



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

PREPARING GLOBAL CITIZENS TO HAVE A GLOBAL IMPACT





Welcome!

International students entering grades 7-11 are welcome to apply to Grand Rapids Christian Schools. Students from many countries, including China, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Uganda, Switzerland, Bolivia, South Africa, Poland, Finland, and Costa Rica, have joined our community in recent years.

ISP PROGRAM FEATURES

Academic Excellence

Active Student Life

Individual Support

HomeStay Program

University Preparation

Character Development

High School Enrollment **900**

International Students **4%**

Middle School Enrollment **435**

Average Class Size **24**

SAT/ACT scores: International students on average improve their SAT English score by **117.5** points and their ACT English score by **6** points after **2** full years at GRCHS.

About Grand Rapids Christian High School

Academic Excellence

Curriculum

The curriculum at Grand Rapids Christian Schools is rigorous and designed to lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Students receive excellent instruction with a teacher student ratio of 1:15 in language arts, science, mathematics, social studies, Bible, foreign language, physical education, fine arts, and technology.

STEM emphasis

Our premier STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) courses equip students to be problem-solvers, innovators, and logical thinkers who are prepared to compete in a global economy.

Winterim

All students participate in a two-week amplified learning experience in January that offers students classes in special interest areas, domestic or international travel, or internships.

Advance Placement (AP) courses

US History, European History, US Government, Macro Economics, Microeconomics, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics C, Statistics, Calculus AB, Language and Composition, Literature and Composition, and Psychology

State-of-the-Art Facilities

Extensive renovations of Grand Rapids Christian Middle and High Schools were recently completed. This renovation has created an environment that supports collaboration, hands-on experiential learning, and creative problem solving supported by a 1:1 laptop program with MacBook Air.



Individual Support

The following personalized support ensures our international students are prepared for a successful future.

Orientation Camp

New international students attend a two-week orientation program that prepares them for school and home life in America.

English Lab Course

This course introduces international students to American teaching and learning styles and helps refine English reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

Private Tutoring

Each one-on-one tutor explains assignments, provides assistance with homework, and helps each student with time management and study skills.

Emotional, Spiritual, Social Support

Two full-time staff members of Grand Rapids Christian High School are dedicated to providing support in all areas of life for the international students.



University Preparation

Attending an excellent university is an important goal and a step toward future success. Therefore the best opportunities and preparation are provided for our students.

University Guidance Counselor

The international student counselor provides personalized counseling and guidance throughout the college search and admissions process.

SAT/ACT Preparation

Saturday and semester-long sessions are offered specifically for international students for SAT and ACT preparation. These sessions are led by an experienced staff member.

University Visits

Day and weekend trips to a variety of well-known universities are offered. Representatives from more than 50 colleges and universities also regularly visit Grand Rapids Christian High School.



Recent international student graduates have attended:

Duke University
University of Michigan
New York University

Penn State University
Drexel University
Calvin College
Purdue
UCLA
Wake Forest University
Fordham University

University of Washington
Michigan State University
James Madison Univeristy
Virginia Tech
Baylor University
University of Illinois (Chicago)



Active Student Life

In addition to succeeding academically, it is essential that students have a balanced social and emotional life. Therefore we require international students to be active members of the school community outside of the classroom. Participation in extracurricular programs is important for social, cultural, and linguistic development and is also valuable for university applications.

Student Clubs and Organizations

- Adventure Club
- Chess Club
- Coding Club
- Environment Club
- Fine Arts Festival
- Forensics
- Girls 620
- Improv
- Love Thy Neighbor
- National Honors Society
- Peer Listening
- Philosophy Club
- Play and musical productions
- Puzzle Club
- Robotics
- School newspaper
- Science Olympiad
- Ski Club
- Student committees
- Student Congress



Athletics

- 27 varsity athletic teams, including football, soccer, sailing, tennis, cross country, basketball, bowling, ice hockey, downhill skiing, swimming, wrestling, baseball, golf, lacrosse, track, volleyball, and cheerleading
- Intramural sports at lunchtime



Home-stay Program

The Home-stay experience is a distinguishing feature of our International Student Program. The home experience is central to each student's language, cultural, social, and emotional transition and the development of key skills for living in North America.

Host Families

Host families are carefully selected for our program. Interviews, background checks, home visits, and reference checks are completed to ensure that families will provide a safe and nurturing environment and assist students with the development of important life skills. Host parents attend an orientation program, and receive ongoing training, support, and supervision to ensure excellent care for our international students.

Student Placement

Much care is taken when placing students with a host family. Communication is encouraged between the home, host family, school, and student regarding academic progress and all aspects of life in America.

Character Development

Integrity and life skills are essential to success. While living with an American family of high moral standard and being part of a faithful and supportive community, our students gain the following life skills: flexibility, conflict resolution, integrity, punctuality, independence, dependability, time management, consideration, and self-confidence.



Welcome to Grand Rapids!

Grand Rapids, located in West Michigan, was once known as The Furniture City because of the high-quality furniture that was manufactured here. Today it enjoys a reputation as a rising center of the arts, business, and medicine.

Our city is the home of ArtPrize—the world's largest art competition. The downtown area offers many opportunities to attend theatre productions, concerts, and sporting events. The Grand Rapids area is also home to the international headquarters of many international corporations such as Amway, Steelcase, and Whirlpool and has the reputation as one of North America's finest medical centers.

Grand Rapids is just a 3.5-hour drive from the city of Chicago and a 45-minute drive from Lake Michigan beaches.



Application and Registration Process

STEP 1 – APPLICATION

Complete an online application and submit required documentation.

STEP 2 – INTERVIEW

Once a student's application is completed and approved, that student will be contacted to arrange a Skype interview.

STEP 3 – ACCEPTANCE

Based on the application and interview, acceptance will be determined by the school and an enrollment agreement will be sent with further instructions.

STEP 4 – TUITION PAYMENT

After receipt of the tuition payment the school will issue the I-20.

STEP 5 – I-20 ISSUED

An I-20 will be issued for the student and a visa must be obtained in his or her home country.

STEP 6 – HOST FAMILY MATCH

When the student has successfully obtained a visa they will be paired with a host family.

STEP 7 – ARRIVAL and ORIENTATION

The student must arrive in Grand Rapids 1 to 2 weeks before the start of school for the international student orientation.

Please see website for exact dates and deadlines:
www.grcs.org/international

Grand Rapids Christian Schools functions as it's own agency and provides all the support services that an international coordinating agency would provide and more. Please see website for tuition details:

www.grcs.org/international



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