

Dear St. Margaret's International Students and Parents,

Welcome to St. Margaret's School!



You are starting a wonderful adventure! You will be learning a new language, a new school, and a new culture. One very enjoyable way to learn more about a culture is to spend time with an American family. In this booklet, we will tell you more about **Friendship Families**.

Over the years, St. Margaret's School has fostered the "Friendship Family" Program where our local families "adopt" an international student for the school year. Some of these families have daughters at St. Margaret's School, some used to have daughters here, and others are friends of our school. Most have immensely enjoyed the experience of hosting a student and the richness that it brings the home. As one Friendship Family put it, "We were the Friendship Family to one student and were visited in our home by two others. Each was different and enjoyable."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How do I get placed with a Friendship Family?

You simply need to tell the International Programs Director (Leslie Bohon) about your interest and she will help you fill out a form and place you with a family. You will need permission to participate in the program from your parents or guardian.

What is expected of the Friendship Family?

The most important thing is to keep in contact with the student so she knows she has off-campus friends. That may be in the form of phone calls, letters, an acknowledgement of her birthday, or visits. It is extremely helpful to the student if the family invites the student to spend the holidays when the school is closed, since most of the international students do not return home during the school year.

What is expected of me, the student?

It's very important that you answer the Friendship Family's invitation, even if you cannot accept their invitation. Sometimes you may have too much work, but you still must return their call. A polite answer would be, "Yes, I would love to come. Where shall I meet you?" or "No, I'm sorry, but I have too much work this weekend. Is there another time we could get together?" Other than returning their calls, you should be ready to help around the house, pay your own way at the movies, and just enjoy their company.



Azeta (Albania) with her Friendship father at the May Ball

Are there costs involved in being a Friendship Family?

The Friendship Family is not expected to spend money on the student. Meals at home, trips to the grocery store, walks in the neighborhood, watching a movie at home, etc. are all wonderful and inexpensive options. However, it is possible that the family will invite you to an event and pay for your entrance. The most important thing is for you, the student, to enjoy meeting and learning about an American family.

What if I have problems with my family?

Please contact me, (Leslie Bohon) the Director of International Programs, at 443-3357. Also, we conduct a workshop to introduce the international students to American family life. This should help you understand the basics of how an American family operates.

What kinds of things will I do with my Friendship Family?

You will probably do everyday activities, such as eat dinner together, see movies, talk about your families, and spend time together. The Friendship Family will want you to be like a daughter, so you will be just like any member of the family.



I need a place to stay during the holidays. Should I get a Friendship Family?

Your Friendship Family should not be treated like a hotel. Yes, your Friendship Family might invite you to stay with them during breaks, but it is not a requirement of them. Your Friendship Family is participating in the program because they want to have a friendship with an international student. International students who need a place to stay during the holidays will always be taken care of by the school in some way: a Friendship Family, faculty member, roommate, etc.



Cariad, student from the French West Indies, with her Friendship Family

We hope you will consider a Friendship Family. It is a wonderful way to learn about American culture!