



San Francisco – Osaka Sister City Association

April, 2008

Dear Principal:

The San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Association celebrated its 50th Anniversary Year in 2007 with many events throughout the year, and we are proud to continue its long-standing sponsorship of the *High School Summer Exchange Program*. The goal of this program is to foster a friendly relationship with Osaka, Japan—San Francisco's oldest sister city—and to provide two San Francisco high school students with the experience of a lifetime.

The scholarship is an excellent opportunity for a young person to spend three **fully-funded** weeks in Japan, living with a host family and learning about a new culture. We ask your assistance in distributing the enclosed information flyer and application form to as many of your teachers as possible. Please ask all of your teachers to encourage their students with particular interests in Japan or Asia to apply; we stress that knowledge of the Japanese language is not required.

The *High School Summer Exchange Program* should not be construed or advertised as an activity of the San Francisco Unified School District. This program is sponsored by the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Association, a non-profit organization, and funded by generous donations from Japan Airlines, MIK International, DEFTA Partners, and Applied Materials.

Selection will be based on a written essay, references, and an interview (please see the enclosed flyer for details). We are looking for independent, motivated students with an interest in Japan or Asia who would thrive in a cross-cultural situation as our citizen ambassador.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. We have truly enjoyed seeing selected students return from their Osaka adventures with broadened horizons, a new sense of self, and an appreciation for Japanese culture, and we look forward to seeing this transformation in two more worthy youths this summer!

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at emily.murase@sfgov.org or our Executive Director, Misako Sack at msack@mofo.com. Please also visit our website, www.sf-osaka.org.

Handwritten signature of Emily M. Murase in black ink.

Emily M. Murase, Ph.D.
Chair, High School Summer Exchange Program

cc: Japanese language teacher

Mayor of San Francisco
The Honorable Gavin
Newsom

In Cooperation with:

Asian Art Museum of
San Francisco

Consulate General of Japan,
San Francisco

Northern California Cherry
Blossom Festival

Japanese Chamber of
Commerce of Northern
California

Japanese Cultural and
Community Center of
Northern California

Japan Society of
Northern California

Office of the Mayor,
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