際交流等の状況について (Page 10, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)

◆Lack of support for exchange students in high schools

Problems for exchange students
Language barrier
Cultural differences

Problems for schools

Students are unused to communicating with foreign people.
Teachers lack knowledge and experience.

Difficulties in understanding class and making relationships

Our Solution

Tutor System at our high school

◆3 purposes

Less anxiety for exchange students

More intercultural opportunities for JP students

Less burden for teachers

◆Details



-Time: April to June, 2025

-Place: Katsuta Secondary School

-Target: 3 exchange students from the Netherlands, Finland, and Italy
35 JP students (2nd to 5th grade)

5. Reflection

- Survey & Interview
- Discussion to better the system
- Guidebook

With multiple international students, I sometimes forget to contact them, but it's helpful that the tutors check in advance.

I was glad to see international students who were stiff with teachers but seemed happy to talk to students.

English teacher



1. Prep

- ① Get permission
 - ② Gather students
 - ③ Explanatory Meeting
- Select 3-4 tutors per exchange student

It's difficult for me to talk to exchange students by myself, so I thought this system was a good chance to try.

Japanese student

2. First Support

① Before school starts

Welcome exchange students

- Self introduction & exchanged contact information
- Show around the school
- Help picking school uniforms
- Explain the tutor system



② First Day of school

- Self introduction in each class
- Explain class schedule

Benefits for exchange students

Reduce the anxiety

I can imagine they would feel very anxious and overwhelmed. Do I get to make friends at school? Will the classes be hard? While getting hit with anxiety, this support by students would be a great relief for them.

JP student who studied in the US

○Cultural exchange events after school (once a month)

- Students from different grades join
- Quiz about Japan
- Presentation about each country
- Games (Fruit basket, treasure hunting, Traditional Japanese games)
- Eat & chitchat



Benefits for exchange students

- Make new friends
- Learn Japanese culture

They were super fun and creative. I learned many new things and met new people. It was the best experience of my life.

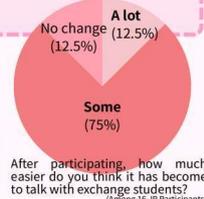


Benefits for JP students

- Communicate with exchange / Japanese students from different grades
- Learn different cultures

We tutors strengthened our own relationships by planning and running events every month.

It was interesting to know about different languages and customs.



○Support during daily life

- Talk to during break time
- Move to different classrooms together
- Teach Japanese
- Help communication with other classmates and teachers
- Share homeroom information in English
- Have lunch together
- Offer advice when they had difficulties with school / homestay life



Benefits for exchange students

Feel comfortable and enjoyable

The tutors were lovely and made me feel welcome from the very beginning. They helped me with everything and they were easy to talk to.

Exchange student

Benefits for JP students

- Get opportunities to interact with each other
- Become confident with their English

The exchange students taught me Italian language and culture, which let me step into a new world.

I gained confidence with my English when I made myself understood in English.

Japanese tutor students

4. Exchange Events

Effects

- Exchange students**
 - Enjoy school more with the supports of the tutors who they can talk to comfortably
 - Learn profound Japanese culture
- Japanese students**
 - Enjoy cultural exchange and gain diverse perspectives
 - Get motivated to learn foreign languages by using practical English
- Teachers**
 - Reduce their burden due to the support being mainly given by students themselves

School Life with Everyone

3. Daily Support

Future View

New problems	Solutions
Difficult to support during class: Balance of support and own study	Explanations in easy Japanese when exchange students ask. Prepare the English version of printout.
Fewer opportunities to communicate with non-tutor students	Tutors try to help exchange students and other classmates talk to each other. Change tutors regularly.
Lack of care and support for tutor students	Holding a meeting only for tutors once a month where they can share issues and advise to each other.

Goals

Continue this system as our school tradition.
→Promote to all high schools in Japan.