

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Friendship Aspire Academy Among the 2024 Best High Schools

Washington, D.C. – January 8, 2024 – Friendship Aspire Academy has been ranked No. Number 1 in Arkansas among the 2024 [Best High Schools](#) by U.S. News & World Report. The rankings evaluate nearly 18,000 schools at the national, state and local level.

The [methodology](#) focuses on six factors: college readiness; reading, math and science proficiency; reading, math and science performance; underserved student performance; college curriculum breadth; and graduation rates.

"The 2024 Best Schools rankings highlight schools across the country where students consistently demonstrate academic excellence," said LaMont Jones, managing editor of education at U.S. News. "Having access to our data on the schools can empower families as they navigate today's educational environment and plan for the future."

Parents and students can see how Friendship Aspire Academy compares to other institutions and how the rankings are calculated on [USNews.com](#).



Friendship Aspire Academy
Public Charter School
ARKANSAS



About U.S. News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report is the global leader in quality rankings that empower consumers, business leaders and policy officials to make better, more informed decisions about important issues affecting their lives and communities. A multifaceted digital media company with Education, Health, Money, Travel, Cars, News, Real Estate, Careers and 360 Reviews platforms, U.S. News provides rankings, independent reporting, data journalism, consumer advice and U.S. News Live events. More than 40 million people visit [USNews.com](#) each month for research and guidance. Founded in 1933, U.S. News is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

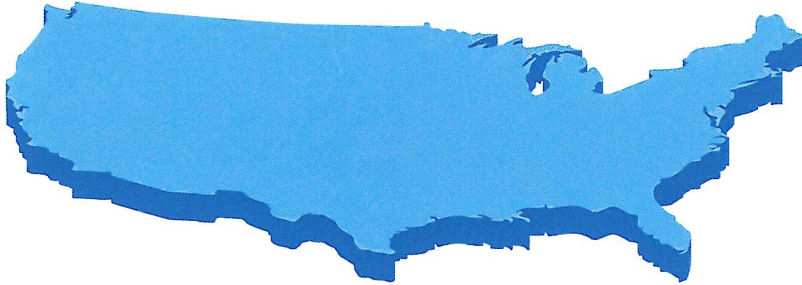


Friendship
Education
Foundation

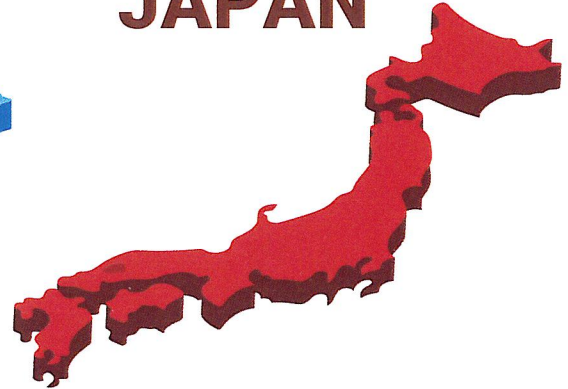
Benefits of U.S. – Japan Friendship

米国のメリット-日本の友情

USA



JAPAN



Best Beyond Borders

Benefits:

- ✔ Collaboration between Friendship Education Foundation, one of the most successful education organizations in the U.S. and innovative educators in Japan
- ✔ Sharing best practices between educators from both nations
- ✔ Teacher exchange program increases new skills, knowledge, techniques and new ways of seeing the world
- ✔ Students benefit from cultural exchanges with exposure to new technology, languages and social behaviors
- ✔ Increased cultural diversity – mutual recognition and respect among Americans & Japanese

Everyone Grows With Friendship

誰もが友情を持って成長します

Among the wisest of Japanese proverbs, there is one we believe is especially profound. “Spilled water will not return to the bowl.” As we understand it, these words of wisdom offer simple instructions: think deeply before beginning anything.

It is with this sentiment that we have traveled over 6,000 miles here to Japan. As leaders of Friendship Education Foundation (FEF), we have deeply contemplated our reasons for coming to Tokyo — and how a “friendship” between our organization and the people of this nation would allow students, teachers, school leaders, stakeholders and everyone involved to grow.

We’ll summarize those reasons with one word: collaboration.

Our organization is one of the largest, most successful of its kind in the United States — a preeminent charter school management organization with a celebrated history and time-tested models of educational success. Japan offers some of the most successful, innovative and aspirational education models in Asia. A cross-national partnership between FEF and passionate Japanese educators would prove beyond powerful.

