

## Partnership Agreement between Fukuyama Seishikan Senior High School and Amalie Skram High School

Fukuyama Seishikan Senior High School (FS) in Fukuyama, Japan and Amalie Skram High School (AS) in Bergen, Norway hereby enter into a partnership agreement with the aim of developing a close collaboration between the two schools.

FS and AS both aim to focus on internationalization and globalization. Against this backdrop the schools would like to develop a partnership to help students from both schools become better acquainted with other cultures. This will be achieved through student exchanges.

The overriding objective is to annually provide a reciprocal student exchange program, where one student from each school conducts an entire school year at the friendship school. However, student exchange may be shorter visits by groups of students together with their teacher at the friendship school.

The goal of this exchange is to inspire young students to a global mindset. Today's young people will in the future participate in an increasingly international workforce in a globalized world. To build relationships and friendships across borders and cultures will create ties and skills that are crucial for young people.

Fukuyama Seishikan Senior High School

Amalie Skram



Katsunori Furumae  
Principal Fukuyama Seishikan Senior High School



Bjørn Lyngedal  
Principal Amalie Skram

The annual exchange should take the following points into consideration:

### **Exchange students must**

- Be motivated for a different school year
- Be realistic about possible negative consequences and have the ability to adapt to a new environment
- Be aware that they are going to a country with other norms and rules than their own country. They must be able to show respect for the norms and rules of the host country
- Must follow the rules that apply at the school
- Must be able to express clearly why they want to travel to Norway / Japan
- Have financial means to cover expenses as an exchange student. Norwegian students may apply for funding through the State Educational Loan Fund
- Be in reasonably good health

### **The Responsibility of the Host School (HS):**

- The schools (HS) will have the overall responsibility to help and guide students if they need it
- The school (HS) ensures that there is a contact person with whom the student can have weekly contact. The contact person should guide the student and help with practical matters that may arise
- Schools should facilitate a successful stay for the student, as far as possible
- The school (HS) provides an adapted schedule for the student
- The school (HS) writes a letter of invitation to be used as an attachment to the visa application
- The school (HS) finds a suitable host family who has roughly the same interests and values as the exchange student
- In the duration of the exchange period, schools need to stay in regular contact, both to build experience in the exchange process, but also to regularly check how the exchange students are progressing
- If insoluble challenges / problems arise, the school in the student's home country should be contacted. The two schools together with the student and their parents try to find a solution. If this does not succeed, the school (HS) is responsible for helping the exchange student return to their country of origin

### **Host Family**

- Must have a genuine interest in young people with a different cultural background and in welcoming such a person into their home
- Must be able to supervise the student as needed in different situations
- The student is a family member in the year, he / she lives in the family. This means that the exchange student should have the similar duties as other members of the host family of the same age, and otherwise abide by the rules that apply in the household
- The exchange student will take part in family life and be a natural participant in various family celebrations throughout the year. During holidays the exchange student should be with the host family to gain insight into a new culture
- **If possible and convenient, students from each school may “swap families” for a year**

### **Language skills**

- It is not expected that the student has knowledge of Norwegian or Japanese. To reduce difficulties with the language in the initial phase, the student must be offered a basic course in Norwegian / Japanese upon arrival
- It will be of great help if students initially can communicate in English

### **Finances**

- The school (HS) will provide free schooling and necessary school supplies
- Students and their families provide pocket money themselves
- Students should pay for field trips or travels in the country they visit themselves
- Students may have to pay a monthly amount to the host family in the equivalent of max 30000Yen /NOK 2000. This should be sufficient to cover food and other expenses in the host family
- Exchange Student from Norway may seek financial support from the State Educational Loan Fund for scholarships / loans

### **Insurance**

- The student must ensure that insurance regarding illness / injury requiring treatment / hospitalization is in order.

### **Visas**

- The student is responsible for applying for a visa, and securing a valid visa before travelling. The invitation letter from the school should be attached

**Approval of the agreement**

Seishikan Senior High School and Amalie Skram High School are responsible for the approval of this agreement by suitable authorities in their own respective countries.