



## HOST FAMILY EXPECTATIONS

Hosting an international student is an excellent opportunity for international students to experience authentic American Christian culture. It is also a wonderful chance for students at LRCA to put their Biblical Worldview into practice through interacting with students from other cultures with different beliefs.

Hosting an international student in your home presents the perfect platform to share the light of Christ. Some international students who come may have never heard the Gospel, and the host family has the unique ability to be the hands and feet of Christ to someone who may otherwise never have heard the Good News. Other students may be Christians, and this would present the prime atmosphere to commune with fellow believers across cultures.

There is much eternal significance in serving international students through the following expectations:

- 1. Family activities:** The international student is expected to be treated as a member of the family and should be included in all family activities, including daily family meals and regularly attending church. Their birthday should be celebrated adequately, and they should be invited to bring any appropriate holiday celebrations from their culture into your home.
- 2. Living arrangements:** The international student would need his/her own bed and bedding. He or she could share a room with a host child of the same gender and similar age as long as they have convenient access to storage for his or her belongings. This will be left up to the host family's discretion.
- 3. Compensation:** Most families are financially compensated for hosting international students. The amount varies depending on the agency through which the student travels. Specific details will be shared on a case-by-case basis. If financial support is essential to hosting an international student, please inform the International Student Coordinator. All compensation is subject to a 1099 IRS tax form.
- 4. Discipline:** The international student would need to submit to the host family's authority and adhere to all family rules. The host family is free to administer reasonable consequences for any infractions. The student will also be held accountable to all school rules as outlined in the student handbook. Discipline is ultimately the responsibility of the biological parents. While authority may be shared, responsibility remains primarily with the parents.
- 5. Academic support:** International students would greatly benefit from any academic support that host families can provide, including a quiet place to study. Most first-year students will be required to take Basic English to support their English fluency. Attendance at parent-teacher conferences is expected, and host families should communicate with teachers on the student's behalf when necessary. Contact the International Student Coordinator with any academic concerns.
- 6. Transportation:** The host family will be responsible for all transportation to and from school. Any transportation for extracurricular activities and/or social activities will be discussed and an agreement will be made between the international student and the host family. Depending on specific agency guidelines, students may or may not be allowed to drive themselves.

- 7. Extracurricular activities:** International students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. They are financially responsible for all activities. All transportation needs must be clearly communicated and agreed upon prior to all events. Your attendance when convenient would be greatly appreciated by the student. For students wishing to participate in athletics, there are some stipulations that must be addressed with the Athletic Director.
- 8. Medical Needs:** The international student is fully responsible for the acquisition and payment of all insurance. LRCA will work with the student to secure the necessary insurance policies. The host family would need to keep an extra copy of the insurance cards. The host family is responsible for transporting the international student to and from health care appointments. If the international student needs assistance with scheduling any appointments, he/she can request the help of the host family. The international student is financially responsible for all medical needs.
- 9. Emergencies:** The safety of the international student should be a primary concern of host families. Any serious injuries or illnesses must be reported to the International Student Coordinator immediately.
- 10. Duration:** Host families must commit to host an international student for a full school year.

For more information, please contact Heidi Brandt, Director of Admissions and International Student Coordinator for LRCA, at [heidi.brandt@littlerockchristian.com](mailto:heidi.brandt@littlerockchristian.com).

