



In 2013 I had the fabulous opportunity to host two High School students visiting here for the Janesville School District Summer International Education Institute. It turned out to be a very exciting and enriching experience. My own two Parker High students were a bit apprehensive at first, however they quickly warmed up to our guests and still agree that hosting was one of the greatest experiences they've had. It really helped them begin to understand a culture different from our own. When given the chance we will happily serve as hosts again.

*The Finster Family*



We hosted a 5th grade Chinese girl last summer. With my husband and I working full time I thought it would be too difficult, but when I heard about the Summer Institute and that my daughter and our host daughter could attend together from 8:30am - 2:30pm Monday through Friday for two weeks, my thoughts changed. I like to keep my daughter busy during the summer. They both got out of the house for the day while I was at work and when I picked them up they were ready to come home and relax for a bit. The Chinese kids enjoy their downtime (Ipads - most brought their own) so you don't always have to be entertaining.

Then we tried to show our host daughter as much as we could of our culture in the evenings and on weekends. This was a lot of fun for us too! We had a list of other families that were also hosting so we could help one another or get

together for fun outings. She seemed to enjoy the food here. She picked the pizza place at the Mall over Panda Express. She liked chicken and any fruits and vegetables. And she loved hot dogs! We were able to communicate with her via email two weeks before she arrived. We still send and receive emails and pictures from her and hope to see her again sometime. We will definitely host again this year!



*The Quade Family*



It's always been a goal of ours to show our children other perspectives and help them learn an appreciation for other cultures and how others live. When the chance to host a child from Beijing we hopped on it! We thought it would be a great way to learn about their country and lifestyle while at the same time, showing them all of our favorite things about America.

I'm tearing up as I write this but this experience definitely was more about how they impacted us than the other way around. We hosted Susan and Lisa and immediately they brought more light into our household! Susan was going into 5th grade and she treated my children as her siblings from the start! She would ride bikes with them and play games and she played beautifully for us on the piano. She was energetic and was very polite. She called us to Skype the following day when she got home and we've kept in touch over email monthly since she left. She likes to tell us about how well she's doing in school and about her family. She might even come visit us this summer!

Lisa, was our quiet reserved girl and was going into 6th grade. She seemed more delicate than Susan, was an only child, but still jumped right in to the household and embraced our family like we embraced her. We stay in touch with Lisa too still over email.

We truly enjoyed our time with the girls, from taking them to waterparks, camping and to zoos to just taking them shopping and watching the smiles on their faces as we interacted. We were surprised at how well the girls spoke English. We didn't even have to use any translation apps at all. Susan spoke better English than Lisa usually so we always were able to get through things.

With regard to the process, it was very easy. The people running the program made sure we knew what was happening and what we needed to do every step of the way. I have nothing negative to say about the experience, I'll do it anytime! I can't wait to host again this summer!

*The Haworth Family*