



Eighth Grade Network Exchange for Sacred Heart Greenwich -- Spring 2020

The Sacred Heart Network Exchange is an opportunity for eighth-grade students to visit one of our sister Sacred Heart schools. During this one-week visit, students will live with a host family, attend classes and participate in the day-to-day life of another Sacred Heart school. The exchanges will take place between late February and the middle of April, dependent upon school and families' schedules. Exchange coordinators at each school will work with parents to find a suitable time frame for students to visit.

Below is the list of schools we are planning to exchange with in the Spring of 2020. While we anticipate full exchange opportunities with these schools, there are times when schools are not able to participate due to a small pool of exchange applicants.

Sacred Heart Greenwich spring break dates are March 14-29. Students can travel to network schools during our spring break if they do not wish to miss any class time. We are also closed for the Easter long weekend from April 10-13. Note below that some schools have longer Easter breaks.

Exchange Schools

Convent and Stuart Hall --- San Francisco, CA

<https://www.sacredsf.org/>

School closed for vacation: February 17-21; April 10-17

Stuart Country Day School --- Princeton, NJ

<http://www.stuartschool.org/>

School closed for vacation: March 16-27

Academy of the Sacred Heart --- New Orleans, LA

<http://www.ashrosary.org/>

School closed for vacation: February 21-28; April 9-14

Sacred Heart Sheridan Road --- Chicago, IL

<https://www.shschicago.org/sacred-heart-schools>

School closed for vacation: February 14-18; April 9-20

Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart --- Bellevue, WA

<https://www.forestridge.org/page>

School closed for vacation: February 14-21; April 10-17

The Application Process

Students must complete an application if they are interested in participating in the Network Exchange experience. **The completed application will be due to Mr. Zwack by Monday, November 25 via Google docs. Please make sure your daughter gives Mr. Zwack editing rights so he can share it with committee members.**

All eighth-grade students are eligible to participate in the exchange. Students who qualify for financial assistance can receive support from the School if they are selected to participate.

The student application consists of short responses to questions about their reasons for wanting to participate. Parents will also need to complete their own portion of the application.

The exchange committee will consider the following criteria when determining participants:

- Students are role models in our community and will be a positive ambassador
- Students are in good academic standing, giving a solid effort and completing work in a timely manner
- Students have the ability to be flexible and to persevere in new situations

The applications will be reviewed by eighth-grade advisors, Mrs. Weinman and Mr. Zwack. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Zwack at zwackj@cshct.org. Final exchange decisions will be made before we leave for winter break. *While we hope to be able to accommodate all exchange requests, the number of applicants from Greenwich and participating schools may not allow us to do so.*

Visiting Another School

The family hosting a Sacred Heart Greenwich student will have an eighth-grade daughter who attends the Sacred Heart school that is being visited. The host family will take care of our student while she is away by providing all meals and making sure that she gets to/from school and the airport (if applicable).

The cost of airfare is the responsibility of the family of the student who is traveling. Families who qualify for financial assistance will be eligible to receive support from the School.

In most cases, our students will be gone for five days of classes. Typically, a student will arrive the Saturday before her school visit in order to settle in with the host family as well as to have an opportunity to visit local sites of interest. Students not wishing to miss school can use our Spring Break as a visiting time if the host school can accommodate a visit at that time.

Sacred Heart Greenwich students will wear their school uniforms to school each day. This includes their dress and PE uniforms, as needed.

While visiting sister schools, our students are expected to participate fully in classes just as they would when at home. This means actively engaging in all classroom activities, completing homework and participating in discussions.

At no point during the school day should our students be working on assignments for their Sacred Heart Greenwich teachers. Our teachers will coordinate to develop a sensible plan regarding missed assignments. The goal for our students is to immerse themselves in that school's experience. (NOTE: students should work on their regular homework at night when their host is working on hers)

Hosting a Student

The host family will be responsible for providing all meals, transportation to/from school and transportation to/from the airport (if applicable). The School will provide lunch for visiting students, even if the host family does not participate in the Sacred Heart Greenwich lunch plan. We also hope that host families will provide the visiting student with an experience that highlights the benefits of the NYC metropolitan area.

If your family is not comfortable hosting a visitor, we can examine the possibility of finding a different host family from our community. Please contact Mr. Zwack if you have any such concerns. Additionally, there may be an option that we will be looking for only a host family if we do not have a participant interested in going to visit a school.