



## HOST FAMILY FAQs

## LAKE COUNTRY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

262-367-8600

[WWW.LAKECOUNTRYHS.ORG](http://WWW.LAKECOUNTRYHS.ORG)

- 1. Where do most of the International Students come from?** The majority of International Students seeking a host family are coming from Europe and Asia. However, we have had students come from all over the world! In the past, students have attended from the following countries: Albania, Brazil, China, Croatia, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Macadeonia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Venezuela, Vietnam.
- 2. How long do most of the students stay at the school?** If a student comes on a J1 Visa, they are here for one semester or one year. They are looking for a cultural immersion emphasis within the program. If a student comes on an F1 Visa, they will likely be here for multiple years. These students are looking to get deeply involved with the school's academics and extra-curriculars for admittance to a top University.
- 3. How long is a host family expected to keep an International Student in their home?** It is entirely up to the host family to determine how long a student will stay with them. Some families will host for a semester, other families will host for two semesters and others may keep the student for extended years. Most students are only here for a year and if the experience is going well the student will stay with the family for the year. Some families get two families to split the experience for a year.
- 4. Do the International Students stay for the summer?** Once the school year is over the International Students return to their home country for the summertime. If a student decides to stay for a full year, compensation is paid to the host family for the time the student would be here during the summertime.
- 5. What financial assistance is paid to host families for hosting an International Student?** If a student is coming on the J1 Visa, there is no money paid to the host family. Students are expected to pay for vacation trips, family weekend getaways, and similar activities unless the host family decided to include the student and cover the costs. If a student is coming on the F1 Visa, there is typically a host family stipend, which varies depending on the agency sending the student.
- 6. What are host families expected to provide?** Meals at home, internet access, transportation to and from school, a private bedroom, close access to a bathroom, and other common living provisions that are given to the host's own children.
- 7. How much should a host family expect an International Student to participate in family activities?** The International Students should be treated as though the student was your own son or daughter. Do not change your normal family habits or pattern of life for the sake of the International Student. They need to learn to adjust to the way of life of the family they have moved in with.
- 8. What banking and cell phone needs with the International Students have access to?** Most of the students come with credit cards so access to a bank is not necessary. Most students come with a phone and stay connected to their plan in their home country.
- 9. Are the International Students allowed to travel out of the state or able to attend family vacations that might include overnight stays?** Yes. The only requirement

regarding out-of-state travel is that the school be notified as to the destination and that the student is able to be reached in case there is an emergency in the student's family back in his or her home country.

10. **Do the International Students have Medical Insurance and coverage in case of an emergency?** Students come with insurance that is provided through their company and ultimately to their home country or the insurance is taken care of by the school. Direct payment is made to the medical provider from the students' insurance company. All claims must be submitted in an appropriate manner as directed by the company on the USA side of the arrangement.
11. **What school activities are the International Students allowed to participate in?** The International Students are encouraged to participate in any co-curricular activities they might find an interest in. The more students are immersed in the school programs and offerings the sooner they begin to feel and function as "true" students within a school community. They should be encouraged to participate in things they may have never tried before. The local Athletic Director will help facilitate the appropriate WIAA forms for participation.
12. **What is a typical day in the life of a high school student like in most European countries?** Students spend close to the same number of hours in their home country as they would here in the USA. Sports are usually hosted outside of the school community so participating in a school sport in the USA is totally different.
13. **What should the expectation of the host family be for a day in the life of an International student living in America be?** The International Students must learn to adjust the typical lifestyle of an American student and family. If you notice the student showing more anxiety than normal, do not hesitate to contact the school counsel, the agency, or the LHSAGM World Cultures Team.
14. **What will the International Students struggle with the most?** Being away from their families in their home country. Becoming more independent sooner than they are used to. Having more leisure time and being tempted to use their time here in a way that may not please their parents back home. Their parents desire an experience that is academic, cultural, and experiential. Host families play a critical role in providing all the above for the student.