2012-2013 Sister School Program Interest Meeting

Robert Frost Middle School & Laurel Int’l Corp
Nov. 15 2012
Laurel International

- Established in 1992
- Comprehensive international executive training and educational exchange programs
- Educational exchanges for more than 10 years, both for K-12 and college students
- Led by Randy Liu
  - laurelco@yahoo.com
  - 240-426-3289
Laurel International

Established international school partnership for these schools:
i) Loudoun County (VA):
   1) Loudoun Valley High School
   2) Broad Run High School
   3) Stone Bridge High School
   4) Freedom High School

ii) Montgomery County (MD):
   1) Robert Frost Middle School
   2) Wootton High School

iii) Howard County (MD):
   1) Long Reach High School
   2) Centennial High School
   3) River Hill High School
   4) Reservoir High School
   5) Marriotts Ridge High School
   6) Longfellow Elementary School (pending)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2009</td>
<td>Dr. Jones visits Beijing No. 5 Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>Frost students visit China</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>Beijing No. 5 Principal Ms. Yang visits Frost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 2010</td>
<td>Chinese students visit Frost</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>Frost students visit China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2011</td>
<td>Chinese students visit Frost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2012</td>
<td>Frost students visit China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>Model United Nations Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 2012</td>
<td>Chinese students visit Frost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2013</td>
<td>Frost Students visit Beijing No.5</td>
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</tbody>
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About Beijing No. 5 Middle School
Located in downtown Beijing
1,200 students in grades 7-9
Top school in Beijing, students very talented
Why visit China - Educational Trip

- Honor this ambassador mission and continue our friendship
- To understand the history and culture of this emerging power
- To explore Chinese education system and students’ daily life
- To promote mutual understanding and respect
- To practice Chinese in a real setting
- To have a great spring break!
Trip Itinerary Highlights

- **STUDENT CENTERED!**
- **Three cities:** Beijing, Xi’an, and Shanghai
Trip Itinerary Highlights

- **Travel**: in Beijing: travel with the host family
  otherwise: by air, by train, by private bus.....
- **Food**: most Chinese
- **Stay**: Beijing: home stay
  Xi’an and Shanghai: hotel (most likely Holiday Inn)
  Standard Double Bed
Specially arranged cultural classes
Beijing: Capital City, Political Center and more
Xi’an – City Tour, Dumpling Dinner, and Dance Show
Shanghai – City Tour
## Estimated Cost (Student)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Airline Tickets</td>
<td>$1400</td>
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<tr>
<td>China Domestic Flights or Trains</td>
<td>$440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Transportation (Buses, etc.)</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sightseeing Tickets</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Visa</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Insurance</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Fee</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All meals and show tickets for students are included.
Cost for souvenirs, snacks and other personal items are NOT included.
Price for transportation (air, bus, train, etc.) is based on current gas price and subject to change (price range: 3000-3300).
Parent Participation

- The trip is a **STUDENT-CENTERED** school filed trip!
- This is an **educational trip** and not a 100% sight-seeing tour!
- This is an **exchange program** between two schools!
Parent Participation Expectations

- No alcohol – school sponsored trip
- Students can not be taken from the school group and go with parents separately
- Always report to the whole group on time when traveling!
- Please notify Laurel before the trip if you have separate arrangements.
- Support the school expectations for the students
**Time Line Highlights**

- **12/7/12**  
  Student Application & $500 Deposit  
  *Make Checks Payable to Laurel International*  
  Due by 3:00 p.m.

- **12/10/12**  
  Notification of Trip Selection

- **1/10/13**  
  Remaining Balance Due – ($2500)  
  *Make Checks Payable to Laurel International*

  Passports and Visa Application Due

- **TBD**  
  Parent/Student China Follow-up Meeting
Time Line Highlights (cont.)

- TBD  Pre-Trip Meeting
- 3/22/13  Depart for Beijing, China
- **ENJOY THE 10-DAY EXPERIENCE!**
- 3/31/13  Return to Maryland, USA
- **WELCOME BACK!**
Frequently Asked Questions

What does the insurance include?

- **Airline tickets**: if you get sick, you can get a full refund on your tickets with a doctor’s note
- **Medical insurance**: covers expenses up to $50,000
Frequently Asked Questions

How will students travel in China?

- While with host families: they may either walk to school, be driven by the parents, or ride public buses or subway.
- No bikes
- Rest of the trip: Private bus
- Overnight Train: 4 people per room with AC
- Plane
Frequently Asked Questions

Where will students stay?

- Most host families live in condos—smaller homes than we have here.
  - Students may have to share a room (not a bed) with Chinese students – **while in Beijing**
  - Will have air conditioning
  - Western-style toilets

- **Hotels** (at least three-star) – **while in Xian & Shanghai**
  - Two students per room
  - Will try to get non-smoking rooms, but not all hotels will be able to accommodate
How are host families chosen?

- Screened through their employers and local police departments, as well as local condo associations.
- Homes are evaluated for Western-style amenities and cleanliness.
- Host students must be able to speak English and are willing to take responsibility for a visiting American student.
What will students eat?

- Mostly Chinese food, especially local specialties
- In China, lunch is the main meal
- With host families: they will eat breakfast and dinner at home, and lunch at school
- Some American food (all hotels will have American buffet-style breakfasts)
- Only bottled water
How will students communicate with home?

- **Phone**
  - We will give parents numbers for host families, hotels and the tour guide
  - They can buy calling cards, but they are expensive

- **Email**
  - They will have access to the internet at their host families’ homes
  - Hotels will have business center where they can check email, but they will need to pay
  - We will send an email everyday about what the kids are doing each day
How will students buy things in China?

- Bring cash or a credit card – not traveler’s checks
- If necessary, they can borrow money from the tour guide and pay him back
- We will exchange when we get there; there is one rate everywhere
- Current rate: $1 to 6.29 yuan
How do you maintain the group in large crowds?

Based on our previous experience, we had the 'buddy system' and we have never lost a child before.

When we travel in Beijing, we would always have 1 or 2 teachers from the school to help. Local tour guides and bus drivers will also help us for all trips in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. So we always have at least 2 to 3 adult chaperons with the students.

March is not the peak travel time. Fewer crowds.
Frequently Asked Questions

What are common issues students face in China?

- Language barrier: even if students have taken some Chinese, taking classes with Chinese students can still be hard to understand.
- Food: students may not be used to certain styles of food in China; in addition, Chinese families may cook many dishes and be rather pushy in getting American students to try new food and eat more than they might want to.
- Culture: Learning how Chinese people express themselves, how to bargain, etc. can be eye-opening.
We need everyone signed up by December 7, 2012
Need final payment by January 10, 2013
Checks payable to Laurel International
We will get the visas and plane tickets in January
Another family meeting in March, before the trip
Contact Info:

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QUESTIONS?