

# 2020 5th Grade Cultural Exchange to Japan



Parent Meeting  
October 7, 2019

*Portland Public Schools does not fund, sponsor, or endorse this travel study program. The District is not responsible for conducting or supervising this trip. Portland Public School employees who participate in travel study programs are not acting in their capacity as District employees and do so at their own risk. Students participating in travel study programs do so at their own risk.*

# WELCOME!

**If you haven't already, PLEASE, sign up  
the 5th Grade Trip Google group!**

Email Saori Clark at  
[5Gculturalexchange@oyanokai.org](mailto:5Gculturalexchange@oyanokai.org)

This will be the primary form of communications for the trip.

# Tonight's Agenda

- Cultural Exchange Background
- Trip Planning Committee
- Exchange Goals
- Locations
- Costs
- Trip Readiness
- Paperwork and Expectations
- Next Steps

# Cultural Exchange Background

- Sponsored by Oya No Kai, Inc.
- First cultural exchange was in 1995
  - Fewer than 20 students
  - Now 80+, need 3 itineraries
- Reciprocal exchanges in Japan
- Not PPS/ school trip - parent volunteer lead

# Trip Planning Committee

- ONK Coordinators
  - Saori Clark
  - Yoko Niki-Breyfogle
- Trip Planning Committee
  - Shuli Rutzick and Jen Dahlin, Parent Leads
  - Parent Volunteers
- Trip Directors (one on each itinerary)
  - Japanese language teachers

# Cultural Exchange Goals

- Opportunity to use language skills and cultural knowledge in a “natural setting”
- Provide an authentic cultural experience
- Stay in a Japanese home
- Experience Japanese school

