

Many Laker families have opened their homes and lives to a student from another country eager to learn more about the U.S. culture and to share their culture with the Laker community.



Why not join them?

Participate in the International Student Exchange Program!

Benefit the life of a foreign student, your own family and your own school district!

Here is what some current Laker host families have to say about the ISE foreign exchange student program:

“It has been a great way to hear about other countries. It gives me a chance to expand my culture. In the course of time, it has become a lifelong link, as we keep in touch. Who knows—maybe someday, I may be traveling to Europe and have a Belgian friend and German friend to visit and their families. If there is room in your home for a child to experience a new way of life, then (consider becoming a host family). The size of the bedroom does not matter as much as the ability to accept and encourage and share life as an American.”

-The Dede Russell family, who has hosted two foreign exchange students from Belgium and Germany

“It is interesting to learn about other cultures and how they live and travel (and how it’s different from the way we live). For example, none of the students we have hosted have ever seen a refrigerator or freezer as large as ours and full of food. They live in the city in small houses and have small refrigerators and no freezers ... I can say that there wasn’t a student yet that we have hosted that didn’t love American food. They drive sub-compact cars and have never seen SUVs as large as the ones here ... All the students we have hosted live in big cities. For (them), living in the country was a whole different experience. Something they get to experience in the country is seeing the stars at night.”

-The Kim Ziel family, who has hosted four exchange students from Germany, France and South Korea

International Student Exchange facts:

- ◆ Students are between the ages of 15-18 1/2 years old
- ◆ An English proficiency test is required of the foreign exchange students and they must have a good level of English usage
- ◆ Students must have good academic standing, character and educational references
- ◆ Students bring their own spending money and have full insurance
- ◆ Students stay for either an academic year or semester (10 or 5 months) - If you want to try out being a host parent, a five-month stay would be a great way to accomplish this goal
- ◆ International Student Exchange is a non-profit, educational and cultural organization that currently has more than 3,000 public and private high school students in the U.S. from over 50 countries
- ◆ For more information, visit www.iseusa.com or contact local ISE representative Elizabeth Bowers at (989) 269-9485 or email bowersliz@hotmail.com.