

BOARD SUMMARY CHARTER TRIP TO JAPAN

Background: This will be the eighth overseas trip for EDCOE’s Charter programs. This trip is open to juniors and seniors who are taking Japanese at either Charter University Prep (CUPrep) or Charter Connections Academy (CCA). On alternating years, we offer a trip to 8th and 9th grade students to Washington D.C. Completing pre-trip assignments, participation in the trip, and post trip assignments will count as one semester of high school Art History credit. Most students will also take one semester of Art History at school, thus earning a full year of UC a-g Fine Arts credits.

This year, we will take 19 students: 3 staff (Mike Harris, Vickie Phelan, and Joe Reichmann) and Stephanie Harris (Mike’s daughter, who has lived and worked as a Coordinator of International Relations for the Japanese government.) Mike Harris and Joe Reichmann will lead the trip, set the itinerary, and book all of the necessary hotels, planes, trains and venues. No tour company is used. All funds are processed through the Parent Booster Club account at Bank of America. Detailed invoices and receipts are posted in the class website and are open to inspection at any time.

Costs/Finances: Approximate cost is \$1,700 each, plus food. Costs will be paid for by students and their families, with assistance from group and individual fundraising efforts. Monies from fundraising are not used to provide direct financial support to staff or parent chaperones.

As in previous years, we will be using \$3,600 (\$1,200 per teacher) from Charter University Prep’s conference funds to reimburse teachers for airline and partial housing costs. Priority for supporting this enriching educational experience is highlighted in the Charter Alternative Programs Single Plan for Student Achievement. Individual staff members will be responsible for the remaining housing, food, venue, and other travel expenses of approximately \$800 each. Stephanie Harris’s costs will pay for her own costs.

A meeting last spring was held with students and parents to explain the trip and trip costs, fundraising options, and the payment timeline. No students were turned away due to finances or educational disability. The primary criteria were 1) student behavior record, 2) academic effort, and 3) willingness to work toward earning (at least some of) the funds to go on the trip.

Liability Information:

All students have signed the *Student Field Trip (outside California) Authorization forms* as prepared by SIA.

Parents Chaperones will:

- 1) Have signed SIA Chaperone Authorization forms as prepared by SIA
- 2) Pass fingerprint clearance according to EDCOE policy.

Housing: Students will stay in four-person dorm hostels or Hotels in Tokyo, Nagano, Mt. Fuji, Kyoto, and Hiroshima.

Communication: We have prepared an extensive, non-school website for the trip, where students and parents can log on from anywhere in the world to track our trip. Included are all reservations, directions, and itineraries for each day.

Itinerary (abridged):

Thursday, April 11th - Fly out of San Francisco: Chartered bus from Charles Brown Education Center in Placerville to SFO. Flight leaves SFO at 10:45 am.

Friday, April 12th - Arrive in Tokyo and take train to hostel approximately 3:00 pm: Check bags, then tour the Akihabara district. Akihabara is the home of electronics, Anime, and the latest fashions for young people. We will eat dinner and return to hostel area for the evening to de-jetlag.

Saturday, April 13th - Day trip in Tokyo: We will drop off our luggage at Tokyo station and spend the day touring the sites in Tokyo, using the subway system. We will tour the Imperial Palace, visit the statue of Godzilla, and enjoy some of the temples and shrines in the Old district. In the late afternoon, we will take a train to Nagano, where we will be staying in a traditional Ryokan. Rooms are laid out as open spaces on Tatami mats, with roll up bedding.

Sunday, April 14th - This day is a day to visit Nagano, including Matsumoto Castle and the city of Ueda, including shopping and residential areas typical of rural Japan. We will meet staff and some students from our sister school, Ueda Nishi High School, and renew friendships made when they stayed in Placerville last year.

Monday, April 15th - Students and chaperones will spend most of the day at Ueda Nishi High School where they will participate in classes, share with the student body in an assembly, and participate in club activities. Students will spend the night as singles or in pairs at homes of students.

Tuesday, April 16th - Train early to Tokyo, pick up/exchange some luggage at Tokyo station and take a train to Mt. Fuji. For most of the afternoon and evening, we will be at Fuji Q amusement park riding roller coasters and enjoying the view of Mt. Fuji. We will stay in a hostel in Fuji that evening.

Wednesday, April 17th - Take a train to Tokyo to retrieve luggage and transfer to a bullet train to Kyoto. In Kyoto, we will tour the town and visit the amazing Zen Buddhist Kinkakuji (Golden Temple), and Ginkakuji (Silver Temple).

Thursday, April 18th - We will take an hour train out to Nara, where the Todai-ji rests. This is the largest wooden building in the world and houses a giant Buddha statue. The area is surrounded by a beautiful park as well as Kasuga-taisha, a Shinto shrine dating back to 700 AD.

Friday, April 19th - Take the train to Hiroshima. On the way, we will stop at Himeji Castle for lunch and donuts. Himeji Castle (The White Heron Castle) is an immaculate fort built in 1333 AD with a beautiful multi-storied keep on the top of a mountain. We will continue on in the afternoon to Hiroshima where we will visit the Peace Park in the evening where the WWII atomic bomb was detonated.

Saturday, April 20th - We will spend the morning at the Peace Museum and park, then walk to a local open mall for lunch. During the afternoon, we will shop and perhaps visit Hiroshima Castle.

Sunday, April 21st - We will take the bullet train back to Kyoto, stop for lunch and pick up our luggage, then take another train to Tokyo where we will spend our last night at our Akihabara Hostel. We plan to attend a professional baseball game in Tokyo Sunday evening.

Monday, April 22nd - Check out of the Hostel and take trains to the airport. Arrive in San Francisco 9 am. We will take a charter bus back to the school from the airport, arriving at 2 pm.