

ISLAND CHRONICLE

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Email Edition

A New Grosse Ile Opportunity

Dr. Diane Sanford

Grosse Ile Township Schools has expanded its Foreign Exchange options for the 2010-2011. Grosse Ile High School (GIHS) has had a long history of welcoming foreign high school students to participate in our programs and creating some rich international experiences for all involved. Next year, along with accepting eligible students from other various countries and exchange programs, the school district has entered into a formal agreement with Global Intellectual Cultural Exchange Inc. under the direction of Laura Wang. We will be working with 15 Chinese students for the 2010-2011 school year in an effort to help Chinese students get better acclimated for their American university experiences.

A Grosse Ile team (administrators, teachers, counselors and students) interviewed 25 eligible Chinese students via SKYPE during the week of March 21-26. The Chinese students had submitted extensive applications after an internal (national) screening process. These students are academically able and have individual interests and goals. Technology allowed us to interview each candidate individually, asking each an established set of questions designed to determine those students most ready to participate in this unique program. Through this process, the interview team was able to identify those students most able to benefit from our programs. All of the selected students are age appropriate in order to be considered a Grosse Ile "senior" and will be evaluated once their transcripts arrive.

Each student's parents will pre-pay the district's tuition fee upfront. In addition, they have already committed to pay for their students' university education. Therefore, the 15 Chinese students will not be eligible for any scholarships while here at Grosse Ile. Over the next few months, the staff and students of GIHS will be busy planning for a successful transition for our new classmates.

Due to the number of Chinese students that will be arriving, it is possible that a volunteer teacher will be sent along to assist both the school district and these students ensuring a smooth experience. As such, GIHS would be able to offer a Chinese language experience for our own students, in addition to a community outreach program. This program has many opportunities for individuals, the schools, families and our community. It is hoped that from this beginning, many wonderful experiences and prospects will occur.

With these important steps in motion, the next vital task is finding housing accommodations. The Grosse Ile Township Schools is looking for families that would like to welcome a Chinese student into their home from July – June. **There will be a meeting for interested families on April 27th at 9:00 am or April 28th at 7:00 pm in the Board room at Central Office.**

You may also contact Dr. Diane Sanford at 362-2700 or Dena Dardzinski, Community Liaison, at 675-5844 for more information. Also, please check the district website, Chinese Exchange Program, at gischools.org

Dr. Diane Sanford is the Principle of Meridian Elementary School.

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