

## **xFrequently Asked Questions**

### **1. When will I find out if I've been accepted as a host family?**

Everyone who completes a survey will be notified by the first week in March.

### **2. Can I host more than 1 student?**

Our goal is to place one student with every host family. However, if you would like to host more than one student, please contact Michelle Biscotti or Kathleen Keohane at [development@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:development@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

### **3. How much English do students know?**

Students can typically understand a fair amount of English but some will be more comfortable than others actually speaking it. Oftentimes, students become more comfortable speaking English during the course of their visit.

### **4. How do you suggest we communicate if there's a language barrier?**

At the Host Family Meeting on March 10, we will provide each family with a list of common words and phrases that we think will be most helpful when communicating with students, especially at the beginning of their stay. We also encourage families to use programs like Google Translate to help communicate with visiting students.

### **5. What types of food do they like to eat?**

Food preferences will vary by student. Once we've assigned students to their host family, you can read the short descriptions we have to find out your student's preferences. But we also encourage families to introduce students to new foods your family enjoys. Students may discover something new that they like.

## **6. Will students contact home while they are visiting?**

All of the visiting students will have their own phone with them so they can call or text their parents and vice versa. Host families should support students in contacting their families frequently during their visit if the student wants to do so. At the same time, given the time difference with China (they are 13 hours ahead of us), it is also reasonable for host families to establish a schedule or set time for students to be in touch with their families so that calls do not interrupt your nighttime schedule in particular.

## **7. What types of activities should we plan?**

Host families are not required to plan special activities for their student. In fact, we encourage you to let students experience how your family typically spends its time. If your own children have sports practice, a rehearsal, a scout meeting, etc. have your visiting student attend (even for a short time) and/or participate if possible.

If you do want to plan something special, it can be as simple as bowling or a visit to a local mall. In their short bios, some students listed things they'd like to do during their visit. You can refer to that or just ask your student.

## **8. What if our student gets sick while he/she is here or we have a problem at any time during the visit?**

There are teachers accompanying these students on their visit as well as coordinators from Boston Ivy, the group that organizes these exchange programs. Boston Ivy staff and/or a Chinese teacher will watch the sick student during the day so the host parents won't need to take the day off from work. The student will go back to the host family at night unless the sickness gets worse and requires the attention and care from the Chinese teachers. Host families will have a contact person they can reach out to 24/7 if any problem or emergency arises.

## **9. Is there anything we need to know about the Chinese culture to make our student feel more comfortable during their visit?**

We will discuss this at the Host Family meeting on Thursday, March 10.

**10. What if I can't make the Host Family Meeting?**

It's mandatory that at least one host parent from each family attend this meeting. You will have an opportunity to hear from the organizers at Boston Ivy who are bringing the students to Shrewsbury. You will also hear from a Needham parent who has hosted students in the past.

If something comes up and it's impossible for even one parent to attend the meeting, please contact Michelle Biscotti or Kathleen Keohane at [development@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:development@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

**11. How can I contact other host families?**

All host families will receive a list of the names and email addresses of all families who are hosting a Chinese student. We will also create a private group on Facebook for host families to post pictures and exchange information during the students' stay.