



# HORIZON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOST FAMILY GUIDELINES

The host family guidelines are not an exhaustive list of responsibilities, but they do represent the primary ways to prepare to be a host parent and what some of our expectations are.

## Basic Responsibilities

1. Provide a loving, nurturing, comfortable home environment which supports and enhances the student's educational, social, mental and spiritual experience.
2. Provide a room in your home that the student can call his/her own. If you do not have a room, but have a space which can provide the student with privacy, please contact the ISP Director.
3. Provide/arrange for transportation to school, just as you would your own child.
4. Each host family is expected to provide three meals a day. The best transition for international students from their home to a host family is to have three to four sit down meals together each week. Strong conversation is one of the main goals for these times.
5. Pick your arriving student up at the airport and take them to the airport at the end of the year.
6. Provide transportation on a regular, reasonable basis for shopping, visiting friends, school events, etc.
7. Our goal is to partner with host families to make the hosting experience positive for everyone. To help ensure this, Horizon Christian School will have a representative check in with the host families once a month to make sure the student and family are doing well together.

## Finances

The host family stipend is \$800/month and prorated at \$26/day. The host family stipend you receive each month is to cover costs that arise from having another person in your home. Use it to cover costs for meals, school lunches, heating, internet connection, family outings, etc. It may not cover all costs. A host family tax substantiation form will be available that will help you record your expenses in support of the stipend. Families receiving funds from Horizon should fill out a copy of this form and send it back to Horizon before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Household Rules

Each household has different rules. Please have the rules for your home written down and go over them with your student after they have arrived. It is very important to let your student know what is expected. Please have the student be an active participant in everyday activities including household chores and responsibilities. Use of electronics and internet are often the cause of contention in homes. Please have very clear written instructions regarding your expectation concerning homework, chores, electronic and internet use.

### Travel

On normal vacations, trips, etc. take your student along and pay for them, except for personal gifts, etc. If you are going on a special trip which is fairly expensive, if needed we can contact the students' parents to see if they can assist in paying for the student's part. If you are going on a trip and the students need to remain at home, you can find another family to host the student while you're away. Please communicate this with the ISP Director as the temporary family must be background checked. Students are not to travel alone without a responsible adult.

To travel, they need your permission, permission from the ISP Director, and permission from their parents. They need to let you know who they are with and where they are at all times. They must fill out a travel form at least two weeks prior to travel and have it signed by the ISP Director.

### Church

Since your student is in a sense a part of your family, they are expected to go where you go just as if they were your own children. They have agreed to fully participate in family activities, including church. This is also a good opportunity for them to meet other youth and to make friends outside of school. You will need to be sensitive about this.

International students will need to study more than the average student, so please communicate with your student regarding required family events.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to the ISP Director Timelle Rosen at [trosen@horizon-christian.org](mailto:trosen@horizon-christian.org).