

Questions for your Guidance Counselor/School Advisor

- Remember, school will be a major part of your life in the U.S.
- AFS places great importance on active school participation.
- It should be the focal point of your year and you are expected to attend school every day and complete the assigned coursework, including all homework, tests, presentations and projects.
- Expect there to be many differences between your school at home and school in the U.S.
- There is more detailed information on typical school life in the "Welcome to the USA" Booklet that you received before coming to the U.S.
- Being aware of what to expect can help you to adapt more easily to school and life in the U.S.
- When you register for classes, you should talk to a School Counselor or "Guidance Counselor".
 - This person helps you select classes that are required and appropriate for your academic level, as well as "electives" (classes that you choose, are not required for everyone).
 - This person can also answer other questions.
 - Remember, this person helps many, if not all, the students at your school.
 - Their time is limited, and they are often busy.
 - Always make an appointment before meeting with them and be respectful of their time and authority.
- You should talk with your host parent(s) and the Guidance Counselor/School Counselor if you have questions about school, academic expectations and worries you might have about schoolwork.
- AFS has some general criteria for selecting classes with your Guidance Counselor. To be allowed to enroll in school, you must bring and show them:
 - Your Health Addendum showing what immunizations you have had.
 - Your student transcript showing courses you have taken, your scholastic performance and English ability.
- In terms of what classes to take, AFS has some general requirements and recommendations:
 - As a cultural learning experience, it is important to take English class.
Usually required, English class focuses on reading and studying literature. American Literature is recommended.
 - Many states require courses in the "core" areas of science, mathematics and social studies
US History is required of all students to graduate, as it provides important citizenship information, and for AFS students is the best academic class for understanding US cultural development
 - Specific subjects you need to take for credit back home
 - Classes that interest you

- Experiential classes that encourage in-class interaction with classmates (ex: Art, Music, PE, Drama)
- Elective classes (ex: chorus, woodworking, foreign languages)

Questions for your guidance counselor/school advisor

1. Are there classes that the school requires for international students?

If so, what are these classes?

2. What classes are offered? Could you show me a list?

3. Is it possible to get a diploma from the high school? If not, is it possible to get a certificate of completion or an honorary diploma?

4. If I have certain course requirements for my school at home; are these classes available at the host school?

5. Which classes are one semester long and which classes last the full year?

6. What types of clubs, organizations, sports, and groups are there at this school?

7. How do I get involved in these clubs, activities, sports, etc.?