

# Students to Japan Program

By Casey Whitehurst, WDMS Principal

Attention current 7th and 8th grade students and families interested in going to Japan during the summer of 2022:

Students to Japan is an exchange program that has been in the School District of Wisconsin Dells for the past 30 years. This program is set up to take students and chaperones to Japan during late June and into early July. The next upcoming trip will occur during the summer of 2022.

The program travels for approximately fourteen days, visiting places like Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima. There is also a 6-day home visit in Iwaizumi. Families are responsible for all spending money, passports, and the cost of the trip itself, which is approximately \$4,500. A payment schedule is set up to help families with the cost, and it must be followed. In addition, attending meetings and following trip requirements is mandatory.

Applications for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity are in the main office of the middle school. Applicants to the program will commit to the full selection process that includes the following:

1. Written essay
2. References
3. Questionnaire, and
4. Face-to-face interviews

The selection of students to be a part of this program is done by a committee consisting of teachers, school board members, and other members of our community. The committee uses the written portion, references, and the interviews to make the final selection of candidates to travel to Japan. Interviews for applicants will be conducted before the end of this school year.

If you have any questions about the Students to Japan program, please direct those to Jim McClyman. Jim can be contacted by email at [jimcclyman@charter.net](mailto:jimcclyman@charter.net), or by phone at (608) 844-0854.

