



International Student Guidelines

Please take time to read the below guidelines for your international student attending Peoria Christian School. These guidelines, along with the student handbook, are the rules your student must follow while attending PCS.

General Rules:

1. **Behavior** - Prior to leaving the home country for Peoria Christian School (PCS), the student's parents should discuss the importance of good behavior with their student and ensure that he/she understands the significance of acting in a manner that will reflect well on his/her family and country.
2. **English Speaking** - International students must make a concerted effort to improve their ability in the English language prior to attending Peoria Christian.
3. **Attendance** - The student will attend school daily Monday through Friday, and will be enrolled as a full time student. The student must make a concerted effort to make satisfactory academic progress (A or B grades). If a student is achieving a C average or lower, the host family and international student director may require study hours and/or tutoring at the student's expense and limit co-curricular and weekend activities until the grade is improved.
4. Students who are accepted will register for classes upon arrival to campus. International students will be placed at an appropriate grade level and may be slightly older than their peers.
5. The student will obey the disciplinary rules of Peoria Christian School and will be respectful of school staff and faculty.
6. **Involvement** - The student must make an effort to get involved in the host community by attending and participating in school, church, or community events. The student should not spend all his/her time with the other international students and should seek guidance from host parents and school personnel when choosing friends.

7. **Athletics** - The student's acceptance into PCS does not guarantee athletic eligibility. An eligibility ruling is made for each individual case by the IHSA.
8. The student's parents give PCS the right to use the student's photograph for reproduction in any medium for the purposes of publication, advertising, display, or editorial use. No personal information will be publicized.
9. The student must obey the laws of the United States and the states where they live and visit. A student found guilty of violating the law will be returned to home at his/her family's own expense as soon as the student is released by authorities.
10. The student is not allowed to possess or use illegal drugs. Smoking and the use of any tobacco products is forbidden. The drinking of any alcoholic beverages is expressly forbidden. United States law strictly forbids the consumption of alcohol for everyone under age 21 years old.
11. The student is forbidden from participating in any dangerous sports or activities such as hang gliding, bungee jumping, and sky diving. The family will accept full responsibility for any situation arising from the student's involvement in a forbidden activity.
12. The student will abstain from all sexual activity. Serious romantic involvement is strongly discouraged. The student may not take any action that may change the nature of his/her life (for example, become engaged or married).
13. The student is not allowed to get any new tattoos or body piercings while participating in the international student program.
14. The student may not operate a motorized vehicle, including the host family's vehicle or any friend's vehicle.
15. PCS reserves the right to terminate a student's enrollment at Peoria Christian School if his/her conduct is considered detrimental or incompatible with the interests of the school. In this case, all fees paid will be nonrefundable and the student's I-20 will be cancelled.
16. Both international students and their parents are expected to read and be familiar with the Peoria Christian School Student Handbook, available on the PCS website.

Host Families:

1. The student will become an integral part of the host family, assuming duties and responsibilities which are normal for a child of his/her age in the host family's household. This may include cooking, doing dishes, helping with laundry, and cleaning the home.
2. The student must obey the host family's rules and be willing to participate in family activities, such as attending religious services. International students are expected to seek to learn about the Christian faith, respond to Jesus Christ and adhere to the guidelines for Christian living in the student handbook.
3. Problems that arise in the host family are to be resolved first through discussion with the host family, then with the assistance of the international student director or other PCS administrators. The student is not to discuss problems of a personal nature with members of the community. If the student is experiencing any sort of relational stress or difficulty or experiences abuse or harassment of any kind, he/she will immediately disclose the incident to the international student director.
4. Visits by the student's family or friends while in the program require prior approval by the international student director. Host families will not be expected to house student's guests at any time.

Communication & Technology:

1. Parents must communicate directly with the international student director.
2. A personal cell phone must be provided to each international student by his/her parents, unless this requirement is waived by the international student director. This will cost approximately \$500 for the year, depending on the service plan. Internet may be accessed from the host family's residence. The host family or international student director may limit internet and cell phone usage if they feel it is interfering with academic progress or hindering social connections.

3. Students must bring their own computer. The host family may install internet filtering software to the computer. Inappropriate use of the Internet by the student, including viewing pornography or visiting questionable websites, is not acceptable. Such activity may result in program termination.

Medical:

1. A completed medical authorization form, health and immunizations form, and wellness consent form must be received by the international student director prior to departure from home country.
2. Students must share with their host family any medication they bring from their home country to take on a regular or occasional basis.

Financial:

1. The student should have sufficient financial support to ensure his/her well-being during the entire program. Parents must submit proof of a checking account with an ATM VISA card in the student's and parent's name with a \$1,000 balance to be used for personal expenses while at Peoria Christian School.
2. The tuition amount includes transportation to/from airports, transportation for monthly activities, supervised study sessions, cultural orientation and activities, ESL as needed, and oversight by PCS International Student Director. There is a building fee per family each year. The student will need to purchase school wardrobe items once they arrive at PCS. The student may wish to purchase items such as clothing, room decorations and other special purchases. He/She may also wish to attend Student Council events, senior trip or banquets. These expenses would be paid for by the extra money students bring with them on the ATM VISA card or additional funds sent to the student during the school year by his/her parents.
3. The student and his/her parents must pay bills promptly. Full tuition for the year is due by the date specified in the contract.
4. The student is not permitted to borrow money.
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5. If for any reason the student withdraws from Peoria Christian School prior to the completing of the current school term, a full refund will not be granted.
6. If a student needs unusual help for a matter not related to the academic requirements of Peoria Christian School, the family would need to request permission for the activity and provide necessary funds and compensation for the activity.

Travel:

1. The student is required to purchase round-trip international air travel before the student departs from his/her home country. This information must be forwarded to the international student director. Parents, not students, are responsible for directly purchasing airfare and making travel arrangements.
2. The student is permitted to travel domestically with the host parents or with Peoria Christian School sponsorship. Independent travel, aside from trips directly to and from the home country, is not allowed unless prior approval is granted from the international student director. The cost of independent travel would be the student and home family's responsibility.
3. The student must return home within 2 days of the last day of school. Host families will not provide housing during the summer break. In May of a given school year, the I-20 will be extended for another academic year, providing the student has done well academically, is current on payment, and after the student demonstrates proof of travel purchase to return home for the summer months of June, July and August.