



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jack D. Dale, Superintendent

8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

March 22, 2011

Mr. Yukio Tada
President
Sojitz Research Institute, Ltd.
1-20, Akasaka 6-chome
Minato-Ku, Tokyo
107-8655, Japan

Dear Mr. Tada:

On behalf of Fairfax County Public Schools, I would like to thank you for your vision and dedication as we celebrate 20 years of Japanese Language Immersion in our school system.

Twenty years ago, when Congressman Wolf proposed the idea of language immersion in our schools to help our students become more globally aware, and proficient in a second language, no one knew what to expect. Now with two decades of experience, we recognize the enormous value for students in Fairfax County and in Japan. Hundreds of students have completed the program, and many continue their Japanese study in college.

The longevity of the program has created strong bonds between Fairfax County students, the Embassy of Japan, George Mason University, and the Government of Japan. Thanks to the program, and your unwavering support, Great Falls Elementary students have met the Emperor and Empress of Japan, three Japanese Prime Ministers, the Japanese Ambassador, and numerous other high level dignitaries. They have shared their newly learned Japanese language and culture at the White House, the Pentagon, the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Embassy of Japan, and the National Diet of Japan.

But most importantly, it is the relationship between students that is most valuable. The sister school relationship with the Kake Educational Institute has created numerous friendships and lifelong bonds between Fairfax County students and students in Japan as they exchange visits each year. They learn so much from each other when they open their homes and practice their language.

Our bond continues as our students mobilize, planning ways to help Japan after the worst natural disaster in her history. We stand with you, our friends of 20 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack D. Dale".

Jack D. Dale
Superintendent of Schools

JDD/slk