That’s why we imagine a “Best Beyond Borders” program — an Anglo-Japanese arrangement of sharing the very best practices between educators from our nations. A teacher exchange program would allow American and Japanese teachers to learn new skills, pass along new knowledge, be exposed to new techniques, and immerse themselves in new ways of seeing the world. The same can be said for Japanese and American students. As for, cultural exchanges, what could be more beneficial to students and teachers than immersing themselves in new arts, technology, entertainment, religions, languages, cuisine, social behaviors, literature and politics. And these cultural exchanges would greatly increase the degree of cultural diversity — the mutual recognition and respect that comes with being exposed to each other’s differences.

Ours are two nations proudly steeped in history and achievement. There is hardly a greater source of national pride than in introducing the source of your greatness to others.

Which leads us to one last proverb. “One kind word can warm three winter months.” This educates about the profound impact of kindness. Being kind to each other. Kindly managing our global connections. Respecting our past while kindly caring for our students, who represent our future. And being charitable for the sake of mankind. As we move forward, these are also foremost in our thoughts. We hope you’ll join us in this spirit of excellence and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Joe Harris and Phong Tran
Joe Harris and Phong Tran

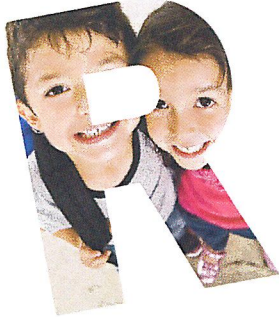


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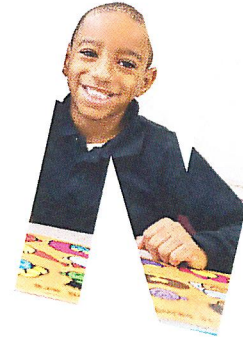
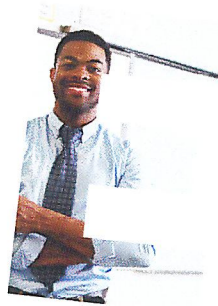


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Our Mission



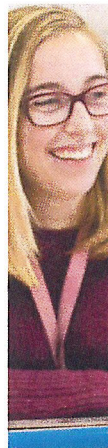
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Our mission is to provide a world-class education that motivates students to achieve high academic standards, enjoy learning and develop as ethical, literate, well-rounded and self-sufficient citizens. Friendship Aspire Academy seeks to fulfill this mission by providing students a high quality, liberal arts education focused on preparing students with the academic and life skills needed to be successful in college and beyond.



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H



JOE HARRIS


Chief Executive Officer



Friendship
Education
Foundation

 TheJoeHarris.com

 [@The1JoeHarris](https://twitter.com/The1JoeHarris)

 [joe-harris-iii](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joe-harris-iii)

Joe H. Harris is one of the top charter school management leaders in the United States. An applauded senior executive and educational thought leader with substantial experience in nonprofit management, Harris' 25+ year record is marked by accomplishments felt across several states. He has opened and operated schools from the ground up, starting new schools and transforming existing ones. And he has led Friendship's national expansion plan, replicating the organization's academic model across multiple campuses. The mass of his work has positively impacted budgets, businesses and a significant base of people.

Across his career, Harris has managed over \$50 million in funds towards the building, administration and operation of schools and has raised over \$80 million in fundraising towards such projects. He is directly responsible for raising proficiency scores for thousands of disadvantaged or minority students and eliminating barriers to educational opportunities. He has fostered strategic and innovative partnerships with key government, business and charitable entities - including the Walton Family Foundation, the philanthropic arm run by the family behind Walmart. And Harris' work has immeasurably improved the lives of several large communities.

The overarching vision for Harris' years-long endeavors: to ensure excellence - academic and otherwise - that changes the arc of young and adult lives and enhances the nation's global competitive advantages.

Underlining Harris' track record is his reputation as a process improvement specialist. He has ushered in innovations and disruptions as a member of the board for multiple organizations. He earned a coveted mayoral appointment from the former Mayor of Washington D.C. He co-founded an influential, community-based organization. And Harris' experience has made him a sought-after speaker, earning him audiences at Morehouse College and elsewhere.



