



日本から  
**JAPAN**

Summer 2023  
Hosting  
Opportunities

**MIDLAND-HANDA SISTER CITIES**  
**STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM** July 24 - August 14

また来ます  
**RETURNS**



Sister City Program: for details call  
the Midland Communications' Office 989.837.3307  
or visit: [www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/sistercity](http://www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/sistercity)

# 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?*

**A** 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 24 - Sunday, July 30 [First homestay]
- Sunday, July 30 - Sunday, August 6 [Second homestay]
- Sunday, August 6 - Monday, August 14 [Third homestay]

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

**A** 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?*

**A** 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?*

**A** There will be a **mix of planned group activities** for the students and host families (Loons game, visit to Whiting Forest, 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?*

**A** 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?*

**A** Host families, once selected, **will be given an orientation session** in early June, and an opportunity to meet each other host families 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)**



## MIDLAND-HANDA SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2023 HOST FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

Host Family Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Host Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Host Applicant(s) Full Name(s) & Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Full names and ages of additional members of your household, including minors: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pets and Other Animals at Your Home: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Host Family Child's/Children's Interests and Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Family Interests and Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is your entire family vaccinated against COVID-19? (Circle one)      Yes      No      Prefer Not to Say

It is preferred that at least one adult host applicant be home during the daytime and evening during the exchange student's one-week stay in your home. Please list the name(s) of the host applicant(s) who will be in the home that week.

\_\_\_\_\_

Preference for the week you will host the Handa exchange student (rank 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for each of the three week periods below; if you cannot host during a specific week, please indicate). Please note that these dates are subject to minor change.

Mon., July 24-Mon., July 31       Mon., July 31-Mon., Aug. 7       Mon., Aug. 7-Mon., Aug. 14

How did you learn of this hosting opportunity?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed Midland-Handa Sister City Student Exchange Program Host Family Information Sheet and City of Midland Host Family Consent and Release Form by mail to Katie Guyer, Midland City Hall, 333 W. Ellsworth St., Midland, MI 48640, or via email at [kguyer@midland-mi.org](mailto:kguyer@midland-mi.org) by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 2. Your contact information will be shared with other Midland host families and the families of our visiting Handa students.

# CITY OF MIDLAND HOST FAMILY CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM



Midland will be hosting three high school exchange students from our sister city of Handa, Japan from approximately July 24 to August 14, 2023. We are seeking local host families to share their homes with one student for one week. It is a wonderful international experience for the entire family.

If you are interested in applying to be a host family, please complete form as soon as possible and return it to Katie Guyer, Midland City Hall, 333 W. Ellsworth St., Midland, MI 48640 or kguyer@midland-mi.org.

As a safety precaution, the City of Midland will contact the references that you provide and will perform a routine background check as part of the application review process.

Should you have any questions, you may contact any Sister City Committee member listed in the Host Family Information Packet.

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## REFERENCES:

| Reference No. 1       | Reference No. 2 | Reference No. 3 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Full Name: _____      | _____           | _____           |
| Phone No.: _____      | _____           | _____           |
| Home Address: _____   | _____           | _____           |
| E-mail Address: _____ | _____           | _____           |

## HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

 Please list the full names and ages of all members of your household, including minors:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I/we, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the following and do consent to a check of references and background. I/we also hereby release the City of Midland, its employees, agents, servants and officials, either elected or appointed, and Midland-Handa Sister City Committee members, from any and all liability that may occur through participation in the Midland-Handa Sister City Student Exchange Program.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Host Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Host Applicant Signature

*Prepared by James O. Branson III, City Attorney*

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