

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL



444 WELLESLEY STREET

WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02493-2636

Dear Potential Host Family,

Thank you for your interest in supporting Global Education in the Weston Public School District. For the last sixty years, Weston has welcomed exchange students from Rombas, France and Porto Alegre, Brazil. More recently we have added shorter-term programs of 2 – 3 weeks from China and Argentina. Visiting exchange students attend classes full time and find out what it is like to be a “typical” American teenager. Each student’s experience is enhanced by living with host families from the Weston community. The benefits of hosting an exchange student are innumerable. Exchange students can help with foreign language acquisition and the ability to see the world from a new perspective. Hosting also allows families to make lifelong friends with someone from a new culture.

Rombas/Porto Alegre students typically spend nine weeks with a host family and then move to their next family. As such, we tend to seek host families for the following periods of time for these two long-term programs:

Slot #1: late August – early November Slot #2: early November – mid January Slot #3: mid January – late March Slot #4: late March – mid June

Exact arrival and departure dates from families are flexible, and is determined by host family schedules. Short term “substitute” host families are also available if you are interested in hosting, but have a week or weekend during a slot that is problematic.

For the Rombas and Porto Alegre programs, requirements to host include having a student in the Weston Public School system and fulfillment of all Department of States regulations outlined in 22 CFR 62. This includes, but is not limited to the host family application, criminal background check, references, and home visit. Since the China and Argentina programs involve no special visa, hosting a student is much easier, with little or no paperwork.

Below are the basic host family expectations. Remember, if you should chose to volunteer to host a student, you are not alone. You will be supported by a large network of former host families and the Weston School District.

Thanks for your interest,

Cort Mathers and Nick Pezzote

Host Family Basics and Expectations

- 1) The exchange student is a member of your family; they are not a guest. Whatever family rules or expectations exist, they also follow.
- 2) Host Families are expected to provide room and board for the visiting exchange student. This includes B, L, D on non-school days, and B and D on school days. The school will cover the cost of lunch while a student is in school. The school does not cover breakfast or snacks during the school day. The host family is responsible for providing this additional money if students do not eat breakfast at home or bring a snack with them to school (if needed).
- 3) The school district covers all school related expenses; ie field trip costs and senior class events.
- 4) Exchange students bring their own spending money and are responsible for other expenses such as clothing, cellphone, and entertainment.
- 5) Do not feel pressure to entertain the exchange student. It is often nice to do one or two cultural explorations (apple picking, Pumpkin Fest, North End) as a family while the student is in your home, but it is not required or expected. The purpose of the exchange program is to learn about American daily life and culture through the little experiences.
- 6) Students have health insurance. If they are sick or injured, take them to a walk-in clinic or emergency room as needed.
- 7) Cortland Mathers and Nick Pezzote, the Global Education

Coordinators at the High School are responsible for monitoring student academic progress and visa status for the Rombas and Porto Alegre programs, as well as the shorter term China and Argentina exchanges.

8) Host Families must follow all rules governing J-1 visa regulation exchanges as outlined by 22 CFR 62.25.