

2025.March

アメリカ短期留学体験レポート

このレポートは、BD で英語を学び始め、継続して学び、自分の英語力を試すために Odyssey Middle School で、授業を受け、一人一人違うホストファミリーと過ごす環境の中で体験したことを自分の言葉で書いたものです。

<Odyssey 校長からのコメント>

Hi Yumi,

Thank you very much for sharing the reports and the photo album. I found them very sweet. **I continue to be impressed with your student's openness and ability to express themselves in English.**

Yes, I think it would be nice to reprise your visit next spring with 4-5 students. I won't be able to work on any details right now because I'm leaving for Japan in one day and will be running the trip there for the next three week (which is quickly followed by another expedition upon my return and then graduation). However, during the autumn I would be happy to discuss plans. I think we can safely "pencil in" something that is similar to this year (i.e. early or mid March).

In the meantime, I hope this finds you and your students well. Please tell them that I enjoyed reading their reports and that they left a positive impression with our students and teachers alike.

It was nice to meet you and your daughter. I'm glad you were able to visit Palo Alto again after the long interval.

Best wishes,

Jon

Eiichi Koshiji

2025/4/30

Landing in San Francisco, I felt nervous. I'd never been to a Western country, and my only impression of the U.S. came from YouTube — some good, some bad. I was worried about racism, theft, and drugs. But all those fears vanished the second we arrived at school. Chase and his friends welcomed me instantly, throwing a football around like we'd known each other forever. I realized America might not be what I expected — maybe it would be fun.

After a class with the 7th graders, I met my host mom. She was shocked at how well I spoke English, especially because their last homestay student couldn't speak much. She had even learned some Japanese just in case! On the ride home, she gave me See's chocolates (which we don't have in Japan), and I told her I brought some gifts too — fake food items that give off Japanese vibes. Fake sushi for mom, fake pancake for the sister, a fake half-eaten burger and nunchucks for Chase, and a wooden katana for dad. They all loved them.

Even after the long flight, Chase wanted to hit the gym. We worked out, played a basketball game with his coach (they were way better than me), and later met up with dad. He loved the katana and joked about taking it to work. That night, Chase and I chilled in his gaming hangout spot, got to know each other more, and played Roblox. I found out I was the only homestay still awake that late — kind of proud of that.

For dinner, mom made pasta. It was great sitting down with almost the full family (still hadn't met the sister). After a long but awesome day, I finally crashed.

Day two, I woke up with full energy. I was no longer nervous about school. We went to this random gym spot, which confused me, but Jon explained that's where the school does morning fitness. I didn't have gym gear, so I just waited. When the school bus came, I was hyped to see Chase and meet his friends. I connected with everyone pretty quickly and was surprised to learn students call teachers by their first names — in Japan, that would never fly. It felt more casual and made teachers easier to talk to. Also, classes at Odyssey were harder than I expected, especially history — I hadn't studied much about the American Civil War.

During lunch, I played football (American football!) for the first time. I couldn't throw straight, but nobody cared — they just let me play. After school, mom picked us up but made a pit stop at the store. I got Feastables and Prime, which I was dying to try. Feastables were good, Prime... not so much.

That evening, Chase's family took me out for sushi. It was crazy expensive compared to Japan — uni was \$30 a plate! I didn't order it because I felt bad already. Afterward, we hit Target to grab some JoyRide candy. In the parking lot, we saw a homeless man playing guitar. Chase and I gave him a few dollars. In Japan, people rarely approach the homeless, so it was cool to see this kind of open kindness in the U.S.

Thursday morning, we had a classic American breakfast: muffins, berries, sausage, and milk. Turns out, everyone in the family cooks — even Chase. He promised to grill his famous steak that night. At school, it was another wait at the gym, then off to class. After lunch, there was a biking class. I can't ride a bike, so I was going to walk alone until Luka (who also can't bike) joined me. We talked about music, memes, and bonded a bit — in English, not Japanese.

Later, dad picked me up in a *Corvette* — a straight-up supercar. I never expected to ride in something like that. When Chase got home from his dentist appointment, he started grilling the steak. While waiting, I played with their dog, Herly, who kept begging for food. Once the steak was ready, it tasted like a 5-star restaurant meal. Even Herly got some leftovers and went wild. We ended the night relaxing and hanging out.

