

International Student Program

High Point Christian Academy has several goals for our international student program. One is to provide an awareness of different cultures to our school body. This allows our students not only to learn domestic diversity but international diversity as well. We also desire to assist the international students in their quest for an American high school education through the lens of Kingdom Education.

International Student Agreement - General

- 1) Students will obey all the laws of North Carolina and the United States.
- 2) Students will not drive or attempt to purchase a motorized vehicle that requires a valid license to operate. *International students at our school are not to obtain a driver's license.*
- 3) If a student comes to HPCA through an agency and terminates the contract with their agency, they will not be permitted to remain at HPCA as an independent international student.
- 4) HPCA honors the rules and regulations set forth by the agencies from which they receive international students. For that reason, students with agencies must abide by their agency rules at all times.

Homestay

- 1) Students will treat their host family members with respect and consideration.
- 2) Students will act as a member of the family, voluntarily helping with reasonable household chores and respecting reasonable rules and expectations established by the host family, including curfew times and appropriate times of electronics usage.
- 3) Students will keep their host family informed of their whereabouts at all times.
- 4) Students will respect the host family's privacy.
- 5) Students will attend church activities with the host family.

School

- 1) Students will pay tuition and fees in a timely manner. They will receive a monthly statement through SMART tuition regarding their financial standing with HPCA. If there is any unpaid balance at the end of the school year, the student's agency and/or natural parents will be contacted and their report card/transcript will not be released.
- 2) Students will read and sign the HPCA Student Commitment. Students will obey school rules as outlined in this commitment form and in the HPCA handbook.
- 3) Students will attend school regularly and follow the attendance guidelines cited in the HPCA handbook. According to SEVIS regulations, students must be in school on all regulation school days with limited exceptions.
- 4) Students will be on time to school and to classes.
- 5) Students will complete homework assignments and maintain a satisfactory level of academic achievement.
- 6) If students do not maintain a reasonable academic average or if they exhibit disruptive behaviors that result in suspension or expulsion from school, they may be sent home at their own expense.

Language Usage

HPCA recognizes that international students come from many diverse countries and that typically English is a second language. One reason students come to our international program is for their English to improve as they seek continued education opportunities in the United States. To that end, students should strive to speak English as often as possible. Students are expected to speak English during class times, but they may use their native language as necessary at other times such as during lunch, passing periods, or study hall. International students should remember that improving English is the goal and therefore students should speak English as often as possible.

Participation in School Events

There are many opportunities offered to international students that will allow them to experience a full and diverse American high school experience. International students are required to participate in the international club, senior trip, field trips, class trips, and any class-required activities. International students are encouraged to participate in additional opportunities offered at HPCA such as academic clubs, service clubs, sports teams, prom, homecoming, spirit week, etc. When a student joins one of these groups, they are expected to participate in all events related to the group. For example, if they join an athletic team, they are expected to participate in all practices, games, and team events. Spirit week class t-shirt, international club fees, and yearbook cost are all included in international tuition. If an international student desires to not participate in a required activity, they need to obtain permission from the international student coordinator and possibly administration.

Chinese New Year

HPCA recognizes the importance of the Chinese New Year Holiday for some of our students. If CNY Eve falls on a weekday and a student desires to miss school to celebrate this holiday and spend time with their families and friends, the absence will be excused. However, there are a few steps they need to take in order to be properly excused:

1. Get permission from their host family to stay home for all or part of that day. If they wish to spend some time together with other students, it is essential that an adult from the family that is hosting the gathering be present.
2. Complete an absence request form at least two days before the CNY date. This form is available through the international student coordinator and must be signed by the teachers whose classes you will miss as well as by the host parents. It must be completed and turned in to the international student coordinator two days before the CNY holiday.

Travel Procedures

International students should follow the following guidelines regarding travel.

1. Students may travel out of town with their host families but should not typically miss any school days for travel. If they desire to miss school, they must have permission from their agency (if applicable), the international student coordinator and the high school principal.
2. Students who come through an agency must follow that agency's guidelines for travel procedures.
3. Students are not allowed to use transportation services such as Uber or Lyft unless they are 18 years old AND a senior. The policies for these agencies dictate that passengers must be 18 years old. If students are under 18 or not a senior, they may use local taxis for transportation if approved by the host parents.
4. Students should always travel with an adult at least 25 years old. They should present documentation of a picture ID of the adult person who is responsible. This person may be contacted for verification of this responsibility.
5. All travel information should be given to the international student coordinator, including dates of travel, destination, means of transportation, etc. The international student coordinator and high school principal must approve of all travel *before* any tickets are purchased.
6. If the student is at least 18 years old AND is a senior, they may travel unaccompanied. However, the travel must still be approved by the host family, the agency (if applicable), the international student coordinator, and the high school principal. (Travelling unaccompanied is allowed but not recommended.)