

# MIDLAND-HANDA SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM **FAQs**

Give your family an experience of a lifetime—be a *Sister City Host Family* to a Handa, Japan exchange student for one week this summer and get to know Japan without leaving home.

## **Q** *What is our commitment as a host family?*

Three students come for three weeks, each staying one week with a different host family. We're looking for **9 families** to host **one Japanese high school student** for **6-7 days** this summer to help them experience American life. They'll eat, play and interact with the entire family. One adult should be at home during the week of hosting. Homestay dates are:

- Monday, July 23 - Sunday, July 29 [First homestay]
- Monday, July 30 - Sunday, August 5 [Second homestay]
- Monday, August 6 - Sunday, August 12 [Third homestay]

## **Q** *Will the students all speak English?*

Most of the students will have studied English in school and **will speak some English**, but may not be fluent and will be shy to speak at first. Our experience is that their English improves during the stay and that families have a great deal of fun working through communication matters. Apps and electronic translators are readily available, and **Japanese language speakers will be available in case of emergencies.**

## **Q** *How are host families chosen?*

Please **complete the brief application online** at [www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/sistercity](http://www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/sistercity) and return no later than Thursday May 17th. The Midland-Handa Sister City Committee will select the 9 families and notify you about an orientation meeting.

## **Q** *How do we entertain the students?*

There will be a **mix of planned group activities** for the students and host families (Loons game, day at Sanford Lake, and school tours) but **most of the time, it's up to you.** We encourage and will facilitate communication among the 3 host families to provide the broadest range of experiences. Some families have treated their students to trips to Mackinac Island, Greenfield Village, a Tigers game, etc., but **out-of-town experiences are not a requirement.**

## **Q** *Will students have money? What do host families pay for?*

All the Sister City group activities are provided free of charge to the students and their host families. Students bring spending money for souvenirs and snacks. **Host families provide meals and cover activities that you plan**—tickets to events or venues, overnight travel, gifts, etc.

## **Q** *How do we get more information?*

Host families, once selected, **will be given an orientation session** in early June, and an opportunity to meet each other to plan. If you have questions now, contact any of the Sister City Committee members by **e-mail at [midlandhanda@gmail.com](mailto:midlandhanda@gmail.com)**

**For more information visit: [www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/sistercity](http://www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/sistercity)**