Friday was the last school day. After the usual wait and morning classes, we had an elective where we made a graduation video. I helped Chase, Luka, Kedar, and Gabriel film a goofy treasure-hunting skit with costumes and fights — even got into a blooper! It was a fun way to finish off the week.

In the final elective, since I couldn't bike, I chose cooking with Albert, Gabriel, and Luka. We made cheeseburgers, and even though I messed up a few steps, it still tasted good. But I regretted it later when Chase took me out for more food. First, we hit a pizza place. I got my first taste of the dreaded tipping screen: "How much would you like to tip?" — 0%, 5%, 10%, 25%. It was stressful, and I chose 0% to save money, but it felt awkward. In Japan, tipping isn't a thing.

Next stop was Five Guys. I had never been there before, so I got a burger, fries, and a milkshake. It was all good, but I was super full. Still, the whole week was filled with moments like this — new experiences, food, people, and surprises I never expected.

This week gave me a completely different image of America — one that was kind, open, and fun. I'm so glad I pushed through the jet lag and culture shock because every day was full of memories I'll never forget.

On Saturday and Sunday, I stayed with my host family and didn't go to school. I went to San Francisco, Pier 39 with Chase, then at night went to Laser Tag with the friend group and got WingStop. Overall it was relaxed, and I spent time with everyone. We visited some local places and just enjoyed the weekend together before I left. It was a chill and emotional ending to the week.

Himari Yamada

2025/4/26

Trip Report

Hello! I'm Himari. I will talk about the things I thought and felt in the US. A long story short, I had a wonderful time in the house and school. I made many friends.

The good things about my host family was when I overslept on a weekend. They had to go to a lesson, but they didn't want to wake me up, so my mom and sister left my breakfast with a message next to it, on the table. I was really happy when I woke up. Another thing is that mom told me to "Help yourself" several times when I was feeling tired. That way I didn't need to hesitate to ask mom if it's okay to eat snacks. I was glad.

There were a couple of things that I wanted to do including family and school. For family, I wanted to have even a little homework and do it with my siblings. I also wanted to know when and how they study. I wanted to sleep with my family or siblings, too. For school, I needed more of my own knowledge. I was studying math with the 8 graders and Soji, from Blue Dolphins, was in the same class. We were studying about cubic function and he knew what it was. Honestly I had no idea what we were doing although Jon, the math teacher taught us an easy way to understand using graph and pictures. I think I was the only one who didn't understand what was going on and I had a question mark over my head. I was sad, so I should've done a little research what eighth grade or ninth grade usually study. Another thing is I wanted to try the math test even if it was difficult. I could've said that I want one, but I missed my chance and I had nothing to do. I think it is a good thing to do the things that other people are doing. Even though if you couldn't do it well, it is a good thing to try and see what they are doing.

I was surprised by a few things. First, about the subjects in Japan. There are at about 10 subjects, but in this school, there were less than 10. I thought the subjects were not a lot, so I guess we could study deeply in each subjects. Another surprising thing was how much difficult the subject was. The study in the subjects were harder than Japanese schools' eight grade studies.

There were happy things, too. For example, when I got to school, the students surrounded us even though it was lunchtime. Also I was happy because my mom made me lunch every day and my dad gave me one of his cap. I was glad. The home felt comfortable and felt like home. I was happy because my mom and sisters and brother took me to San Francisco on the weekend. I ate a thing called sour bread. It was sour and a little bit hard. I went to a restaurant and ate clam

chowder, too. There, I met my host sister's grandmother and grandfather. I love gratin, and it was similar to clam chowder, so clam chowder became one of my favorite food.

But there are things that I was sad or disappointed about myself. One, carsick. I knew I would get carsick, but I didn't bring my medicine, so I didn't have the best time. Another thing was food. I couldn't eat as much as my family. I couldn't eat the food even though they say it is delicious and try to share with me because I would throw up in the car getting home if I ate it. I was sad.

The thing that I couldn't do is help my host sister's mom. I should've asked her "Mom, do you need anything?" I now think that for the first time I met my parents, I should've said "Mom, dad, please tell me when you need a hand." Then maybe we would feel better for each other.

