



International Student Guidelines 2017-18

Welcome to Phil-Mont Christian Academy. We are glad you are here and we hope to help you in your education and prepare you for college and life beyond. Please read through the following guidelines regarding your time at Phil-Mont.

Introduction

- **Contact the school office if you have questions or concerns at any time.**
- Guidance: transcripts, grades, college prep – Mr. Porcella
- I-20, Visa help, Insurance, Host family concerns – Mrs. Lilan Geating

Insurance

International students are required to have medical insurance for medical and dental emergencies. Student Parents or Guardians are responsible for this coverage. Non-guardian host families are not responsible for any medical or dental bills. The student's insurance card or information sheet will have the appropriate information for reimbursement. Your Guardian must keep you insured while they are guardians and while you are a student at Phil-Mont

Host Family Expectations

Plan to participate as a member of the family and give respect and compassion to your host parents and any biological or hosted siblings. Follow family rules and assist with household chores just as you might at your own home. You should not be expected to babysit or clean more than anyone else.

Get to know the house rules: e.g., when dinner is served; what the rules are for "helping oneself" to food; how laundry is handled; what time curfew is; etc. You are more than a guest. You are part of the family. Ask your host parents for the house rules in writing and go over those rules with them as soon as possible.

You should have a private and quiet study space to complete your homework (preferably in your bedroom). If needed, ask for help with homework.

Your family is asked to provide meals for you each day. They may expect you to pack your own lunch based on food available for that purpose. Anything extra that you wish to purchase is your responsibility. Your family and Phil-Mont will ensure that you have transportation to and from school.

Talk with your host family. Spend time with them as often as you can. This will benefit your adjustment to life in a new community. Be sure to ask for things. You are part of the household now.

Church

You are expected to regularly attend church with your host family. When in attendance, be respectful of the event and listen or try to take notes on what is being presented. It will help with language growth and personal development. If this is a struggle for you, please speak with Mr. Porcella or Mrs. Lilan Geating.

Money

You may have your own spending money. We recommend that students arrive with a credit/debit card or set up their own bank account when they arrive. You should not share your bank account with anyone else. Students and host families should not borrow money from each other. You are not allowed on your host family's insurance plan or on their cell phone plans. Money misunderstandings can create too many potential problems. You are responsible for all personal expenses including:

- Travel and Excursions: Any cost associated with personal travel activities.
- Personal Items: Toothpaste, shampoo, makeup, deodorant, etc.
- Clothing: All clothing including winter jackets, school uniforms.
- School expenses: Including books/fees, yearbooks, sports and special events.
- Phone calls: Long distance telephone calls.
- Miscellaneous: Stamps, various school fees.
- Entertainment: Movies, snacks, sports events, restaurants, ETC events, etc.

Guns/hunting

Phil-Mont's International students are not allowed to participate in any hunting or gun related events or excursions due to liability purposes. Paintball is not covered by the insurance and is also forbidden.

Driving

As an International Student, you may not obtain a driver's license while attending Phil-Mont. There is too much liability for you, your host family, and the school.

Property

You are expected to take of and protect the property of your host family. Be cautious, be considerate, be safe, and take proper care of the space/items your have been given to use in the home. This includes bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, and other rooms.

Illegal Substances

Phil-Mont students may not buy, possess or use tobacco products on school grounds while attending Phil-Mont (even if they are of legal age). Use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol can result in expulsion.

Travel

Phil-Mont believes that the experience of living with an American family and attending an American high school is a valuable one for both student and family. Host families are not

expected to take students touring, but may do so. **All student travel requests must be preapproved by the school international committee and the guardians/parents.**

Gifts

It is not necessary for you to feel obligated to give gifts to your host family. Giving gifts for birthdays and holidays is acceptable, but students and families should not feel pressured to give elaborate or expensive presents.

Participation

You are encouraged to participate in school activities as academics and family schedules allow. Be sure to communicate your desire to participate to your host parents and ask for their permission and support. This is a great way to get connected to the school and make friends.

Internet Service/Cell Phones

You should have access to the internet at home, with reasonable hours. The host home must have internet accessibility since this will be the primary way that the student will communicate with his/her family. It is recommended that host families establish a shut off time for the internet (ei. 11pm or midnight) to help you get the sleep you need to be productive in class. You may have your own cell phone on your own plan.

Transportation

The School District in which you live must provide transportation to and from your host family's home. If you take a bus to and from school, you are expected to know the times and locations of that bus service. Your host parents will help with this.

Length of Stay

You are expected to remain at least one school year with your host family. The living arrangements are reviewed at the end of each school year. **Students are not allowed to move to a new host family without notifying Phil-Mont.**

Meals

You are expected to eat with your host family, and get to know the American culture through food. You may also help introduce new food that you enjoy as the host parents are able to work with you to get or prepare. They want you to be happy and may even ask for your input regarding meal plans.

Vacations/Summer Break

When you travel anywhere, be sure to keep your I-20 and Visa with you. You will be given times of the year when you may travel and even leave the country. Plan to leave after school is dismissed and plan to return before school begins again. Your teachers are not required to grant you extra time for assignments if they were not informed that you would not be in attendance. Any overnight travel must be approved by your guardian and must be communicated to the school office (Mrs. Geating). Failure in this area may jeopardize your enrollment status. It is best to ask for permission from your host parents regarding any travel at any time. They are responsible for you and need to know where you are at all times.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

August 31 – New student orientation, starts at 9am

Sept. 6 – First Day of School. Arrive between 7:30 and 7:45. School dismisses at 2:50.

Nov. 20 - 24 – Thanksgiving Vacation – no International travel

Dec. 21 - Jan 2, 2018 – Christmas break – do not plan to leave early or return late.

Jan. 22 - 24 – Mid-term Exams

March 28 – April 3 - Easter Break – no International travel

June 8 - 13 – Final Exams – do not plan to leave early

Reminder: Be sure to make sure your I-20 is in good standing order with the office before leaving for the summer.

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