



The Waldorf School of Garden City

Student Exchange Program Information

Student Exchange Coordinator

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The Waldorf School of Garden City has had a successful student exchange program for French-, German-, and Spanish-speaking students for several decades. **In the Exchange Program, a Waldorf School of Garden City student finds a compatible overseas student, and both will attend each other's school together for a minimum of six weeks in each location. However, we recommend a two- to three-month exchange.**

Please note: Waldorf School of Garden City 10th grade students go on exchange at the end of their second semester.

Student Qualifications

- High motivation to learn a foreign language and learn about another culture
- Good standing in all aspects of school life
- Ability to be away from home for an extended period
- Good ambassador for the school

Parent Expectations

- Accept the role and responsibility of parenting the exchange student for the duration of the visit. Be prepared to offer support and understanding.
- Provide a clean bedroom (exchange student must be notified if the room will be shared).
- Provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily.
- Include your exchange student in family outings, trips, and vacations. Please note that a trip to NYC would be greatly appreciated.
- Always know the exchange student's whereabouts.

Credit for Courses

- We do not award credit for courses taken at the exchange school.
- Students must coordinate with each of their teachers to determine what work needs to be completed independently.

Financial Responsibilities

- Tuition: Considered an even exchange for the students, and no additional tuition is required if the exchange is roughly the same length of time in both locales.

- Expenses: Your child's airfare and travel expenses are your family's responsibility. You will also need to provide your child with spending money for personal expenses while abroad. We recommend \$500-\$1,000 (debit card, credit card, Apple pay, etc.). Please consult with the exchange student's family to discuss the most practical way of accessing money while abroad.

List of Expenses to Consider:

- Airfare
- Incidentals/Personal expenses
- Pre-paid phone card
- International travel insurance
- Vacations of host family, if applicable

Travel Documents and Insurance

- Students must have a valid passport and in some cases a visa.
- You must purchase international travel insurance that covers expenses in the case of illness and other emergencies.



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Student Exchange Application

This application is for **provisional acceptance** only. The student's behavior, attitude, and scholastic level of achievement will be considered to determine final suitability for the Student Exchange Program. **Interested students are required to write a paragraph addressing reason(s) for wishing to study abroad and e-mail to Ann Mulvehill, Student Exchange Coordinator at mulvehilla@waldorfgarden.org.**

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Parent Phone : _____ Parent E-mail : _____

Please note that your exchange must be a six-week minimum during the months of May-August. However, we recommend a two- or three-month exchange.

Parent Signature*:

_____ Date: _____

Student Exchange Coordinator Signature:

_____ Date: _____

***This consent implies that you will assume primary responsibility for contacting the family with whom your child will live whenever communications are necessary.**

Upon your application's approval:

Create a profile that can be sent to students abroad written in the language you study. The profile should include the reason(s) you want to do an exchange, a brief snapshot about who you are as a person, your interests, and where you live. You should also include a photograph of yourself, your family, your home, and any other photos you wish to add. Please email a completed profile saved as a PDF file to the Student Exchange Coordinator.

Before an exchange is finalized, a meeting needs to take place between the student, parents, the foreign language teacher, and the Student Exchange Coordinator to confirm and review the following: exchange dates, immunization status, academic considerations, etc.



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Student Exchange Program Parent and Student Agreement Form

A word to parents: We consciously leave the initial organization and work up to the high school student to see if the student has the determination and maturity to overcome difficulties establishing a connection with an exchange partner.

Points to Consider and Topics to Discuss with Partner Families:

- *Cultural Norms:* WSGC students that have traveled abroad have reported a greater degree of autonomy than might be typical for an American teenager. Discuss standards/expectations with student exchange family. Both parties need to be comfortable.
- *Money:* Discuss in detail extra expenses associated with family vacations while hosting an exchange student or while your child is abroad.
- *Food:* Allergies, dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free), and school cafeteria account, if applicable.
- *Health:* Medications (over the counter, homeopathic), insurance policy, New York State physical examination requirement, other health needs.
- *Transportation:*
 - a) School: Bus/car/train/etc.
 - b) Recreational: Moving around the city/town with and without the family
- *Travel arrangements:* Airport pick-up and drop-off
- *School trips during the exchange (if applicable):* Supplies & money needed
- *Academic Expectations:* Exchange students are expected to complete all classwork to the best of their ability and be active participants in class.
- *School rules:* No smoking, no cell phone, school dress code (daily and assembly), etc.
- *Family rules:* Chores, curfews, religious practices, etc.

Parents:

I understand that my child's student exchange approval is conditional upon continued successful performance in all areas of school life.

I will provide my child with the following documents: valid passport, international travel insurance (with medical coverage), and a visa (if required).

Parent signature: _____

Date : _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

A word to students:

Academics: When you are abroad, you will be missing Main Lessons and daily course work at WSGC, and consequently you may need to make up work to receive complete credit in some subjects. Some students cover the units missed independently, and others sign up for summer school courses. It is up to each exchange student to talk with the Guidance Counselor and their teachers to anticipate what work will be missed and the best way to make it up.

Student:

I understand that being approved for a student exchange is a privilege granted by the high school faculty, and I have a responsibility to live up to the expectations set in the guidelines. I understand that the approval for a student exchange is conditional upon my continued success as a student in all areas of school life.

While away on exchange, I will work to the best of my ability at the host school, be respectful of the host family, and be a good ambassador for the Waldorf School of Garden City.

Student signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Language Pledge:

I pledge to speak the language of the host country.

Student signature: _____ **Date:** _____

