An increasingly international population and a school system offering a pre-K through grade 12 International Baccalaureate program distinguish Shaker Heights as a community with a global focus. Shaker’s Asian and Hispanic populations are growing and its schools currently enroll students from more than 30 countries.

Listed here are programs, organizations, and activities to support either new international residents or any Shaker residents interested in expanding their knowledge of the world.

INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CENTER SATELLITE OFFICE

Shaker Heights, a satellite location of the Cleveland International Welcome Center, works to connect newcomers to organizations and others who can ease their transition to a new culture and a new community. Contact julie.voyzey@shakeronline.com for details.

SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOLS

www.shaker.org

International Baccalaureate Program

The Shaker Schools have gone global with the implementation of a pre-K-grade-12 International Baccalaureate program, the only one in Cuyahoga County.

International Baccalaureate is an academically rigorous course of study with an emphasis on global awareness, creative problem solving, hands-on projects, inquiry-based learning and community service. When the phase-in is completed, every student in preschool through grade 10 will benefit from the program.

While the IB program helps to broaden and deepen global knowledge for all students, it is often particularly attractive to international families, enabling IB graduates to matriculate at universities all over the world.

Beyond IB, the Shaker Schools offer opportunities for students to become citizens of the world. Students can choose from languages including Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Latin, Greek, and Spanish; host an international student; or study abroad through exchange programs in China, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, and Japan. Band, orchestra and choir trips take students to Asia and Europe, where they share their music in tiny villages, major cities, and historic sites.

The goal: to produce students who are at home in the world.

English Language Learners Program

English language support, tailored to the individual needs of the student, is provided by a specialist to all students in need of such services. Instructors, in partnership with the Parent Teacher Organizations, also help to connect international students and their families to many of the special activities in each school.

Tutoring Centers

The School District’s tutoring centers are open to all students who reside in the District and are especially helpful to new international students who need extra academic support as they transition to the Shaker Schools. For hours and locations, see the “For Parents and Students” section of the District’s website.

SHAKER HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.shakerlibrary.org

Shaker Library offers a touch of home through a catalog which is searchable in almost any language, from Abkhazian to Zuni. The Library connects readers not only to its diverse collection, but also to the collections of more than 30 library systems in nine counties.

Both Main Library and its Woods branch have small foreign language deposit collections often accompanied by a booklist. Readers can request that titles in a specific language be delivered to the libraries.

The Library staff is as diverse as the community it serves, and many members speak languages other than English.
**English in Action**  
**Classes for Adults**

A structured introduction to the English language is offered 7-9 pm on Tuesdays at Main Library. For registration information, call Brondy Shanker, 216-561-1803.

**Play and Learn Station**

Located on the second floor of Main Library, this free, preschool literacy program for children (birth to 5 years), and their parents or caregivers is co-sponsored by Family Connections. Preschool teachers monitor each session and a special hands-on project is offered each week. Open to the entire community, families from many countries come individually or in groups to practice their English skills in a play-based setting. Call 216-991-2030 for more information.

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS AT**  
**SHAKER FAMILY CENTER**  
**www.familyconnections1.org**

**Learning English as a Family (LEAF)**  
**www.familyconnections1.org/programs/leaf.php**

Learning English as a Family provides international families an opportunity to connect with others who are new to the area and the country.

Weekly English as a Second Language classes are offered along with family social time. The program also provides individualized assistance to help newcomers settle into their new homes and community.

Fees are based on services desired. For information contact Shaker Family Center at 216-921-2023.

**Patricia S. Mearns**  
**Family Playroom**

The Family Playroom is a comfortable atmosphere where parents and their children (birth to 3 years) can play and socialize. It is not specifically geared toward international families, but provides an opportunity to meet other families with young children. Call Family Connections at 216-921-2023.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S GROUP OF CLEVELAND (IWGC)**

The IWGC connects women from abroad who have relocated to the Cleveland area with compatriots and other women from all over the world. Connecting women who speak a common language and can help with the transition to a new country is central to the IWGC’s mission.

In addition to holding monthly French, Italian, and German conversation groups, members share biannual potluck dinners, Saturday night wine and cheese tastings, and frequent outings to area attractions.

For more information contact IWGC President and Shaker resident Sybille Schomerus at syb.schomerus@gmail.com.

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH**  
**www.plymouthchurchucc.org**

English as a Second Language classes are offered Tuesdays from 10-11:30 am at Plymouth Church, 2860 Coventry Road. Interested adults are encouraged to bring friends and relatives to this free, informal class. For information, contact Ellen Potter of Boulevard School at 216-952-7137.

**THE CHINESE ACADEMY**  
**www.chineseacademyofcleveland.org**

The Chinese Academy of Cleveland offers language and arts classes on Saturday mornings to non-Chinese speaking adults and children. This is a unique opportunity to become immersed in the Chinese language and culture. The classes are held at Shaker Heights Middle School, 20600 Shaker Blvd. For registration or further information, call 440-442-5865, or email Principal@ChineseAcademyOfCleveland.org.

**OTHER SHAKER-BASED CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Shaker Heights is home to other smaller organizations that help international residents maintain a connection with their home countries. Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (www.hssus.org) is a Hindu service organization with a chapter in Shaker Heights. HSS provides opportunities for youth and families to celebrate the Hindu culture. Contact Sudesh Agrawal at agrawasl@sbcglobal.net or 216-283-1832 for more information.
- The Lotus, a monthly publication of the Federation of Indian Community Associations (www.ficacleveland.org) provides news and information for the Indian community and the community at large. Contact Paramjit Singh at ParamLinda@gmail.com or 216-932-1265 for more information.
- “Shaker en français!” is a Facebook group started by Shaker High French teacher Suzanne Gyurgyik. It is a forum for using French and exploring the cultures of the francophone world. To join, visit www.facebook.com and search for “Shaker en français.”

If you know of other Shaker Heights organizations that should be included in a resource list for international families, please contact Julie Voyzey at julie.voyzey@shakeronline.com.