

Host Family Characteristics & Core Responsibilities

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOST FAMILIES

1. **BIBLICAL PARENTING:** Host families have a growing relationship with God and are a Biblically guided home. They are able to demonstrate a healthy marriage and parenting role. They are able to help their international student identify and develop his/her gifts.
2. **FINANCIAL SOLVENCY:** Host families would describe their family as having solvent finances and they provide a comfortable home setting for their international student.
3. **OPENNESS TO GROWTH:** Host families see value in various styles of parenting. They are flexible in how they parent as they get to know their student. They are open to input from the school regarding methods of parenting and advising their boarding student. Host families consistently attended host family training meetings with the attitude of wanting to grow and improve and wanting to help others grow and improve.
4. **ABLE TO RESOLVE CONFLICT:** Host families resolve conflict appropriately, quickly addressing inappropriate behavior without lingering anger or resentment. They model repentance and admit if they make a mistake.
5. **ABLE TO GIVE EMOTIONAL AND CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT SUPPORT:** Host families commit to provide emotional and spiritual support to our student. They understand that, in addition to the normal ups and downs of the teenage years, their student is also working through cultural adjustments and related identity concerns. The host family has committed to learn about their student's home culture in a respectful manner
6. **AGREEMENT TO SCHOOL HOMESTAY PHILOSOPHIES:** Host families have thoroughly read and understand school distinctives and residence life philosophies in the Host Family Manual. They are able to maintain standards in the home that fall within the school's acceptable range, to insure consistency and positive student morale. Further, they commit to positively supporting the home environment of other host families on the team, carefully building up other host homes if comparisons are made in conversation.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOST FAMILIES

1. **PROVISION OF RIDES:** Host families provide rides for their student so he or she is able to do after school activities. Families who live further from campus will need to consider the whole family's plans as rides are requested. The international student should ask for rides with reasonable notice.
2. **PROVISION OF FOOD:** Host families arrange for a shelf in the cupboard for foods their student likes and that are healthy. Host families have made arrangements to visit the ethnic food store once a month to "stock up". Host families are expected to eat a cooked meal together as a family at least 3 times a week.
3. **PARENTING USE OF TECHNOLOGY:** Host families ensure that their student has a working cell phone that can be reached anytime by dialing a US domestic phone number. They ensure their student adds minutes on time each month as needed. Laptops, phones

and other devices are stored on the first floor of the home at all times (unless student is an upperclassmen and student has met criteria for senior privileges.)

4. **COMMUNICATION:** Host families regularly communicate short written updates and photos with the parents in the home country and see themselves as co-parents to their international student. Host families complete residence life report cards in a timely manner, including the intended conversation between student and host parent that is built into this system each semester. A host parent also attends the semester conference with the parents in the home country either in person or by conference call.
5. **INDIVIDUAL CONNECTION:** Host families have weekly family meetings to address family and student needs. The host parent also connects one-on-one with their international student to personally encourage, challenge and pray for their student according to what is going on in their life that week.