In class, I studied seven subjects. The first subject I want to talk about is social studies. In social studies, the teacher was Jake. The students were using computers to take notes. Two students, Logan and Paul talked about what they know and shared to Jake and all of us. In science we did an experiment using fire and steel wool. The students needed to cooperate with each other although we can sit on any seats. The teacher walked around the classroom and asked the answer from each groups. In Japanese, we(exchange students) presented about Japan. I did a presentation about *kimekomi* dolls while everyone was eating onigiri (rice balls) and miso soup, so I was nervous. But during that time, everyone listened carefully to my presentation and clapped after my presentation. I was very glad. The teachers were Saki and Yoko. I was happy that I could eat Japanese food, too. In art, the teacher was Jan. The class was peaceful. The eighth grade were making a yearbook, so Sara and I drew pictures together. In fine art, the teacher was Michelle. Lia(my host sister) was researching about mohave bay squirrels, so I was reading the site and searching words that I didn't understand. In SEL(Social Emotion Learning), we sat on a big carpet. The teacher was Lisa. First we did an introducing game with cards. After that, the students started working on their own projects. Some of them were using computers , and Sara and I didn't want to distract them, so we played card games. I could relax in SEL. I really thought that I wanted this type of class in my school, too. The study in Blue Dolphins and after class helped me a lot with English, so I didn't have any problems using basic conversation.

Now, my host sisters and I message each other really often. I am really happy that I am still the part of my host family. The bond between the host family deepened. I can't describe this experience in one word. I thank my host family for taking care of me. I also thank the teachers and friends in Odyssey for talking and welcoming me. I thank Ms Yumi, Ms Ai, Mr Ishikawa, and my parents for everything. I hope I don't forget this experience going to the US and the school.

Soji Tsukada

2025/4/24

Odyssey School

I went to Odyssey school from March 25 to March 31 (In Japan's time). When I have arrived, I was welcomed by principle and 2students from Odyssey in the airport and felt like "I was in America" since everything was bigger than I thought it will be (ex. car, house and pine corn). At school I have learned many things like the chemical reaction's equation and why the wight of the steel wool got heavier than before after burning it, or in mathematics class where I have learned about the graph of $\sin(x)$ and irrational numbers which was very fun. I could enjoy all different classes but particularly enjoyed these two classes the most. With students in Odyssey, I have made some friends and one of the student was interested in Mars which was surprising for me since although I like space and astrology, many people where not interested in those subjects as me where he and I could enjoy talking about it. I was also very surprised with the fact that there was "homework helping club" in Odyssey and also served some snacks that would be considered as one of the things I never had/saw in Japan.

At homestay, I could stay with at least one of the best family in the world. They were very nice to me and shown me different culture like food, drink, etc. In addition, they have bought me some smoothies and other things in America that was very different size, shape and taste but was very delicious. They also let me to go to a restaurant and the food there was also delicious I could also go to my host brother's club with me and did: tennis, music band and debating. I enjoyed all the clubs and learned things like how to "smash" in tennis or how to use

story to convince people when debating. On the last day, which was free day, I have gone to science museum, golden gate bridge (which I have walked back and forth) and pier 39 where there are restaurants selling some clam chowder. I could also ride on Waymo the automatic car and was very unique and interesting to see how the wheel turned around itself.

As a conclusion, it was very quick that this all happened. I personally felt I wanted to stay with my host family. In fact, was actually talking about how to extend the deadline of returning to Japan by deliberately missing the flight, which of course, I didn't. But I have learned about America's culture and could enjoy visiting there. If I had another chance to visit America I would like to go there again.

Sara Shioura

2025/4/17

San Francisco

I went on a trip to San Francisco for about a week. It was my first time to go to the US alone, and it was incredible. I was looking forward to it since about half a year ago. When I got on the plane, I was so excited!

