

DMACC English Classes for Yamanashi Gakuin High School Students

In 2004, Yamanashi Gakuin High School (YGHS) in Kofu, Yamanashi, Japan, asked DMACC to provide English classes for Japanese high school students for two weeks every year.

YGHS offers four classes each year (for each grade) in Japan, and one of the four classes focuses on teaching English more than the other classes. YGHS wanted the students of this special class to attend DMACC's Intensive English Classes. In 2005, DMACC agreed to hold classes for YGHS students.

In 2006, DMACC asked Yoshiko Swift to prepare, organize and operate this program that officially started in October of 2006.

This program changed from two weeks duration to one week in 2009 because it became too difficult to find host families for Japanese students in Central Iowa for two weeks.

In 2014, 33 YGHS students attended the DMACC English classes in October.

Next year (2015) will be the 10th year of this program and will begin on October 2, 2015. Swift continues to coordinate this program for DMACC.

Objective

Japanese students arrive in Des Moines on a Friday and they spend the weekend with the host family. The students go to DMACC to study English from Monday through Friday in the classrooms and spend the evenings with their host families.

The students are able to experience American life with their host family and also learn English in a U.S. classroom taught by real ESL instructors. YGHS hopes students will remain eager to further their English studies upon returning to Japan.