



HOUGHTON ACADEMY HOMESTAY PROGRAM

This program enables qualified international students enrolled in Houghton Academy the opportunity to live with an American Host Family. Not only does this provide wonderful cross-cultural experiences for all involved but the international student receives an immeasurable boost in learning and using the English language. The Homestay Program is a win-win situation.

EXPECTATIONS FOR HOMESTAY STUDENTS

Experience has taught that the following rules and expectations should be noted and heeded for students' and parents' information, protection, and well-being, and to avoid misunderstandings.

- ❖ Students must realize that their host families will be used to doing things differently than their own families and Houghton Academy. Therefore, it is essential that students commit themselves to open communication and to understanding a different way of life. Tolerance and a willingness to learn are a must.
- ❖ Homestay students are expected to do their best in school and attempt to successfully integrate themselves into their host families. This includes participating in doing chores at home and taking part in family events. The student is not a guest but becomes a member of the family.
- ❖ Students are expected to focus all their attention on nurturing positive relationships with their host families. Contacting friends and family members in their home countries to discuss or solve problems (before communicating with their host family and Houghton Academy) is unacceptable, can lead to homesickness, major misunderstandings and ultimately to *termination of the Homestay*. In other words, *you could be brought into the dormitories or sent back home if you do not contact Houghton Academy*. Therefore, if a Homestay student proves she/he needs to continually communicate with family and friends back home at the expense of the success of the Homestay, he/she will thereby have chosen to terminate the Homestay.
- ❖ If for any reason a student and his/her family decide to terminate the Homestay, this decision and its execution must be made in a timely manner and in direct consultation with Houghton Academy.
- ❖ Students are expected to follow Houghton Academy and individual host family rules and to maintain a high standard of conduct.
- ❖ Violation of any rules of Houghton Academy or the Host Family constitutes grounds for termination of the Homestay.
- ❖ Houghton Academy Computer/Internet Policy: Students should discuss and agree with their host family about the time limit on the use of computer including Internet and e-mail. No students are allowed to visit pornographic sites.
- ❖ Students may not own their own car or drive any motorized vehicle (except during training course) or hitchhike at any time during their Homestay.

- ❖ All extracurricular activities must be approved by the Host Family prior to doing them. The Host Family must know where you are at all times, who you are with, and when you will return home.
- ❖ Students do not have unlimited freedom to hang out at the Academy dormitories or at Houghton College facilities.
- ❖ Students are not allowed to work at a regular job during their Homestay without permission from Houghton Academy authorities.

By signing this application we verify that we agree with and will strictly adhere to the above Houghton Academy expectations:

Student signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____



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STUDENT APPLICATION FOR HOMESTAY

Full Name _____ Nationality _____

Mother's Name _____

Father's Name _____

Brother/Sister Name _____ Age _____

Brother/Sister Name _____ Age _____

Brother/Sister Name _____ Age _____

Applicant's Birthday _____ Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Month – Day – Year

Current Grade Level: 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____ Current Grade Point Average _____

What are your favorite high school subjects? _____

Which sports are you active in? _____

Which foreign languages have you studied, and how many years? _____

Which foreign countries have you visited? _____

What is your religious preference? _____

What are your favorite hobbies and interests? _____

Is there a specific Host Family you would like us to consider for your Homestay? _____

Do you have any allergies or health problems? If so, please explain _____

Please attach a letter of reference from a teacher at Houghton Academy.

