

## Mandarin Host Family Agreement

Being a host family for a Chandler Unified School District (CUSD) guest teacher can be a rewarding experience for your family. Families who participate in the CUSD Mandarin Host Family Program benefit from learning about another culture while helping our guest teacher(s) transition to our community. The purpose of the host family experience is to expose the guest teacher to typical family life in the U.S. and for the host family to learn about China through the guest teacher. Please submit this form and direct any questions you may have to Tracey Pastor, Assistant Director of Fine Arts, Music and World Languages at [pastor.tracey@cusd80.com](mailto:pastor.tracey@cusd80.com)

A host family should be:

- ✓ Caring and involved: The family's support and understanding will be invaluable to the teacher, especially in the beginning, as the teacher adjusts quickly to a new way of life and new responsibilities.
- ✓ Perceptive: Some teachers will want more help or involvement than others. Families should gauge their degree of involvement per the teacher's needs and level of comfort.
- ✓ Enthusiastic: The teacher is a great cultural resource, who can share much about the rich culture and history of China as well as the language.
- ✓ Adaptable and tolerant: Chinese and American cultures are very different in some respects, so families should be open-minded. Cultural tolerance of differences and respectful dialogue is very important for mutual understanding and a good relationship.
- ✓ Respectful and courteous: In Chinese culture, guests are extremely polite toward their hosts. To establish trust and a positive relationship, the family should respect the teacher's culture and beliefs.

Host Family Requirements/Responsibilities Include:

- Providing a private room for the guest teacher (shared bathroom is okay).
- Assisting the teacher with important transitional procedures such as:
  - Shopping – grocery and other stores for food and other personal items.
  - Bank – setting up a bank account
  - Driver's License – getting a driver's license
  - Church – finding a church (if teacher is interested)
  - Physician – help in finding a general doctor, dentist etc.
- Involving guest teacher in occasional family activities and engaging them in American traditions, traditions and behaviors. (For example: cooking dinner, watching football, light chores)
- Transportation (to and from school, carpools, and occasional trip to store for their personal necessities).

The \_\_\_\_\_ family agrees to house guest teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
from CUSD starting (date) \_\_\_\_\_ through (date)\_\_\_\_\_.

**Important information:**

Host Adult: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Host 2<sup>nd</sup> adult (if applicable) : \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

We understand the above requirements and responsibilities.

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Host Family Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Teacher Signature

Tips for a Successful Host Experience

- Be aware of cultural differences. Keep open communication and encourage your guest to talk about differences so that you are both aware of possible misconceptions or confusion.
- Describe your typical family routines from the beginning. Include how you operate in the morning, after school, and on weekends to avoid confusion or surprises.
- Cooking methods in China are very different from those in the US. Take this opportunity to learn from each other while respecting differences.
- Dishwashers and clothes dryers are very uncommon in China. Be sure to show your guest teacher how to use these appliances.
- English skills may be somewhat limited. Adjust your talking speed and avoid slang or colloquialisms.
- Our guest teachers are working adults, and while they do need some help and assistance, they also need and appreciate alone and down time.