CETUSA and America’s High School Sports Culture  
  
As students in the United States go back to school, the high school football season has begun once again. Many Council for Educational Travel, USA (CETUSA ) foreign exchange students find the American sports culture both unexpected and exciting. In many towns across the United States, Friday nights are reserved for football. These games bring towns together, encourage local pride, and create healthy competition between schools. CETUSA students staying with local families get a chance to experience all aspects of local culture, including the high school football season.  
  
Texas is one American state which takes high school football very seriously. For instance, the town of Allen, Texas just spent $60 million to construct a new stadium which seats 18,000 people. However, the team’s first game in the stadium drew 21,000 fans, some of whom had to stand. Fortunately, the architects designed the stadium, which boasts artificial turf and state-of-the-art facilities, to allow for more seating as time goes by. Allen High School has a student body of 4,000 and a marching band with 700 members. While the stadium is unusually large for an American high school, most schools offer a wide variety of sports, clubs, and artistic endeavors. With CETUSA, students from around the world can immerse themselves in the American high school experience, including sports.