

Opportunities to Engage

Buddy Families and More!

2022 - 2023

Buddy Family Advice

“You don’t have to be perfect and you don’t have to have flawless events or connections, impeccable conditions for this to go well – the point is just that these students need to connect with families – it doesn’t take a lot to make a student feel welcomed (loved).”

“Learn your student’s birthday and acknowledge it. Be aware of cultural holidays important to your student and connect with them around it.”

“Contact your buddy promptly after receiving the match and information, and keep reaching out, even if you don’t think it matters. This can be every few weeks or even every couple of months. Even if you don’t end up doing anything, the thought is appreciated”

“You will find common ground, jokes, etc. And that’s really the whole point of this program, right?! :)”

A critical part of The Northwest School philosophy is fostering in our students a global perspective. The **Buddy Family** program offers NWS students and their families an opportunity to develop a global perspective and cultivate cultural exchange by connecting with dorm residents outside the school day. We hope that dorm residents will gain a “home away from home,” learn more about Seattle, and experience what being part of a local family is like. **Buddy Families** experience the rewards of getting to know a student from a different part of the world and helping them become more deeply connected in the local community. Through this program, we hope relationships will grow that last long beyond graduation.

What should I do with my buddy?

In general, our dorm students aren’t picky about what they do with their buddy families. Think about what you would want from a buddy family if your child was studying abroad. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ◆ Take them to your family’s favorite restaurant
- ◆ Go kayaking, bowling, mini golfing, ice skating, or bike riding together
- ◆ Invite them over for a home cooked meal
- ◆ Attend a sporting event, play, or concert



- ◆ Visit a museum or park
- ◆ Come to the dorm to hang out and play a game in a common area
- ◆ Explore beyond Seattle—take your buddy to Mount Rainier, Bellingham, eastern Washington, etc.
- ◆ Take them to the Space Needle, on the monorail, or do other touristy Seattle activities
- ◆ Bring them fun treats to share with their roommate, like holiday decorations or treats

Buddy Family Expectations

- ◆ Connect with your buddy by phone or email
- ◆ Celebrate your buddy’s birthday
- ◆ Invite your buddy to spend some time with your family throughout the year, as schedules allow
- ◆ Cheer for your buddy in a sporting event or performance



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Thanksgiving Holiday Host Family

Would you like to host a dorm student over Thanksgiving weekend?

The dorm closes on Wednesday at 6 pm and reopens again on Sunday, so many of our families volunteer to host their own buddy or another student during this break.

Our dorm students love the opportunity to learn about their host family's Thanksgiving traditions, try new foods, and feel included in a (for many) new American Holiday!

Holiday Break hosts may also be needed due to Covid-related international travel restrictions.

Please contact Justin Peters if you have any questions about hosting or anything else about the buddy program!

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or
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Global Learning is a foundational element of the Northwest School philosophy and experience. In today's interconnected world, it is an educational imperative and humanistic endeavor. Global Learning at Northwest is built-in to everyday life, and all members of our community are asked to engage with the dynamic process of cultural exchange and to be an active part of a global community of learning. Whether or not you are able to be a buddy family to a dorm resident, there are a variety of ways you and your family can engage with the international community living on the Northwest campus. By intentionally cultivating these opportunities, you will enrich your own global perspective and experience at Northwest and create a welcoming, integrated new home away from home for these students.

IDEAS FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Take a student out for a favorite meal or have them over for dinner.
- Invite a dorm student to a grade level social and provide transportation
- Attend the Moon Festival BBQ, International Night Market, Lunar New Year Celebration, and other international or dorm-sponsored events.
- Provide a homestay for a dorm student during Fall Break, when the dorm closes for the Thanksgiving Holiday, or over Holiday Break for students unable to return home due to Covid-restrictions.
- Upper School Students may join some Dorm Events and Activities. You may be invited by a dorm friend or receive information about open activities over e-news, student email, or community meeting announcement.
- Upper School students are encouraged to come by and sign in to the dorm with a sponsoring resident

In all things, we hope for Northwest School families and students to be active and intentional in doing the work of creating a collaborative global community.

WE WANT TO:

- ___ **Be a Buddy Family**
- ___ **Host a Dorm Student for Fall Break or part of the Holiday Break**
- ___ **Find out more about how to be involved**

Please email Justin.Peters@northwestschool.org with your interest.