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## Foreign student opportunities a boon for Badin High School

Badin High School is wrapping up a second full year of welcoming opportunities for foreign students, and has every intention of maintaining that program in the years to come.

“Our ability to attract foreign students has been a great addition to the school,” said Principal Frank Margello. “Our visitors get an excellent education and terrific exposure to our culture, and our local students get the benefit of interacting on a constant basis with students from foreign lands. It’s a win-win for the students and for Badin.”

Ten foreign students are at Badin for the 2007-08 school year, some on hand to graduate from BHS, and others here as more traditional foreign exchange students for the cultural experience.

“We went through an extensive process with the State Department to be certified to accept foreign students who will graduate from Badin,” said Teresa Heinrich, Badin’s academic dean. “That process has been well worth the effort. Those foreign students are here on special

education visas and must pass all requirements, including the Ohio Graduation Test, in order to earn a diploma. We're glad they're here."

Foreign students on a diploma path include:

**DaYoung Hwang**, a freshman girl from South Korea

**Mysung Kwan Jung**, a junior boy from South Korea

**Yi Rang Lim**, a junior girl from South Korea

**Ching Hua Liu**, a junior girl from Taiwan

**Yeon Namgoon**, a junior girl from South Korea

**Maria Orth**, a junior girl from Germany

**Jimin Seo**, a freshman girl from South Korea

Two traditional foreign exchange students here for one year are:

**Ryosuke Ajiro**, a junior boy from Japan

**Joo Myung Woo**, a junior boy from South Korea

**Fumiko "Fumi" Nagatsuma** is a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student from Japan who will graduate from Badin this year.

"I've enjoyed it very much," Nagatsuma said. "The teachers and the students are very nice. It's a safe school."

"Fumi actually came to us before we started this program, but she certainly exemplifies the type of student we are pleased to have," Margello said. "The Robertson family in West Chester has hosted her for three years, and we are indebted to them."

Margello said that finding host families was the key to being able to welcome foreign students on a continuing basis.

"We have ongoing applications from potential foreign students, and we are limited only by the number of host families that are available," Margello noted. "Anyone who is at all interested in hosting a student, for either a full school year or a semester, should contact Badin for details."

Students typically come to Badin through foreign student agencies and the agencies generally pay the family a monthly stipend to host a student.

"If you put the experience, the education and the opportunity together, this is an outstanding situation for everybody concerned," Margello said. "We can't be happier that we have brought foreign students into the Badin pipeline."

Contact: Dirk Q. Allen, 863-3993, ext. 120

