Application Considerations for Michigan Students

Students and parents must attend the orientation meeting in March, held at Michigan State University.

Michigan students will depart from and arrive at Capitol City Airport in Lansing.

Families of selected students must host a Japanese student for two weeks in September.

Michigan families must arrange to meet their Japanese students and attend the Farewell reception in Lansing.

The high school attended by the Michigan student must be willing to welcome a Japanese student to its classes for two weeks in September.

Previous study of Japanese language on the part of the applicant is helpful, but not necessary.

The cost per student is $2600*, to be paid after acceptance into the program.

*This fee includes round trip airfare, so this is an estimated cost, which may be subject to change due to fluctuations in flight costs.
Background Information
In 1968 Michigan and Shiga Prefecture in Japan became sister states. Through that partnership many exchanges have taken place involving teachers, community members and students. Michigan currently has 13 sister cities within Shiga Prefecture. The Michigan Department of Education and the Shiga Board of Education initiated the Michigan-Shiga Student Exchange Program in 1990.

“How in a global economy, education is especially important. In Michigan, we are excited to be educating citizens of the world. The cross cultural exchange our young people experience at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities is important for us both.”
~ Governor Jennifer Granholm (7/26/2005)

How the Program Works
• Twenty high school students, currently in grades 9 to 11, are chosen to represent the State of Michigan.

• Twenty Shiga high school students are selected and paired with the Michigan students, based on similar interests.

• During the summer the Michigan students visit Shiga, Japan for two weeks. Each stays with a Japanese student and family, attends school and participates in their daily lives.

• The Japanese students travel to Michigan for two weeks in September. Each stays with the family of the Michigan student who stayed with him/her during the summer and attends school with that student.

• Applicants should be open-minded, flexible, willing to accept new challenges and ready for rewarding experiences.

Timeline
2-08-08 Applications must be postmarked by this date
2-27-08 Michigan candidates notified of their status
3-07-08 Overnight orientation for Michigan candidates at Michigan State University
3-08-08 Orientation for candidates and parents at Michigan State University
6-25-08 Michigan students leave Michigan for Shiga, Japan
6-26-08 Michigan students arrive in Shiga
6-27-08 Michigan students meet their Shiga host families
7-11-08 Michigan students depart Shiga
7-11-08 Michigan students arrive in Michigan
9-04-08 Shiga students arrive in Michigan
9-05-08 Michigan families meet Shiga students at Michigan State University
9-22-08 Farewell Reception in Lansing for Shiga students and their host families
9-21-08 Shiga students leave for Japan

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE OR FROM OUR WEB SITE http://www.msu.edu/user/gifted/shiga/index.htm OR CALL THE OFFICE OF GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION AT MSU: 517.432.2129