

February 3, 2019

Journal Entry #5

Konnichiwa! Since last writing, we were on our way to Mie Prefecture by train. After the train, we visited the city of Toyota, and saw the process of building a Toyota car. We saw the Motomachi Plant from a catwalk overlooking the factory. We then took a long 2.5 hour bus ride to Taiki Town, a small village with mountains surrounding the farmhouses. All of us split into our different families for two nights.

Chanel, Angel and I spent our two nights with the Okuyama family. Our Okasan (Japanese for mom) spoke a lot of English, but still made sure to communicate to us in Japanese.

On our first night, we tried the onsen, a Japanese public bath. Many of the other students experienced it too, and it definitely made us all closer. Since we haven't done it before, a woman taught us how to properly proceed with the onsen, helping us have the most authentic experience possible. For dinner, our Okasan prepared Temaki, and it felt as if the food was never ending! She drove us to many places, including the sacred temples. We got to experience the beautiful town of Nishiki, which had clear waters and a staircase to hike up a mountain. Overall, Taiki Town was one of the biggest highlights from this trip, from the beautiful landscape to the new food, we found our homestay very memorable, and we already promised our Okasan we'll be back!

Jersey Flores