**Miyoshi Friendship Ambassadors Call-Out!!**

Dear Parents,

 I am delighted to tell you that **20** students from Columbus North and Columbus East High School will have the opportunity to travel to Japan and visit our sister city of Miyoshi and visit some of the famous sites in Japan. Students will have the opportunity to visit Japanese schools, experience a home stay, and be immersed in the Japanese language and culture. In order for students and families to have sufficient time to gather funds, we open the application process in February. That gives us 15 months to prepare for going to Japan!

# Selection Criteria

The final selection of participants and alternates will be made the selection committee, which consists of Janice Montgomery, Sandi Smith, Tim Lax, and myself. All are former Miyoshi Educational Ambassadors and have either led or participated in our previous trips to Miyoshi.

 **Students who meet the following criteria are qualified to apply.**

1. Enrolled in Japanese 2/3/4/AP for the coming school year
2. In grades 10-12
3. Have no prior travel experience to Japan

Additionally, the following qualities are expected from the participants.

 Students who have showed excellent performances in Japanese class (B- or better)

 who are in good standing at their respective high school

 who are emotionally mature

 who are respected by peers and teachers

 who have a strong leadership skills

 who have a self-confidence

 who behave properly

 who are considerate of others

 who can collaborate with others

 who are in good health

 who are able to attend all trip meetings and cultural preparation workshops

**Responsibilities for Students Include:**

* The students must participate in group-planned fund-raising activities (or opt out entirely)
* The students must agree to attend pre-departure orientation meetings (1-2 a month)
* The students must agree to participate in an immersion activity
* The students must agree to abide by all rules and regulations of the program and of their respective school and country while abroad (all school guidelines apply though this is not an official school trip)
* The students must agree to participate in a community awareness activity related to the program upon return during the summer of 2014

 **All the students applying for the program must complete:**

1. Application and Application Essays
2. Personal Information Sheet
3. Two personal references (to be completed by teachers or employers)

## Deadline: Friday, March 10th

**Trip Costs**

Costs will vary depending on the selection and design of fundraising activities, the cost of jet fuel, and the current climate regarding international travel. We will be using a company called New Perspectives: Japan, who has charged around $4000 for the two week journey for the past couple of years. This charge did not include daily spending money (which we usually recommend to be about $50 a day) but did include airfare, accommodation, transportation, breakfast, and dinner for the duration of the trip.

**Trip Plans**

While we as a group will not be able to change our plans regarding exactly what cities we will visit (Kyoto and Tokyo), students will be able to provide substantial input in regards to what places we visit in these cities. Students can also opt to visit Nara or Osaka.

**Contact Information**

Please contact me with any questions or concerns or for a copy of the application packet at 376-4431 or by email at bayse@bcsc.k12.in.us) Applications can also be downloaded from my school webpage which can be reached by clicking on the faculty link off the North HS homepage or at <http://www.bcsc.k12.in.us/Domain/333>. Once you are on my Japanese page, click on the Sister City page on the left side of your screen.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bays

Japanese Language Teacher

Columbus North High School