



Guidelines for Parent Visits

The subject of parent visits is further covered in the enclosed *Parent and Student Handbook*. Since many are already planning visits to Zermatt (super!), this seems an appropriate time to share Swiss Semester "policy," as well as a few of the things that some families have experienced in the past.

It is understandable that all parents would want to visit during the course of the semester, and we hope that are able and you do; our desire is to accommodate such a visit in the best possible manner for students and parents. A visit during **Parents' Weekend** should eliminate the chance of disappointment and mitigate undesirable side effects and assure an enjoyable time for all.

Given the academic rigor of Swiss Semester, the desire to do as much as possible, and the program's goal of promoting independence and self-sufficiency, *i.e.* the start of a "breaking away" from parents, the following have occasionally resulted from parent visits:

- Regression with regard to the development of self-sufficiency and an "I can do it on my own" attitude.
- Development or return of homesickness.

We hope that all parents will be allowed (by possible travel restrictions) to visit on **Parents' Weekend, October 20-22**. The faculty will be asked to reduce homework over that weekend and optional trips will not be offered. *Visits at other times can be challenging and will be accommodated to the best of the program's ability.*

Students will be free after classes Friday, October 20 (12:30 p.m.) until study hall Sunday evening, October 22 (7:30 p.m.). Please come to the school, The Alpen Resort Hotel, to meet the students on Friday at 12:30p.m. You are invited and encouraged to attend a Parent-Faculty Reception Friday at 4:30 p.m. at Hotel La Ginabelle.

Of course, the principal purpose of any visit is to see your child and his or her new temporary home in order to better understand and share the Swiss Semester experience. Be prepared to walk/hike in the mountains, *i.e.* bring suitable walking shoes. Also, students are eager to have parents meet their new friends (student and faculty). The purpose of a visit should not be to take your child to other places in Switzerland, nor should it be to go shopping (that can be done much less expensively at home).

Once again, we look forward to welcoming parents to Zermatt, and I would be happy to assist in any way I can with respect to hotel accommodations and recommendations. Geneva Airport and Zurich Airport are both roughly 3 ½ hour train ride from Zermatt (easy transfer from flight to train). Malpensa Airport in Milan, Italy is a bit closer by train but the connections can be a bit more challenging.

Since many Zermatt hotels** are closed in October, I suggest consideration of the following hotels, which are conveniently located and will be open; be sure to mention you are from Swiss Semester:

La Ginabelle tel. 011.41.27.966.5000 www.la.ginabelle.ch (hosting the parent reception, close to school)

Hotel Omnia tel. 011.41.966.7171 www.the-omnia.com/en/hotel (unique and expensive)

Your child is welcome to stay with you in your hotel room on Friday and Saturday evening. If you would like or need further recommendations, please let me know.