

# News Release: ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TRAVEL TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO WELCOME JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER

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**CONTACT:**

Office of Communications

301-952-6001

[communications@pgcps.org](mailto:communications@pgcps.org) ( <mailto:communications@pgcps.org> )

**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School traveled to the White House to attend the Japan State Arrival Ceremony on Tuesday, April 28.

Students from Roosevelt High School helped welcome Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife, First Lady Akie Abe to the United States.

"Meeting two world leaders in the heart of the United States was an amazing experience that only a few people in the world can say they have done," said Melanie McFarland, Level 3 Japanese student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. "It was an honor to see Japan and America come together and strengthen a friendly relationship for the future of our global society," added McFarland.

Prime Minister Abe's visit served as a tribute to the seven-decade partnership between the United States and Japan.

"It was really cool to be able to meet both the leader of our country and the Prime Minister of Japan," said Elece Smith, Level 3 Japanese student at Eleanor Roosevelt High. "Both seemed really interested in continuing the friendship between Japan and the United States, and it was really exciting to see them willing to work together," added Smith.

Attending PGCPS students shook hands with both President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Abe.

"Awe inspiring is what comes to mind at being invited to the White House with our Japanese Students, said Erika Brett curriculum coordinator at Eleanor Roosevelt High. "Our students will always remember this day as payment of a job well done in their focus on their Japanese Language learning. This visit will encourage our students to continue their hard work now that they have had the opportunity of seeing, shaking hands with, and speaking to President Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Abe," added Brett.

For 28 years, the students of Eleanor Roosevelt High School have enjoyed a Sister School Exchange with students in Japan at Yokohama Suiran High School. This year Eleanor Roosevelt High School embarked on a new Sister School Exchange with Atsugi High School located in Japan. The Atsugi Sister School Exchange will have a focus on Science.

"I was very excited for the students," said Reginald McNeill, principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. "They have worked hard this year and this event was a huge payoff. Our Japanese program continues to grow and I applaud the program's leadership and supporters," added McNeill."

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