

# Lifegate Christian School

1052 Fairfield Avenue ♦ Eugene, OR 97402

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[www.lifegatechristian.org](http://www.lifegatechristian.org)

## *International Student Handbook*

*2011-2012*

## ***Welcome to Lifegate Christian School!***

I would like to welcome you to **Lifegate Christian School's International Student Program**. While you are in the United States your education and interests will be taken care of by the staff at Lifegate and your host family. We desire to make your stay in the United States the best experience possible.

As an **International Student**, you will have the opportunity to live in the home of an American family and learn first hand about American culture and lifestyle. Eugene is a great city, full of diverse culture and beautiful scenery. It is two hours driving from Portland and one and a half hours driving from the beautiful Oregon Coast. In winter there is skiing within 2 hours of driving. During your visit, you will have many enriching opportunities and experiences.

While studying at Lifegate, we trust that you will meet the expectations and standards that are outlined in our "student handbook". Our students benefit from an **exceptional education** in an exceptional environment, and we encourage you to join us in making the most of this opportunity. You are welcome to browse our website, [www.lifegatechristian.org](http://www.lifegatechristian.org) to learn more about us.

We are excited about your decision to join the **Lifegate family**. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help you in any way possible.

Welcome and congratulations!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dana Kropf  
International Student Coordinator, LCS  
ASSE Private School Program Area Representative

689-5847  
[danak@lifegatechristian.org](mailto:danak@lifegatechristian.org)

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## ***Introduction***

Lifegate has prepared this booklet to help you plan for your stay in the United States. It will give you information you need to know about American culture, the rules and procedures of Lifegate, and some extra information that may be helpful to you.

## ***Your Lifegate Authorities***

You will be working closely with the **International Student Coordinator** at Lifegate. Please also feel free to talk to the administrator or the office staff if you have a need or concern.

## ***Your Host Family***

During your time in the United States, you will be staying with a host family that Lifegate Christian School has chosen. Host families are people who **open their home with love**. Please obey the rules of the home, and make sure you **share your culture** with them. Your host family wants to get to know you, and they want to help you get to know the American culture. Please **respect** the rules and traditions of your host family.

All your activities must be approved by your host parents, and you must always advise them of your whereabouts and when you will return home. You are required to spend the Christmas/New Year holidays and other major holidays and family celebrations with your Host Family.

Remember that it is very important to **communicate** with your host family about everything you are experiencing. As you share with them, you will get to know them more and they can help you with things. So remember to talk, talk, talk!

## ***Your Success***

Living in the United States is a lot different from living in your home country. The food is different, the people look different, and the culture is different. It can be hard to adjust to a new country. Listed below are things that will help you to have a **successful time** in the United States.

- **Have a Positive Attitude:** Be willing to try new things and meet new people. You should become involved in your host family, school, church and community. The more activities you become involved in, the more you will learn about the U.S. and Americans. Remember, your host family and the people at school want to know you, and they want you to know them. The more you are willing to try and become involved, the quicker you will be accepted and make friends.
- **Have an Open Mind:** Remember that life in the United States is different from life in your country. Have fun experiencing new things. Remember, just because something is different, does not mean that is it bad.
- **Have Realistic Expectations:** Life in the United States might be different than what you had expected. It is important to remember that you have to adjust to living in the U.S. Patience and understanding will help you during your time here.

## ***Your School***

It is important that you **try your best** in all of your classes. Should any of your grades fall below a "C" there will be a review by the school administration. Should your grades continue to fall you could be dismissed from Lifegate and sent back home.

## ***Your Lifestyle***

Every culture has their own ways of living. Listed below are some things that are common in American culture. Being aware of these things will help you to 'fit in' to the American culture.

- A. **Personal hygiene** is an area where cultures differ. Listed below are a few generally accepted practices:
  1. It is customary to bathe daily and change into clean clothes.
  2. Men and women use underarm deodorant.
  3. Women generally shave underarms and legs.
  4. Clothes are washed frequently but each house has its routine. Learn the one of your host family.
- B. You will have '**chores**' or jobs to do in your host family. For example, they may ask you to wash the dishes, or keep your room clean. Remember that you are now a member of your host family, so you will be expected to help keep the house clean.
- C. **Church** is a part of our culture. You will be attending church on Sunday with your host family.
- D. **Dating** is common among American teenagers. While dating is permitted, you should not become involved in a serious relationship. Sexual activity is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate expulsion from school and you will have to return to your country.
- E. **Money concerns:** Remember that you will need to have some spending money to buy the things you may need while you are in the United States. Your host family will provide you with food, but anything else you may need you will have to buy. Do not ask your host family for money.
- F. **Travel during your stay:** The United States is a very large country with many interesting places to see. The times extended travel would be allowed are:
  - Travel with your host family. Your host family will expect your natural family to pay for your expenses.
  - Travel on a Lifegate trip. These outings have been covered by the fees you have already paid to attend Lifegate.

At no time will you be allowed to travel either by yourself or with other teenagers, without permission of ASSE, your Host Family and your natural parents.

Any travel plans need to be submitted to Lifegate in writing 3 weeks in advance, for approval.

## ***Your Natural Family***

We encourage you to keep in touch with your family at home by email or telephone (at your own expense).

No visits by friends, family or siblings are allowed at any time during your enrollment at Lifegate. Visits after the last day of school are discouraged, but permitted, if the ASSE Area Representative is advised of the plans 3 weeks or more in advance.

## ***Lifegate Christian School Rules***

1. Students are not allowed to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages.
2. Students are not allowed to engage in sexual activity.
3. Students are not allowed to purchase or use illegal drugs.
4. Tattoos and body piercing are strictly prohibited during your stay.
5. Students are not allowed to purchase or use tobacco products.
6. Students must abide by the laws of the United States on all levels.
7. Students are not allowed to hitchhike.
8. Students are not allowed to take a job during your stay.
9. Students are not allowed to purchase or use firearms.
10. Students are not allowed to purchase a motor vehicle.
11. Students are not allowed to drive a motorized vehicle unless in a Driver's Education course.
12. Students need to make every effort to become involved with the host family.
13. Students must obey the host family "house rules".
14. Student is expected to attend church with the host family.
15. Attendance at Lifegate Christian School is mandatory.
16. Students need to maintain at least a "C" average in every class.
17. Lifegate does not guarantee a high school diploma. Each student must meet minimum academic credits to earn a diploma.
18. Students are not allowed to move from the host family without a conference and joint decision involving the student, host parents, and administration. If a move is warranted, the school administration will select a suitable family.
19. Students must be submissive to the school administration, host parents and school staff members.

These guidelines and rules have been established to ensure your experience as a Lifegate student is safe, effective and enjoyable.

***Welcome to the Lifegate Christian School family!***

I have read both the Lifegate Christian School Student Handbook and the Lifegate Christian School International Student Handbook.

I will abide by all the rules of classroom behavior and school standards as stated in both Handbooks.

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Student's Signature

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Date

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Print Name

I have read both the Lifegate Christian School Student Handbook and the Lifegate Christian School International Student Handbook.

I will abide by all the rules of classroom behavior and school standards as stated in both Handbooks.

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Student's Signature

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Date

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Print Name