



Friendly Exchange & School Partnership Overview

Hosting a Guatemalan Student

Friendly Exchange appreciates the opportunity to renew partnerships with schools committed to cultural exchange and global education. The following information outlines what participating schools can expect and what we respectfully request from our school partners.

About Friendly Exchange

Friendly Exchange has provided meaningful cultural experiences for **over 45 years**, serving more than **3,000 participants**.

Friendly Exchange is registered in the State of Minnesota, working in collaboration with schools and communities to provide structured and meaningful cultural exchange experiences.

Our program is designed to enrich the lives of students, host families, and schools through cultural understanding, responsibility, and global awareness.

We believe that successful exchange programs are built on communication, trust, and shared commitment among schools, families, and students.

Our Participants

Friendly Exchange students:

- Are between **11 and 17 years old**
- Are carefully **interviewed, screened, and prepared** prior to participation
- Attend **bilingual private schools** in Guatemala
- Demonstrate a **strong command of the English language**
- Participate in school on an **audit basis** (*no academic credit required*)
- Are placed in the **same grade level** completed in Guatemala
- Are expected to **participate fully**, complete assignments, and follow school rules

Students may also support Spanish classes through presentations or cultural activities when appropriate.

Students participate in this program during their school vacation period to:

- Improve their English skills
 - Develop independence and responsibility
 - Expand their global perspective
 - Build confidence through cultural immersion
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Student Conduct Expectations

Friendly Exchange students are expected to:

- Follow all **school rules and policies**
- Demonstrate **respectful behavior** toward teachers, staff, and classmates
- Maintain **appropriate academic effort** and complete assigned work
- Show responsibility and maturity in the classroom and school environment
- Represent their **country, host family, and the Friendly Exchange Program with integrity**

These expectations are clearly communicated to students and families prior to participation.



What Friendly Exchange Requests from Participating Schools

We respectfully request that schools:

- Welcome a Guatemalan student into your school community for approximately **9 weeks** (*mid-October through mid-December*)
- Treat the student as a **regular classroom participant**, maintaining normal expectations for:
 - Participation
 - Behavior
 - Homework completion
- Provide a **daily class schedule** appropriate to the student's placement
- Offer opportunities to participate in **extracurricular activities**, when available
- Allow students to **share lunch with their host sibling**, when possible
- Provide an **informal progress report** near the end of November
- Maintain communication with the designated **Friendly Exchange Delegate** when necessary
- Complete a **program evaluation** at the end of the exchange
- Assist, when possible, in sharing program information to support host family recruitment

Program Calendar (Suggested)

To support planning and coordination, the following timeline is recommended:

- **October 12 — Student Arrival**
- **October 14–18 — School Integration Week**
- **Late November — Informal Progress Report**
- **Mid-December — Student Departure**

This timeline may be adjusted slightly based on school calendars.

What Schools Can Expect from Friendly Exchange

Friendly Exchange is committed to providing:

- **Ongoing support and guidance** throughout the program
- A complete **student profile and required documentation** prior to placement
- Assistance in identifying and supporting **qualified host families**, in collaboration with the school
- A **program donation** to the school, to be used at the school's discretion
- A designated **Friendly Exchange Delegate** as the primary contact
- Support from additional placement staff when needed
- Continuous supervision of students and families to ensure a safe and positive experience

Friendly Exchange complies with applicable school and district requirements and works collaboratively to ensure a safe and successful experience for all participants.

Communication and Support

Schools may contact:

- The designated **Friendly Exchange Delegate**
- The **host family**, when appropriate
- Friendly Exchange staff whenever assistance is needed

Friendly Exchange provides **international medical and accident insurance** coverage for all participating students.

Interview with Curtis HS, WA

http://y2u.be/JiZaQ_J1LX4

