



NORTH COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

1.) What is the International Student Program (ISP)?

The ISP gives qualified international students the opportunity to study at the school and exposes local students to other cultures and perspectives. Overall, the program's goals are to promote cross-cultural learning and a global or Kingdom school culture that encourages students to look beyond themselves to what God is doing around the world.

North County Christian School (NCCS) recruits, screens, trains, and cares for international students who attend the school. In keeping with our mission, these international students must live with Christian homestay families for the academic year, including school holidays.

2.) What is the application process for becoming a homestay family?

- Interest - Notify the Administration Office that you are interested in hosting. Contact Mary Hart at m.hart@nccsmo.org or (314) 972-6227, Ext. 108.
- Application - Complete a written application provided by NCCS.
- References - Provide references who will be contacted by the school.
- Interview & Information - The ISP Coordinator will arrange an informal meeting with the applicants to offer more information and an overview of the position expectations.
- Background Check - The school will conduct a criminal background check on all adult members (over 18 years old) of the homestay household.
- Home Visit - The ISP Coordinator will arrange an in-home visit with everyone who lives in the home to view the home, talk with the family, and take some photos.
- Family Covenant - Approved families will be given information about establishing a family covenant for their family while hosting.

3.) If we are approved as a homestay family, what will be our responsibilities?

Homestay families are a "home away from home" for the international student providing supervision and support as well as housing, meals, and transportation. International students and their parents are expected to cover school tuition and fees (including a homestay fee) and personal expenses such as money for recreational activities and trips. All homestay parents must be Christian believers and be committed to setting a godly example and investing in the spiritual development of the international student placed in their home.

4.) If we host an international student, will we be paid?

Yes. Homestay families receive a stipend of \$700 per month to cover many of the expenses associated with housing a student for as long as they are hosting the student.

5.) Will we be able to choose which international student we host?

Once the homestay family has been selected, the ISP Coordinator will decide which student(s) are the best fit for the home. Homestay families always have the option to decline hosting a student if they do not approve of the match.

6.) Will our international student be able to speak English?

Yes. Students will have enough English ability to be accepted by the school. Students' language ability will vary, but all students should be conversant in English, although not necessarily fluent. Students will have studied English in school, but may not have ever been immersed in the language. Therefore, homestay families will need to be patient and to give students helpful advice and informal instruction.

7.) When will our international student arrive and leave?

Students will arrive one day to two weeks before the first day of school and will depart within one week of the last day of school. The School will inform homestay families about their student's arrival and departure date.

8.) What resources will NCCS provide for homestay families?

Each homestay family will be provided with a *Homestay Family Handbook* and a *Homestay Student Handbook* to explain program expectations and policies. The Secondary School Principal and Counselor will be available throughout the school year to answer questions and help work through any difficulties that might arise.

Quarterly meetings for homestay parents provide opportunities for fellowship, training, and prayer. These meetings provide homestay parents the opportunity to network and learn from each other. Monthly meetings/activities for homestay students provide international students opportunities to fellowship together in informal settings and promote relationships throughout the homestay community.

9.) What should we consider as we think about applying to host an international student?

- Prayer - What is God saying to us about this possibility?
- Interest - Are we interested in learning about another culture and country? Are we interested in providing a home to an international student? Are all our family members interested in this opportunity?
- Adaptability - Are we willing to adapt to someone living in our home who will be culturally different? Are we willing to learn and grow? Are we willing to help an international student learn by taking time to explain differences?
- Logistics - Will we have enough time to invest in another child in our home? Will we be able to provide reasonable transportation for activities? Do we have a place in our home where another child would have space to study and sleep?
- Current Family Situations - Are there situations in our family right now that would make it difficult for us to host well?