Friendship Education Foundation

About Teachers



FRIENDSHIP INSTITUTE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Friendship Institute for the Advancement of Teaching, or simply FIAT, is committed to the teacher workforce - furthering their knowledge and skills in this esteemed profession. We believe teacher effectiveness is dependent on the training they receive and they should be respected as professionals

Our Mission

Our mission is to create highly effective, highly diverse and highly valued teaching professionals with the skills and will to develop the fullest potential of all students while also nurturing in them a culture of caring and empathy for each other and their communities

Our Plans

As FIAT expands, soon to include an office in Houston, we are seeking active partners to collaborate in building pathways for candidates and teachers to serve their communities



GROWING TALENT

- ✓ Ours is a hyper-localized approach to recruiting, training and staffing schools
- ✓ Our emphasis: elevating the status of teaching with individuals already working with youth in the community



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

- ✓ We intentionally partner with HBCU's to provide supports for developing teachers
- ✓ Our Student Teacher Residency Cohort Training program supports candidates' degree completion
- ✓ Our Praxis Prep Program is aligned with content development



EMPOWERING CHANGE

- ✓ We have intentional efforts to transform communities by emphasizing social and economical entrepreneurship

POWERED BY:

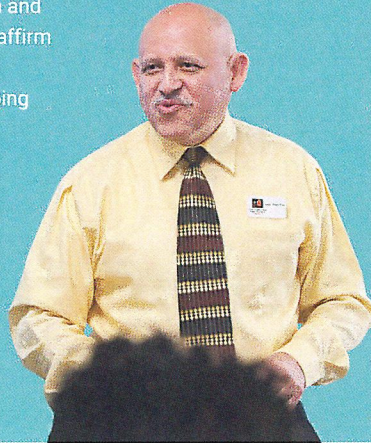


Friendship Education Foundation

If you have any questions or would like more info please visit our website the FriendshipInstitute.org or reach out to our Senior Program Director Dr. Ray Ivey at rivey@friendshipusa.org

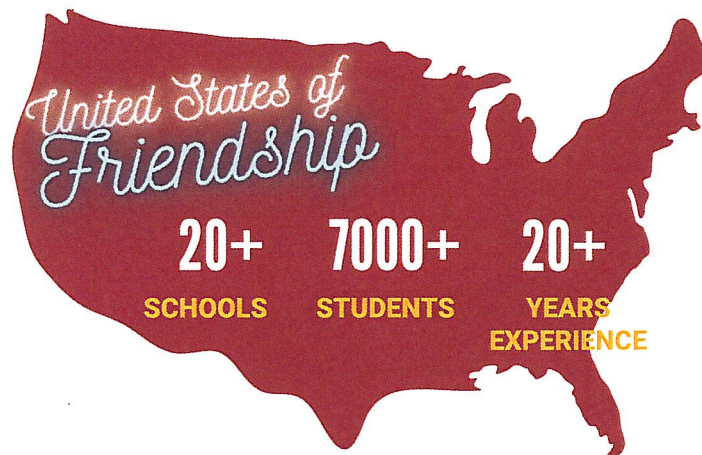
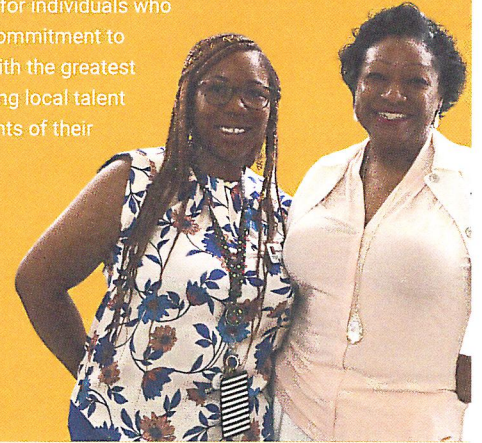
Our Vision

Is to go further than just training teachers. We seek to create better and more diverse schools that produce higher quality education and teachers the country needs. We affirm that strengthening the teaching profession is the path to developing better schools



Our Approach

To teacher development is simple but significant: we focus on developing the capacity and pedagogical strategies for individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to serving communities with the greatest needs. We are developing local talent to become change agents of their communities



Our Strengths

- ✓ FIAT is strategically partnering with HBCUs to increase the number of black candidates entering and completing teacher certification programs so they are ready to serve on Day One
- ✓ We are minority lead and managed
- ✓ We are sensitive to having a staff that's representative of the children and communities we serve
- ✓ We grow and nurture our teachers
- ✓ Our Friendship Aspire Academies focus on the whole child, recognize they are part of a family and that our schools are apart of the community
- ✓ Our Friendship Aspire Academy Southeast Pine Bluff High School has a 100% graduation rate and 100% acceptance rate for post secondary education
- ✓ Our Friendship Aspire Academy Pine Bluff is a top performing elementary school in Central Arkansas
- ✓ We maintain rich before and after school programs in technology, arts & music and team sports
- ✓ Our schools also serve as parent resource centers easily used for community services with extended hours



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SCAN ME