

Becoming a Host Family:

The International Student Program

St. Mark Lutheran School

The International Student Program at St. Mark Lutheran School is the direct result of host families who open their homes to students from all over the world. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to share their Christian faith.

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Why do families choose to host?

Families host for a wide variety of reasons. At the center is the desire for the family to open its home to an individual who might otherwise never have the chance to learn of their Savior. Other reasons for hosting include learning of other cultures or participating in an exciting new experience.

What is expected of me as a host parent?

Host families are expected to welcome the international student into their home as a member of the family and provide a caring home environment.

How well can international students speak English?

An international student's academic success is dependent on the ability to communicate in the English language. For an applicant to be accepted, he/she must demonstrate proficiency with an acceptable score on a standardized testing format.

What are the major challenges for host families?

Most challenges typically involve cultural differences within communication styles or customs. Many families who have experienced such challenges find that, in time, they are resolved with patience and clear communication.

What are financial arrangements with students?

Students have private funds available for expenses for which the family is not responsible (e.g. clothing, lunches at school, entertainment, personal items, etc.). Host families are compensated to offset expenses.

For more information regarding hosting an international student, please contact Kim Fenske. Contact information may be found on the left hand side.