



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
**INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
PROGRAM**

Newsletter Winter 2019

We share this newsletter as a way to keep you updated on what is happening in the International Student Program at Grand Rapids Christian High School.

International Student Program Updates



Winterim 2019

Winterim, our annual two week experiential learning term, was a great way to spend the first two weeks of school after Christmas break. Many of our International Students had new and exciting experiences over Winterim: ice skating, dog training, sewing, story writing, golf, learning about finances, fitness and cooking, exploring Grand Rapids, art classes, visiting NY, London, and Greece, and a number of students participated in internships at home.



Creative Writing



Ice Skating



Greece



NY and London



Landscape Architecture



Internship

The International Student Program welcomes two new students for Spring semester!

At the beginning of this new year we welcomed two new students to GRCHS. Natalie Zhang (9th grade) joined the Watson family and Jason Zhang (11th) joined the Cok family on January 3rd. They jumped right in to American family life and school.

Welcoming applications for 2019-20

We are pleased to announce that our International Student Program at Grand Rapids Christian School is receiving many inquiries regarding application and enrollment of new students from a number of countries for the 2019-20 school year. Priority will be given to applications received by

March 1, 2019. For application documents please visit our website

(<https://www.grcs.org/academics/programs/international/isp-application>) or email Joelle Williams

with questions (jwilliams@grcs.org).

[Link to ISP Application](#)



UPCOMING HOST FAMILY MEETING:

**Thursday, February 7, 2019
7:00pm-9:00pm**

Come enjoy community as we learn alongside one another in an interactive workshop led by Dr. Roman Williams

English Lab

English lab opened the spring semester by welcoming our two new students, Jason and Natalie.

In English lab this spring, Mrs. Rozema has plans to work on multiple areas: writing mechanics, diction, and the all-time favorite...preparing and eating food together to celebrate one another's culture.

Mrs. Rozema has paired students with after school tutors who have been trained and are kept informed of specific areas to focus on during their tutoring time. This will start up again on the week of **Monday, January 28th**. Please ask your student about the timing of their after school tutoring.

Athletics

Winter sports are in full-swing and spring sports are right around the corner. For a list of start dates of each sport [click here](#). Please help your student think ahead about what sport or other activity they might be interested in. A reminder that students must first have a current sports physical before attending tryouts or practices for any sport. [Click here](#) for recommended locations for sports physicals.

New Athletics eligibility rules: We have been accepted by the MHSAA as an Approved International Student Program (AISP), therefore the athletic eligibility rules for our international students have changed. New international students are able to play their first year of attendance at GRCHS without restrictions, then they are unable to compete during their second year. After their second year they are eligible to compete for the remainder of their time at GRCHS at any level.

Returning students are unable to benefit from this new rule unless they have never competed before in athletics at GRCHS. If you have any questions about this please contact us.

[Athletics Start Dates](#)

[Locations for Athletics physicals](#)

Clubs

Forensics, a competitive speaking club, and Science Olympiad are in full swing. If your student is still looking for a way to be involved, here are some clubs and activities to get involved in:

Global Ambassador Program The International Student Program has officially started the Global Ambassador Program. The GRCHS Global Ambassador club is a service-leadership club with twice-monthly meetings and social activities that aims to have an impact on the entire school community by broadening global perspectives, developing cultural understandings, and creating a passion for God's people. This program mission supports that of our larger school mission of "equipping students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society." If you student is interested in taking part in this new adventure, please speak to Mrs. Watson.

Adventure Club Skiing and rock climbing opportunities are available through the Adventure Club. Students should speak with Mr. VanHarn, kvanharn@grcs.org.

Youth Culture Club Youth Culture Club meets every other Friday during Lunch and Office Hours in room 110. Students can join at any time.

Girls Support Girls Meets Monday after school. For more information on this club and its activities, please speak to Kia Delaney or Ms. Rae.

UPCOMING DATES

February 7, 2019 Host Family and Student Meeting, 7:00pm-9:00pm in English Commons

February 7, 8, 9 Arsenic and Old Lace Production

February 22-25 Mid-Winter break

March 6, 2019 ACT/PSAT Testing

March 29-April 7th Spring Break (ISP Spring Break trip to South Haven: after school on March 28th-April 1)

REMINDERS

Host Family Handbook The updated host family handbook can be found [here](#). Please review this document to refresh you on the program policies and expectations. Let us know if you have any questions.

Student Health Insurance You should have received an email with a link to the details for your student's health insurance. They do not provide a physical insurance card so you need to go to the link for the ID card and print that off.

Letter to home family Please be sure to send updates to your student's family back home. This could either be in the form of a monthly letter via email or by smaller WeChat/WhatsApp updates with

photos. If you are hosting a student from China we strongly suggest that you download the WeChat App on your phone. This is the most widely used social media platform in China. We find WeChat to be the most convenient way to communicate with both the students from China and their parents.

House Rules and Family Culture It is very important that you have written down and gone through your house rules/values/expectations and how 'things work' at your home and gone over it with your student. [Here](#) is an example of what another host families wrote for their student.

Securly Parents receive a weekly email report showing a snapshot of their child's online activity. Once your account is created, you can also download the Securly Home app. More information is available [here](#). Please contact Joelle if you have any questions about Securly.

Parentvue The ParentVUE and StudentVUE portals give parents and students access to grades, assignments, attendance, calendar, schedules, and communications with teachers. [You can access your ParentVue account from our website.](#) There is also an app you can download right to your phone for easy access. If you have questions or issues using ParentVUE, please contact Sheila VanderWoude at svanderwoude@grcs.org

COUNSELOR CORNER



Joelle Williams will be meeting with Juniors beginning the week of January 28th to talk about Senior schedules and discuss upcoming college plans.

Sophomores and Juniors will begin meeting again with Jane Parker for test prep on Wednesday afternoons.

All students 9-11 grade will take the iTEP beginning next week to gauge and celebrate progress.

[Counseling department website](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Radella Li From: Hangzhou, China Graduated from GRCHS: 2016

"I'm Radella Li. I was in GRCHS for 3 years. I went to GRCHS because I thought it was a great place for my personal growth. GRCHS didn't only focus on the academic development of students but also focus on student's interests. GRCHS encourages students to try new things outside of the school. I tried a lot of activities and I really enjoyed these experiences. The thing that I loved most about GRCHS is that the teachers were very nice and inclusive to international students. They are knowledgeable, humorous, patient, and caring. (Especially Mr. Christians, I love him so much!) I sang in choir and was in track and field for 3 years. I went to Science Olympiad with my friends every Thursday evening. I also tried musical and stage crews.

Now I'm a junior at Wake Forest University, double majoring in Math and Computer Science and minoring in Music. I'm very into cultural diversity in the campus. I'm the Vice president at CSSA (Chinese Students and Scholars Association). I was the intercultural ambassador

at Wake in my sophomore year. At the same time, I continued my passion for music after I got into college. My friends and I founded Chinese Ensembles in my freshman year. I have also been taking voice lessons since sophomore year. I started to tutor students Calculus at school Math Center since last semester. College has been fun. I'm glad that I came to U.S.A to study because I'm happy with where I am."

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Please share the following links about being a host family with friends, neighbors, and your church family!

We are looking for families or couples who might be open to temporary hosting throughout the year or considering long-term hosting possibilities.

[Host Family Expectations](#)

[Host Family Trailer](#) (2.01 minutes)

[Host family application](#)

Visit our website

[Prospective Student Handbook](#)

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