

Dear International Families:

My name is Mary Hudon, International Program Director at King's Schools. My office is in the main High School Building, Room 119 so that all international students have access to me (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm). I am here to assist and serve as an advocate for the enhancement of each student's learning and development while providing a safe and loving environment where they can build community.

As you know, there are a lot of adjustments that students make once they arrive from their home country and requirements that are mandated by the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP*) for F-1 visa holders. As the Principal Designated School Official (PDSO*), I assist and advise students on immigration related issues and monitor their I-20, passport, visa, and health insurance documents so they are up to date. If a student requests to travel abroad, I work with them directly ensure they are prepared to depart and enter back into the United States.

As the International Program Director, I conduct orientations, mid-year evaluations and meet with students often to see how they are adjusting academically, spiritually, at home and in their community. It is routine for international students at King's to be in my office every day for tea, snack, lunch, prayer, and after school debriefing. This is my favorite part of the job!

King's is a highly regarded college preparatory school and is well known in the Seattle area for its excellence in academics, competitive sports, extra-curricular activities, volunteer opportunities and spiritual development. Academics are a main priority for our international students and therefore, if students are struggling with their academics or need additional assistance with their English language proficiency, it is my goal to make sure they are getting the appropriate support they need to successfully graduate from King's Schools.

It is understandable and very common that most parents are unable to move to the U.S. to live with their student while they attend school. Therefore, a student in grades 7-12 has the option of applying to live with a Host Family. Host families can become a loving, supportive parental figure for an international student and some of the greatest relationships have been fostered between our international students and host families.

As part of the International Program, I host monthly activities to integrate students into the life, language, food, and culture of our community within the safety parameters required. I have attached photos of the monthly international activities that I host so that you more fully understand what a wonderful experience it is to be a part of the international community at King's Schools as they engage with one another and celebrate daily life together.

Finally, I understand that sending your son/daughter to the United States to study is an important and often difficult decision for families abroad. However, I believe that a quality education is one of the greatest gifts you can provide to them. As you contemplate making this decision, I invite you to contact me at any time to discuss or answer any questions you might have. I work directly with our admissions team and academic counselors to address each student applicant individually with a holistic approach and believe that King's is an exemplary choice for international students.

In my capacity as the International Program Director/PDSO at King's and in service to God, I count it a privilege to work with you in the future. Thank you for your interest in King's Schools.

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*PDSO:Principal Designated School Official
Department of Homeland Security
Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)