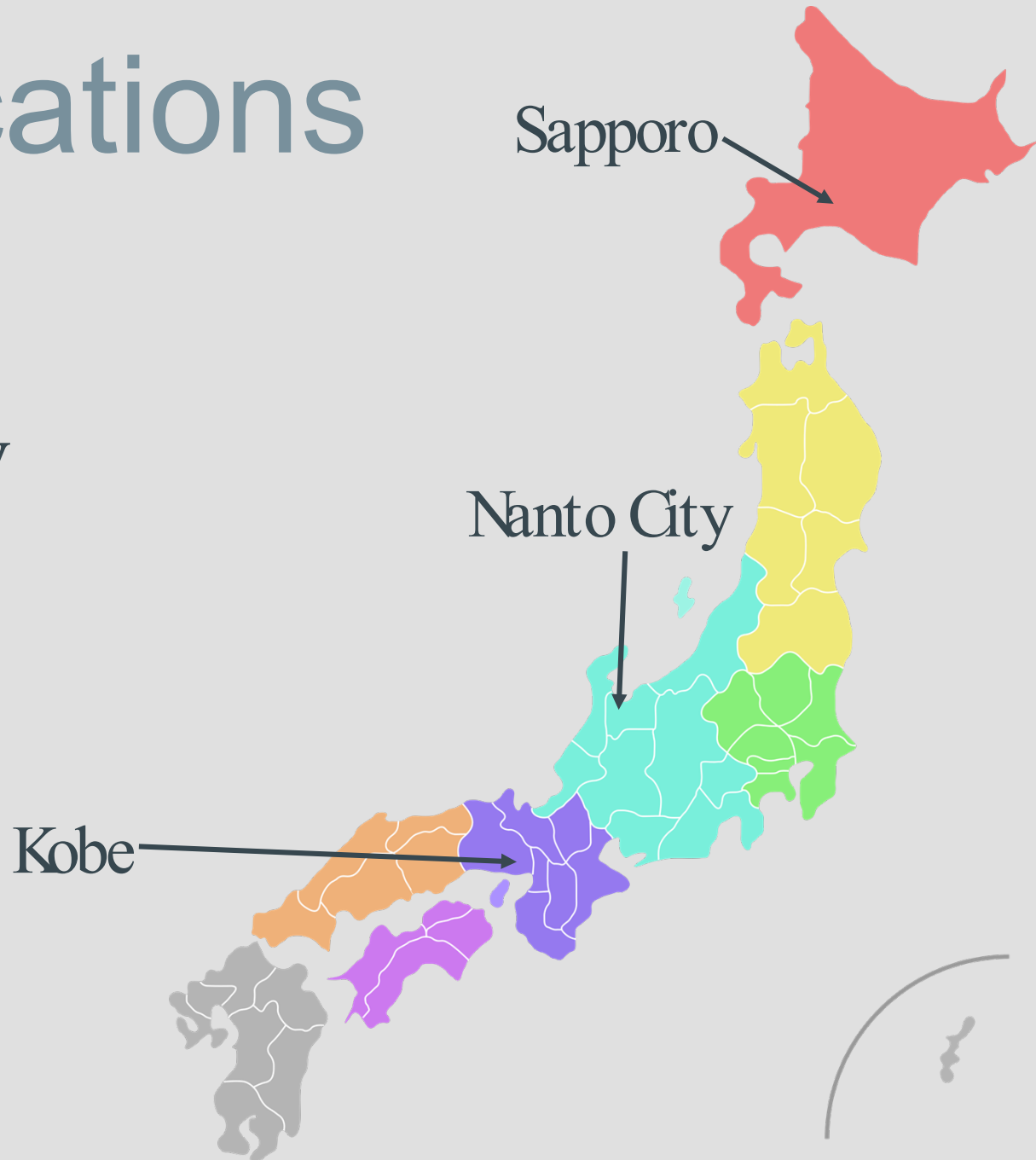
# Trip Locations

## Honshu

- Nanto City
- Kobe

## Hokkaido

- Sapporo



# Trip Costs

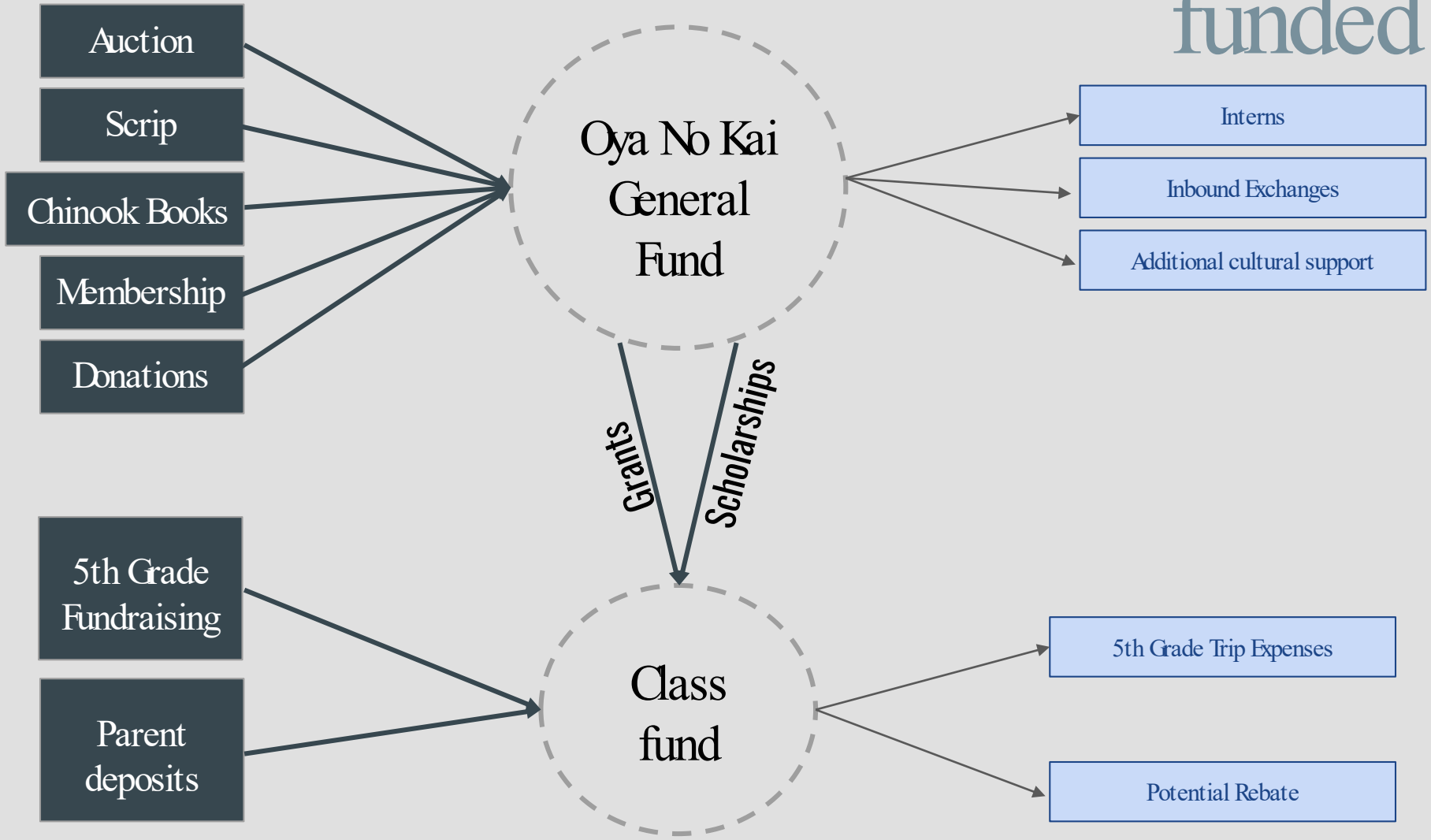
Airfare	\$1,700
Lodging and meals	\$600
Transport in Japan	\$300
Activities in Japan	\$200
Group Omiyage gifts	\$40
T-shirts	\$40
Administrative costs	\$220
Miscellaneous/ contingency	\$250
TOTAL Due to ONK	\$3,350
Travel Insurance (paid separately)	\$150
Passport Fees (paid separately)	\$150
Total Trip Costs	\$3,650



# Trip Costs

- How are funds collected and secured?
- Is there an opportunity to reduce costs?
- Are deposits refundable?
- Scholarships?

# How is the trip funded



# Is My Student “Trip Ready”?

Oya No Kai is committed to ensuring that all students who are ready to travel based on trip requirements can participate. We will accommodate unique student needs as possible within the constraints of resources available to Oya No Kai, trip directors, chaperones, and our hosting establishments in Japan. Every effort will be made to make sure all trip participants have a safe travel abroad experience.

# Is My Student “Trip Ready”?

Take the information you hear tonight seriously. Be thoughtful and honest about whether or not you believe your student can handle the situations we describe, and make a decision that will ensure their joy, safety, and success.

# Is My Student “Trip Ready”?

## Five Areas of Readiness

- Travel
- Academic
- Social and Emotional
- Homestay
- Family

# Travel Ready

“Really hard to know who will do well—in a few cases, kids that one wouldn’t expect much homesickness [from] absolutely lost it for a couple days. Conversely, a few different kids rose to the challenge like they’ve never done in a classroom.”

# Travel Ready

Travel ready means your student:

- functions adequately on less than 8 hours sleep and on an irregular sleep schedule
- does not require a regular daily schedule
- handles last minute changes without anxiety
- has a flexible diet
- does not typically suffer from homesickness
- has been successfully away overnight from their parents/ family
- has the physical stamina for sightseeing (long walks and bus rides)
- can handle heat and humidity
- does not have issues with traveling by plane, train, bus or automobile.

# Academic Ready

“Had a student that rocked the classroom. In 4th grade she began feeling very stressed, stomach aches, etc. Family figured out that it was the trip on her mind that was causing real anxiety. Family pulled kid [from trip] and she bounced right back — no regrets. Still in JMP.”



