

Newton-Beijing Jingshan School Exchange Program
The Newton Public Schools
2017 Student Application

Dear Prospective Exchange Student and Family,

Thank you for your interest in the Newton Schools' exchange program to the Jingshan High School in Beijing. Before you fill out this application, please read the information included in this cover letter, reflect upon the nature and expectations of this type of program, and discuss them with your parent(s) or guardian(s). Please note that there is a section of the application that needs to be completed by your parent or guardian.

Newton's exchange program to Jingshan is specific in its goals and expectations. It is a school-based and family-oriented program. As such, it has been developed to provide qualified Newton students with the opportunity to live as a member of a Chinese family and to learn about secondary school life in China by attending classes at our sister school, Jingshan High School. Students will also attend special classes organized for Newton students such as calligraphy and martial arts, participate in day excursions, and do some traveling to other parts of China. While at the Jingshan School, Newton students will also take a course taught by Newton's exchange teachers about China for English credit. Prior experience in Chinese is not required to apply, but all students are expected to take Chinese in the semester leading up to their trip, and to participate in an intensive four-week language course over the summer. Students are unenrolled from their Newton classes for the semester that they spend abroad in China.

Please note that a commitment to this exchange is a commitment starting in the summer of this year with attendance at a summer language institute, continuing through the fall with hosting a student and attending weekly preparatory meetings, and then culminating in travel to China next spring. Students are also expected to make presentations in classes upon their return. Unless there are compelling extenuating circumstances, students who travel to China in January 2017 are expected to host Chinese students during the fall of 2016.

Costs: We estimate that the student/family share of the expenses of this program will be approximately \$4,700. This number comprises airfare, visa, summer institute, program fees, and \$1,200 towards in-country excursions in China. The cost may vary depending on a variety of factors, including the number of students in the group. Excursion destinations while in China are chosen by the group, and students/families are responsible for excursion costs in excess of \$1,200.

Financial Assistance: Need-based scholarships are available to all students through the Jane's Trust fund and the GELF. Both scholarships use the GELF application, which can be found in the World Language Offices at Newton North or South or on the GELF website at <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/2022>. Scholarship applications are due in the fall.

Application Deadline: Applications are due by Monday, March 28, 2016.

Questions? Email Samantha Mandel, Global Education Programs Manager at samantha_mandel@newton.k12.ma.us.

Tentative Dates

Chinese Students in Newton: September to early January

Rev 12/11

Newton students in Beijing: Late January to late May

Requirements for Participation

The screening committee will be seeking students who can adapt themselves readily to new or different situations both at home and in school. Students must be able to act responsibly and thoughtfully, think independently, give of themselves as well as receive, be curious about and interested in the people and the region they are visiting, and at all times be a good representative and ambassador for our school, town, state and country. Good physical and mental health is important.

Participation in this program requires good academic standing and an exemplary disciplinary record. Even if a student is initially accepted into the program, he/she will be disqualified from traveling and/or hosting if any of the following requirements are not met.

- Student must enroll in a Chinese class during the semester prior to going abroad (prior Chinese experience is not required)
- Attendance at the intensive summer language institute is required. Family vacation of up to a week is excused. Institute dates are scheduled in consultation with the student group.
- Students must faithfully attend weekly preparatory meetings in the fall. Students are allowed to miss one fall meeting with prior notice. Any further missed meetings must be discussed with the Program Manager in advance.
- Student must have a grade of C or better in each of his/her classes during terms 1 and 2
- Student may not have an outstanding or unresolved Incomplete in any class during terms 1 and 2
- Student may not have a grade of N in any class during terms 1 and 2
- Any disciplinary infraction will be considered grounds for possible disqualification from the exchange program

Refund policy: *Once a student has been accepted into the exchange program and has paid part or all of the fee, a refund may not be possible if the student is disqualified from participation due to failure to meet the academic or disciplinary standards outlined above. If a student voluntarily withdraws from the program, all best efforts will be made to refund the program fee. A full refund may not be possible if airline tickets have already been purchased for the group.*

Application Instructions and Documents

Read carefully and answer completely as incomplete applications will be returned.

I. Fill out the following personal information

Full Name _____ Homeroom _____

School _____ Year of Graduation _____

House/Counselor _____ Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Full Home Address & zip code _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student E-Mail Address _____ Chinese Level/Class: _____

Country of Citizenship _____ Do you have a current passport? Yes ___ / No ___

If yes, passport # _____ exp. date _____

II. Please attach a *typed* personal statement to this application. Please label each sheet of your statement with your name and school. In this statement, please answer each of the following questions:

- 1) Describe yourself and tell why you would like to take part in the exchange to China. Remember that this is a reciprocal experience, so please describe yourself as a host as well as a guest.
- 2) What do you think would be particularly challenging about a four-month stay in China? How do you feel you would handle that challenge, and why do you feel you would be particularly well qualified to meet it?
- 3) Comment on your general plan to meet your obligations to your exchange student when he/she arrives in Newton. Given that the exchange is a reciprocal commitment, how do you plan to involve your student in your life with your family and friends? Please give some idea of how you will accomplish the task of having an additional family member.
- 4) If your friend were selected for this exchange program, what advice would you give to him/her?
- 5) As a student participant, what special qualities or talents do you feel that you could bring to this program?

