



VISTA MURRIETA HIGH SCHOOL | 28251 CLINTON KEITH RD. MURRIETA, CA 92563 | (951) 894-5750

Foreign exchange students experience VMHS culture

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VMHS welcomed 35 Japanese students and two teachers from Sasebo Minami High School, located in Nagasaki, Japan this month. ASB and Senate students introduced the students to the school and community by engaging in everyday activities with them. Each member of ASB showed their new Japanese student, and two teachers from Japan who accompanied them, around our campus. Senate and ASB students also had the chance to take one of their guests to class with them. The Japanese

students were able to see what a typical American classroom was like.

Over the week, each

ASB student had to find ways to break the 'language barrier'. Not many of our guests spoke fluent English, so at times it was challenging to communicate with each other. Nonetheless, it was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for VMHS. The program allows American and Japanese students

alike to see how different American schools are from Japanese schools, as well as the difference in our culture, clothing, music, and social scenes from a first person point of view.

**"American schools have more freedom."
-Mamiko Nakao**

For the Japanese students, it was an exciting experience. Even though not many spoke more than a few words of English, Mamiko Nakao, a sixteen year old Japanese sophomore, was fortunate enough to know

enough to express how much she enjoyed her experiences; and with the help of her Japanese translator she was able to explain how Japanese schools are different from American schools. In Japan, students wear uniforms year round. They are not allowed to wear make up or dye their hair.

"American schools [have more freedom.] You have good break times, where you can eat and talk, and I have made so many new friends here during lunch time. Everything is more free," said Mamiko Nakao, 10. Mamiko also loved the California weather. For nearly

all of the Japanese students, it was her first time visiting the United States.

VMHS said goodbye to its Japanese guests with a VMHS/Sasebo Minami Talent Show and Farewell Party on Friday, March 17th. Currently, VMHS is working to establish a sister-school program with Sasebo Minami School in Japan. With a good foundation established, we hope to continue the program for years to come. During the first week of spring break, VMHS students and staff members will have the opportunity to join the program and pay a visit to Sasebo Minami High school in Japan.