

Dear Parents & Teachers,

I am pleased to inform you that an exciting opportunity exists for our students to participate in an international exchange program with our Sister City in Santiago de Surco, Peru.

The honorable Mayor Jennifer Stultz has asked that Sister Cities of Gastonia select a small group of committed students to participate in this first international exchange program to Peru which will occur during our Spring break. As you may be aware, we already have a very successful exchange program with our Sister City in Gotha, Germany.

The exchange program is a wonderful opportunity for Gaston County student leaders to share our way of life, learn about Peruvian culture and take back these experiences to share with other students in our schools and community. This program helps to bring our world closer together and to create a better understanding of each culture's unique differences.

Students who are fortunate enough to be selected for this initial delegation to our newest Sister City will be a part of this movement toward peace and understanding among citizens of the world. During their visit, they will live with a host family, help with community service, attend a Peruvian school and have an opportunity to learn about one of the Incan wonders of the world, Macchu Picchu.

If selected, your students will help to restore our belief in the ability of people from all nations to gather peaceably and celebrate life. I encourage families to consider this wonderful opportunity to learn from our Sister City in Peru.

If you are interested in your student participating in the international exchange program, please contact Sister Cities in Gastonia at 704-854-6602 or e-mail sistercity@cityofgastonia.com for an application.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward D. Sadler, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward D. Sadler, Ed.D
Superintendent