After the 9 hour flight, I was very sleepy because it was still two pm in Japan. I was nervous too, but Mr. John, principal of Odyssey and two 8th graders were waiting for us at the airport and they were so nice. I enjoyed the drive from the airport to Odyssey, because there were so many different things from Japan. The day we arrived, it was a nice weather. When we arrived at Odyssey, everyone welcomed us, and they were very nice. They were having lunchtime. We had sushi rolls that Mr. John prepared for us. I played volleyball with my host sister "Emily" and her friends after we finished eating. Everyone did nice teamwork and it was fun playing with them. After lunchtime, we went hiking with the seventh graders. It was so exciting. We could see so many plants that grow only in California. When we reached the top, we could see an awesome view. We could see San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge too. It was awesome. The seventh graders explained to us what we can see, and it was interesting. When we came down, we played a game in the playgrounds. I don't remember the name of the game, but it was something like tag. It was fun chasing and being chased by the kids in Odyssey. We could eat snacks, such as crackers and oranges after we got back while waiting for Emily's mom to pick us up.

At home, I made chocolate brownies with Emily. We licked a lot of chocolate from the bowl when we finished. The brownies we made were delicious and I loved them. We ate it with vanilla ice cream. At night, I couldn't sleep because I heard a strange. I was really scared and I started crying, but I didn't want to wake up Emily. Eventually, I woke her up, but she was so kind to me and gave me some water. That strange voice was their dog Stella, and I could go to bed after that. I was so relieved that Emily was sleeping in the same room, and understood me.

The next day at school, I introduced about cherry blossoms to the class and gave them Sakura mochi which I bought in Japan two days before leaving. At lunch, I ate meatballs. It was delicious. For dinner, we had homemade meat sauce pasta. It was my first time to eat pasta made by an Italian, and it was so good! I love meat sauce pasta, so I was really happy.

The next day, the eighth graders went biking in the mountains, but they didn't have enough bike, so we walked. It was nice walking in the nature and it was refreshing. We could see beautiful views and wild animals that we saw for the first time, and I really enjoyed it. For dinner, we had 3 pizzas. Two of them were pizzas that Emily's dad made, and one was the pizza they bought at the store. I prefer Emily's dad's homemade pizza than the pizza they bought at the store. When he was making the second pizza, he let us help him. We spread the oil and the tomato sauce and put cheese and ham. It was my first time making a pizza, and it was fun. The next day was the last day for me to go to Odyssey, and I was sad.

On Saturday, I went to San Francisco with Emily and her mom. We first went to see the Golden Gate Bridge. After that, we went to eat gelato. I ate vanilla and mango flavored gelato. It was delicious. I went to Laser Max with Emily and some of her classmate. We played two times, but before that, we went to a big grocery store. Emily found a blanket that she wanted, so I bought it for her because I wanted to thank her and give her a present. I also bought souvenirs for my friends and family in Japan. We lost the boys so we just head to a fast food restaurant called "Wingstop" for dinner. We ordered a set with chicken and French fries. It was delicious and we were chatting, but then realized it was time for Laser tag. We asked the staff if we could take out the foods. We were able to get there on time, and enjoy the game. It was darker and spookier than I imagined. There were about 30 players and I was 6th place! Emily was 5th place, so I hit her a lot in the second game. I hit Abby too because she was always with Emily. We ate the foods we bought at "Wingstop" outside after Laser tag. We took selfies and chat a lot. I really had fun hanging out with them. It was also my first time to hang out with American kids.

Odysseys is a small school, so everyone was close with everyone unlike my school, and I really loved it. It has been my dream to go to a school in America, so I am very happy!

Nozomi Konishi

2025/4/27

Study Abroad

I study abroad San Francisco in America. My host family were very kind. 7th grade students are so kind and very funny. Students are proactive at class. Math is very hard to me. However, my friend and host sister teach me math politely. Also I was surprised that everyone in Japanese class was interested about Japan. I especially got a lot of surprise when I showed my Japanese calligraphy. They were interested in Japan even out side class. For example movie comic books and so on. After school I went bowling with my school's friends. It was so fun because of very exciting. Also I went to fencing lesson with host sister and her sister. I made friends there too. I went to art shop on another days after school. The staff at there asked me lots of questions about Japan and it was fun.

While study abroad, spend time without any regrets. I learn how to respond to pronounce words. However, I could have every day conversation, often couldn't understand what the teacher saying in class, so I reread I needed to improve my vocabulary.