# Academic Ready

Academic ready means your student:

- is comfortable listening and interacting in Japanese.
- readily tries to use Japanese to the best of their ability.
- interacts with and respects all of their classmates.
- behaves properly in the classroom and is not disruptive.
- handles conflicts with peers appropriately.
- is willing and able to ask for help when needed.
- follows instructions from adults readily (teachers and volunteers) - in Japanese and English.

# Social and Emotional Ready

“A student was not able to function without one-on-one support for multiple days—this lead to teacher-in-residence having to spend most of their time supporting one student, and not being available for others. A big ask for a parent volunteer-led trip to be responsible for this high need kiddo.”

# Social and Emotional Ready

Social/emotional ready means your student:

- wants to go on the 5th Grade trip to Japan (you've asked them).
- wants to homestay with Japanese families (you've asked them).
- wants to make good friends with Japanese students.
- works well with students who are not their closest friends.
- understands and maintains appropriate boundaries regarding nudity and sexual expression.
- consistently and without prompting says please and thank you in English and in Japanese.

# Homestay Ready

“A couple kids ate only white rice for 10 days...no energy at all, lead to bad choices and kids were miserable. Homestay families and chaperones were very concerned—added quite a bit of stress to that trip.”

“We had students who could not use utensils properly, ate with their hands, would not sit at the dinner table, and would not interact with their host siblings. This resulted in a few very sad host students and disgruntled host families - makes it hard to recruit future families to offer homestays...”

# Homestay Ready

Homestay ready means your student:

- has proper table manners.
- can sit at a table respectfully for a meal for at least 20-30 minutes.
- can manage their own hygiene independently and without making a mess – bathing, toilet use, tooth brushing.
- can go to sleep with no lights or minimal lights on, and does not require an unusually particular sleeping environment.

# Family Ready

“We always just assumed our child wanted to go on the 5th grade trip. When we sat down and asked the question, ‘do you want to go?’ we were shocked when they said ‘no’.”

“It was hard for me to understand why, if my child was homesick, they couldn’t call me.”

# Family Ready

Family ready means:

- we've asked our child whether or not they wish to participate in the 5th Grade Exchange and they answered, "yes".
- we will fully disclose social/emotional/medical information about our child to be shared with all the trip leadership.
- we trust the trip directors, teachers in residence, and all chaperones to care for our child while in Japan..
- we understand and accept that once our child leaves for Japan we will not be able to communicate with them.

# Required Paperwork

## Notarized Documents -

- Behavioral Expectations/ Discipline Code
- Liability Release
- Power of Attorney

**IMPORTANT** - Do not sign until you are in front of the Notary!!



# Required Paperwork

## Non-Notarized Documents

- Participant Agreement
- Student/ Family Readiness
- Homestay Agreement
- Health Clearance Forms
- Two (2) Passport Copies - Student and 1 Parent
- Travelers Insurance

# Family Expectations

- Cover trip costs
- Submit completed paperwork on time
- Attend meetings
- Get students to performance practices
- Help fundraise
- Volunteer

# Student Expectations

- Serve as ambassadors of our school, city, state and country
- Attend all mandatory meetings, trip outings and performance practices
- Complete all Cultural Series assignments
- Behave respectfully and kindly

# What's next?

- Sign-up for the Google Group
- Next payment due \$500 due October 15th
- Next mandatory meeting
  - 10/23/19, 6:30pm, Richmond cafeteria. Your student and **one** adult
  - Hear about trip itineraries
  - Turn in passport copies
  - **FREE** Notary available at this meeting

# Communications

Email is the PRIMARY form of communication, and how Saori, Shuli and Jen will reach you. Send your contact info to [5Gculturalexchange@oyanokai.org](mailto:5Gculturalexchange@oyanokai.org).

## On the Web

- Oya No Kai website - [oyanokai.org](http://oyanokai.org)
- Oya No Kai Facebook Page