III. Fill out the following student questionnaire.

Describe your individual interests and activities, both academic and extra-curricular:

Describe any allergies, dietary restrictions, or medical conditions that would influence your travel and living arrangements in China:

Parent Information:

Names, Full address(es) (if different), Cell phone AND e-mail address

References: Please list the names of two teachers and one other person (not family) who will evaluate your qualifications for this program and who have been given the attached recommendation form to complete.

Name, address, and phone or email of references

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

IV. Parent/Guardian Statement. Please attach to this application a brief statement of your support for the exchange program, addressing the following questions:

What benefits do you hope to derive from it as a family?

What obligations do you sense it will impose on you and your family?

How will you contribute to the exchange?

Please also describe your child's motivation for wanting to participate in this program.

Commitment to host: Are you committed to hosting a Chinese student for four months in the fall?

yes _____ no _____

If not, please explain why. Please note, because the exchange is designed as a reciprocal commitment, students whose families are unwilling to host without a compelling reason will be at a strong disadvantage in the selection process. If a family cannot host for financial reasons or for lack of space, exceptions can be made.

**V. Please separate the teacher reports below and present one to each of your teachers.
Recommendations must be turned in to Samantha Mandel from *all* of your teachers by the application deadline of March 28, 2016.**

Teacher Report

Teacher's Name _____ Student's Name _____

Course Title _____ Grade in course at this time _____

Please comment on the candidacy of this student for the school's exchange program to China from January through May of next year. This teacher comment sheet is very important to this student's selection process. Your input here will influence this student's candidacy so please be candid. Thank you for your time and consideration.

(Please return to Samantha Mandel, main office, by Monday, March 28, 2016).

Teacher Report

Teacher's Name _____ Student's Name _____

Course Title _____ Grade in course at this time _____

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Please return to Samantha Mandel, main office, by Monday, March 28, 2016).

VI. Please give the housemaster reference below to your housemaster to complete by the application deadline of March 28, 2016.

HOUSEMASTER REFERENCE

TO: _____, Housemaster Date _____

RE: _____, Applicant for the Newton-Beijing Jingshan Exchange

The above-named student has applied to take part in Newton Schools' four-month student exchange program with China. Students who are chosen for these programs must demonstrate adaptability, responsibility and independence, and must be in good mental and physical health. They should also be good representatives of their school, community and country. The Selection Committee would truly appreciate any information or comments that you would be willing to share about this candidate that would help them to make an informed decision.

During the student's tenure at your school:

Has s/he been brought to your attention for any behavior or discipline problems? _____

If yes, please comment:

Has s/he been absent from school for any extended period(s) of time? _____

If yes, please comment:

Do you have any reservations about the student's participation in an exchange? _____

If yes, please comment:

Please provide any additional information you think relevant to our consideration of the student's application to participate in the exchange program.

Signature

Date

Please return to Samantha Mandel, main office, by Monday, March 28, 2016).

VII. Please give the counselor reference below to your counselor to complete by the application deadline of March 28, 2016.

COUNSELOR REFERENCE

TO: _____, Counselor Date_____

RE: _____, Applicant for the Newton-Beijing Jingshan Exchange

The above-named student has applied to take part in Newton Schools' four-month student exchange program with China. Students who are chosen for these programs must demonstrate adaptability, responsibility and independence, and must be in good mental and physical health. They should also be good representatives of their school, community and country. The Selection Committee would truly appreciate any information or comments that you would be willing to share about this candidate that would help them to make an informed decision.

During the student's tenure at your school:

Has s/he been brought to your attention for any academic or other concerns? _____

If yes, please comment:

Do you have any reservations about the student's participation in an exchange? _____

If yes, please comment:

Please provide any additional information you think relevant to our consideration of the student's application to participate in the exchange program.

Signature

Date

Please return to Samantha Mandel, main office, by Monday, March 28, 2016).

VIII. Signature

In signing below, you verify that all of the information on your application is truthful and complete.

Signature of student applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent: _____ Date: _____

Application deadline. Applications must be **received** by March 28, 2016. All applications must be submitted to Samantha Mandel's box in the main office at Newton North or South.

Please direct any questions to Samantha Mandel, Global Education Programs Manager. She can be reached at Samantha_mandel@newton.k12.ma.us.