

Chinook School District

STUDENTS

3145

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International Exchange Students

It is the policy of the Board to recognize the benefits from non-immigrant students in the District. The Board does not, however, sponsor international exchange student programs. The District does not provide any financial contribution to the international exchange student. The Board assumes no responsibility or control over items such as travel, living accommodations, funding, insurance, etc., which remain the responsibility of the sponsor and/or student.

Number of International Exchange Students

The number of International Exchange Students attending Chinook High School at one time shall not exceed 3% of the total high school enrollment. The Board reserves the right to withdraw approval and regulate the number of students participating.

Timing of Placement Process

Chinook High School requires that organizations contact the school each year to indicate an interest in placing exchange students. Exchange organizations should provide schools with advance notice of their intent to place.

Chinook High School is to be notified as soon as Student and Host Family match-ups are confirmed.

Recognizing the timing of school staffing and resourcing, exchange organizations should submit Student and Host Family applications as early as possible or up to two weeks prior to the Chinook High School's start date. However, acknowledging the difficulty of securing Host Family commitments, Chinook High School will try to accept applications until school starts. *(Note: The U.S. State Department federal J-visa regulations permit the placement of exchange students up to August 31 of each year.)*

Selecting Student Exchange Programs

Chinook High School reserves the right to work with exchange organizations that have proved their commitment and responsiveness. Chinook High School will also be open to new organizations that demonstrate a serious commitment to the school and community.

School Expectations of Student Exchange Program

Chinook High School reserves right of final approval on all student placements. Additionally, Chinook High School requires that each individual student exchange program must:

- Be listed in the most current Council on Standards for International Educational Travel, CSIET, Advisory List booklet.

- Maintain a network of qualified and trained local representatives living in or near the community, with responsibility for each student, and provide orientation and ongoing support for both the host family and student.
- Provide continuing hands-on monitoring and responsiveness, from local representative to national headquarters, including student selection and preparation, selection and screening of host families, ongoing contact with host family and student, and communication with the school and responsiveness to school needs.
- Receive school enrollment authorization for placements each year prior to contacting potential host families, and follow school policy on timing and requirements.
- Screen and prepare exchange students while monitoring their progress during the school year, responding to issues or problems as they develop.
- Arrange host family placements before exchange students leave their home country. Exchange students are expected to be in their host family and school placements by the first day of classes.
- Personally interview and screen all potential host families, matching student and family interests and personalities.
- Not knowingly place exchange students based on their athletic abilities.
- In the event that tutoring/ESL help is needed, the organization will make arrangements and ensure that the student accepts financial responsibility for it.
- Provide the Chinook High School with a complete student application which includes the following:
 1. Personal letter from the student;
 2. Detailed information on student and natural family;
 3. Proof that the student has sufficient language ability to function in an American classroom;
 4. Original transcript of student's high school grades, with English translation (meeting Chinook High School requirements as outlined in #3); and,
 5. Necessary medical history, including proof of immunization as required by the school district, any medical/physical restrictions and a recent physical exam with proof of required immunizations.

School Expectations for Students on J-1 Visa Sponsorships

- Each exchange student must be qualified to participate in regular classes and maintain a typical full-time schedule. This means an acceptable level of proficiency in the English

language, a commitment to treat coursework as important, and the social skills to enjoy participation in social and extra-curricular activities.

- International exchange students must be aware that participating in interscholastic athletic teams means they must comply with district and state athletic eligibility regulations, and that many teams require try-outs.
- The school appreciates the difficulty of a student's plunge into a different language/culture/institution, but exchange students are expected to attain passing grades by the end of their first semester.
- An exchange student's enrollment eligibility will be for one-year only. Exchange students and host families are expected to know and must follow all school policies and rules.
- Exchange students must have medical and accident insurance that meets or exceeds U.S. Department of State guidelines.
- Since there is wide variation of graduation policies in the United States, exchange students will understand that they are not guaranteed the ability to graduate or be granted diplomas.

School Responsibilities

- Students on U.S. State Department-sponsored programs (J-1 visas) pay no tuition, but they are expected to pay all normal expenses, including standard course and extra-curricular activity fees. Chinook High School has no obligation to provide any special services, tutoring, supplies or equipment.
- International exchange students have all rights and privileges accorded to community students, except the right to a diploma.
- Chinook High School will make every effort to integrate international exchange students into the school's social fabric. In turn, Chinook High School shall encourage international exchange students to participate enthusiastically in school activities, to make friends, to make a personal contribution to the school, and to help spread the word about their country and themselves, informally and by making presentations in classes and to community groups and talking to media when asked.

Legal Reference: 22 CFR 62.25 (4-1-04 Edition)
Council on Standards for International Educational Travel

Policy History:

Adopted on:

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