



EDUCATION



SND International Twinning Program

What is the SND International Twinning Program?

The Sisters of Notre Dame sponsor or are affiliated with schools and ministries in 18 countries world-wide. With such a large network, it is the intent of the SND International Twinning Program to connect SND high schools in the United States with SND secondary schools in India, Africa, Indonesia and Brazil. It is hoped that the connection will bring to light our shared charism as well as generate a cultural exchange. The CRS/SND Global High School program aims to make our students global citizens and understanding each other's lives is a step toward making that happen.

How does my school get paired up?

All pairings will be filtered through the SND National Education Office by contacting Lisa Canterbury, Program Director, at lcanterbury@ndec.org. Once contacted, Lisa will send a list of international schools who do not yet have a pairing, ensuring that duplicates are not made. The school can then choose one or more international schools with which they would like to partner. Lisa will then send the contact information to each school in the pairing. The potential pairing list only includes international schools that have expressed an interest in having their students participate in a cultural exchange with students in the US.

What does it mean to be paired?

The main purpose of this pairing is to allow for students in both countries to experience the culture of a "foreign" country. This can be done in a variety of ways including: email pen pals, video skype sessions, sending video tours of places of interest (grocery store, home, school, concert, etc.), doing an art exchange, or any other means that appeals to the students at both schools. The concept should not be one of charity, but rather solidarity and mutuality – one of listening and learning.

Are we required to fundraise?

The students are welcome to fundraise if they choose, but it is certainly not required. Many of the international schools do have basic needs that US students may choose to help meet, but the main purpose of the program is just to learn about other people and places and understand just how big the SND network is!

How long does the pairing last?

We realize that participation in the Global High School program as well as the SND International Twinning Program is optional, but it is our hope that the schools, as well as the students, will build long-lasting relationships with each other – eventually reaching a point where students feel free to ask questions openly sparking meaningful discussion between two countries.