



"EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO BECOME CHRISTIAN LEADERS"
AN EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY OF FAITH ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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Dear Future Host Family,

Hosting international students in our home has produced many fond memories, taught our family about other cultures, and has provided a support system for young students who need a safe place to reside while visiting the US. As with all students, there are moments of growth and learning. In that, when challenges inevitably arise, we work through it as a family and determine how to create the best possible experience for everyone involved.

Though you may think you don't have the time or the ability to host an international student, we can say from experience that if you allow them to become a part of your family, they will adapt and normal routines will be built, decreasing the stress of an added household member. If you question your ability to support an international student during their stay here in America, it is merely a matter of communicating about their wants and needs with them. Additionally, it helps to communicate with the student's parents to make sure you are providing the best experience for the student.

Bringing students from diverse cultures into our home has given us the unique opportunity to experience the world through their eyes. From sharing meals and learning about their traditions and education to introducing them to ours. It has broadened our perspectives and deepened our understanding of the global community. It has even opened the door to international travel for our family.

Some of the challenges host families may experience include: Navigating language barriers, minor health complications, adjusting to different cultural norms (especially food), and managing the occasional homesickness. But these moments have also taught us invaluable lessons in empathy, communication, and adaptability. We make an effort to keep the line of communication open between our family and theirs by sending pictures, updates, and grades.

What makes it all worthwhile are the bonds we've built. Seeing the students feel at home in our house and watching them grow, both academically and personally, has been immensely fulfilling. Many relationships that our international students have built with our own children have grown into lasting friendships that are cherished deeply.

Hosting international students has been a journey of growth for everyone involved, and we feel fortunate to have been a part of it. For anyone considering this experience, I would wholeheartedly encourage it—your home will be brighter, your heart fuller, and your understanding of others broader.

Warm regards,
A Current Host Mom
