

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Delaware County Christian School has been educating international students for several years. This experience has given us a perspective that may be helpful for you to know before you consider enrolling at our school. As you may know, we are not a boarding school. Therefore our international students either reside with nationals from their own country or with host families when that can be arranged. However, if the student lives with a family that is the same as the international student in language and culture, we require that one member of that family be a fluent English speaker. We have found that students gain proficiency in English more quickly when they are able to reside with an American family.

Entering school in America is a very difficult challenge. When confronted by a new culture, language, and school, it is extremely stressful. The school seeks to provide some special services to support a student, but it still becomes a very demanding challenge for the young student. Therefore it is important that the students have strong academic skills, solid personal character, a rooted faith in Christ and a level of maturity that allows them to assume serious personal responsibility for daily living.

Because we are a Christian school, it is our expectation for international students that they have a personal faith in Christ which means that they have admitted that they are sinners by nature and by action; they have trusted Christ to forgive them of their sins through faith in his sufficient death on the cross as payment for their sins and they have a commitment to living a life of faith based on the Word of God. We expect our students to have a knowledge of Bible stories and other general facts of the Bible, personally pray each day and display an eagerness to learn more about what it means to live the Christian life.

We have found that the level of English proficiency is a key to success. This is especially true if the student is to enter grade 9 or above. High school credits are critical for graduation. This is not true for sixth through eighth grades. We do not enroll students below grade six. In the middle school there is greater flexibility with academic credits and students often show a greater speed in developing English skills of speaking, reading and writing when entering at the middle school level.

As a Christian school we expect you, as parents, to be currently active in a Protestant Bible teaching church and that your son or daughter has an understanding of and commitment to Christ.

Some advice we would have for parents and students considering an education at our school is:

1. Develop as much English proficiency before arriving in the U.S.
2. Provide all the information requested when applying – medical forms, insurance information, writing samples, test scores, academic records of previous two years, teacher recommendations, pastor recommendation, etc.
3. Participate in our ESL or resource room program that will assist in the adjustment to the school.
4. Intentionally decide to reach out and make friends with your new classmates.
5. Select activities in addition to your classes that provide a time for more socialization like art, music, and sports.
6. Apply yourself diligently to your academic work.
7. Ask questions freely with boldness.

Since some students will be living in American host homes, it is important that you understand our perspective on this arrangement. We have found that it can be viewed as a boarder / renter situation. This is *not* how it is viewed by us. The monthly stipend is to cover room, board and supervisory responsibilities, but the international student is expected to become a part of the host family. The host parents are in the place of the natural parents and have the authority of the natural parents. Therefore we require a power of attorney form to be signed by the student's parents authorizing the host parents to make all decisions that are usual and customary to the role of a parent.

In addition here are some other points of information related to host family arrangements:

1. The student is under the authority of the host parent regarding permission to attend events outside the home, bed times, curfews, internet use, TV usage, etc. Failure to live obediently under the authority of the host family could result in the student being dismissed from the school
2. Normal standards of the home apply to the international student.
3. The student should expect to attend church and youth group activities with the family.
4. Conferences at the school regarding a student's work will be attended by the host family.
5. The stipend required will be paid each month on the same day as the student's arrival in the home.
6. The student will not have host home services during the summer vacation.
7. The host family will provide transportation for academic tutoring, music lessons, or other normal needs.
8. The length of commitment of the host family is for only one year but may be renewed.

If a student enrolls in the middle school, it will be expected that all work required of the student in the following year will be done on the same basis as other English speaking students. This means that all courses taken will be graded as other English speaking students. Therefore it is imperative that during the first year of attendance, the student work as hard as possible both within the program of the school and possibly through tutoring programs outside the schools control. The school will assist in making recommendations regarding such services. Continuance in the following year will be predicated on this level of proficiency.

It is hoped that these guidelines will be of help to you as you consider sending your child to the U.S. for a Christian education.