



# Grace Christian Academy

## International Student Brochure 2021-2022





# WHY CHOOSE GRACE CHRISTIAN?

1

## **GCA IS THE ONLY CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN K-12 ON LONG ISLAND AND ALL OF NYC!**

A classical education is highly valued for its strong emphasis on the Language Arts. It fosters appreciation for values, morals, and wisdom. GCA's demand for the use of logic and critical thinking in the context of challenging academic rigor, prepares our students for college, and life beyond the classroom.

2

## **GCA HAS SMALL CLASS SIZES**

We are able to provide the structure needed to support high achievement for a variety of students. Small high schools reduce negative behaviors, both in and out of school, by facilitating deep, trusting relationships with other students and teachers.

They are better at creating and sustaining the healthy intellectual and social climates needed for learning. Small school size is consistently linked with positive outcomes in school climate, test scores, college attendance, and post-secondary employment.

3

## **SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT**

We foster a SAFE and welcoming environment, so that students may concentrate on their studies rather than be distracted by external issues. Our International Students are openly welcomed by the student body and quickly develop close friendships.





# GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (GCA)

GCA is designed to support your ambition. You will not only be taught the spoken word, you will also be taught writing, accent reduction, and reading. All programs are designed to better prepare you to succeed, no matter what your future plans are. International Students attending GCA will arrive no less than 1 week before school starts, so that we can hold orientation activities. GCA International Staff are always available to give direction and advice to our International Students so they do not miss out on any of the many academic or recreational opportunities available. They will keep you up-to-date and informed about what is happening in the school and community.

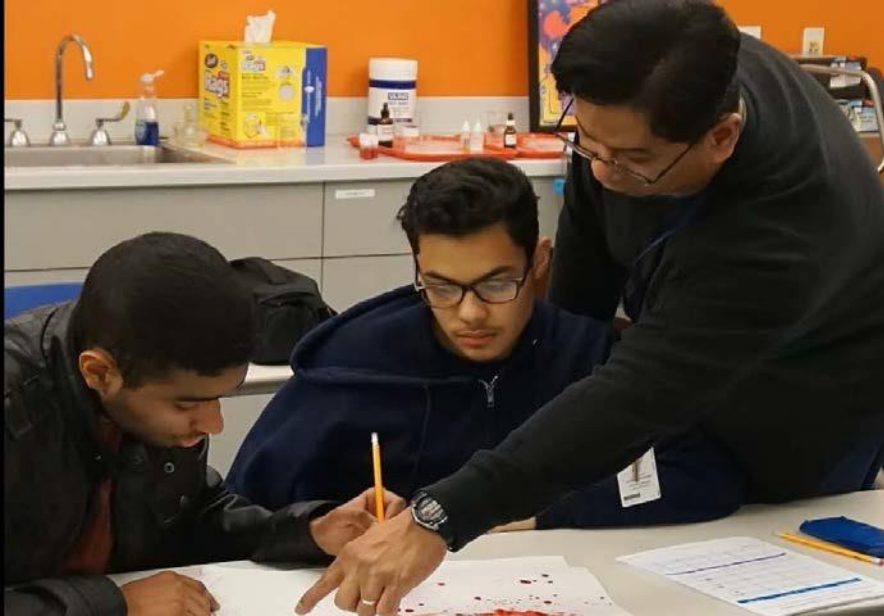


## ORIENTATION & SUPPORT

Orientation for International Students is a required component of our program, and includes information as well as fun activities to help you feel at home from the day you arrive. Aware that challenges can arise from studying in another country, GCA staff are readily available with the primary role of helping students communicate with teachers, administration, and host families about day-to-day concerns.

## TUTORING SERVICES

In addition to regular support from GCA staff, students who are having difficulty with a particular subject can be matched with a tutor. Teaching staff will mentor and instruct students who may be struggling in a particular course. If a student needs additional academic support, teachers are available to provide extra tutoring as needed. There will be an extra fee charged for this service, payable to the tutor.



## PROGRESS REPORTS

Our Staff will send monthly progress reports to each student's family. These reports are a valuable source of comfort and joy for parents, as they see the progress of their son or daughter academically and socially while they are away from home. We make every effort to include photos with the reports.

## COLLEGE READINESS

International Students can work on Dual Enrollment and earn college credits online, as well as taking AP classes. If planned correctly, students should be able to earn no less than 12 college credits along with the AP classes they may take.

Along with our average SAT scores of 1440 out of 1600, students will be more than college ready! We are proud of our 100 % graduation rate, as well as 100 % College/University acceptance.





# HOME-STAY PLAN

Through our large network of local host families, we are able to place students in a safe and welcoming home. Our host families take pride in welcoming International Students into their homes. The Home-Stay Program also offers International Students additional opportunity to improve language skills by immersing themselves in daily conversations with our American families. GCA staff review and assess the needs of each student in order to determine which of our host families will help them assimilate more comfortably into the American culture. By matching our students with the most compatible host family we ensure they have a safe and comfortable environment in which they can succeed both academically and socially. Students and their families should keep in mind there is no such thing as a “typical American family”; we are a diverse country, and the more open minded our students are, the more they will learn from their host family experience.

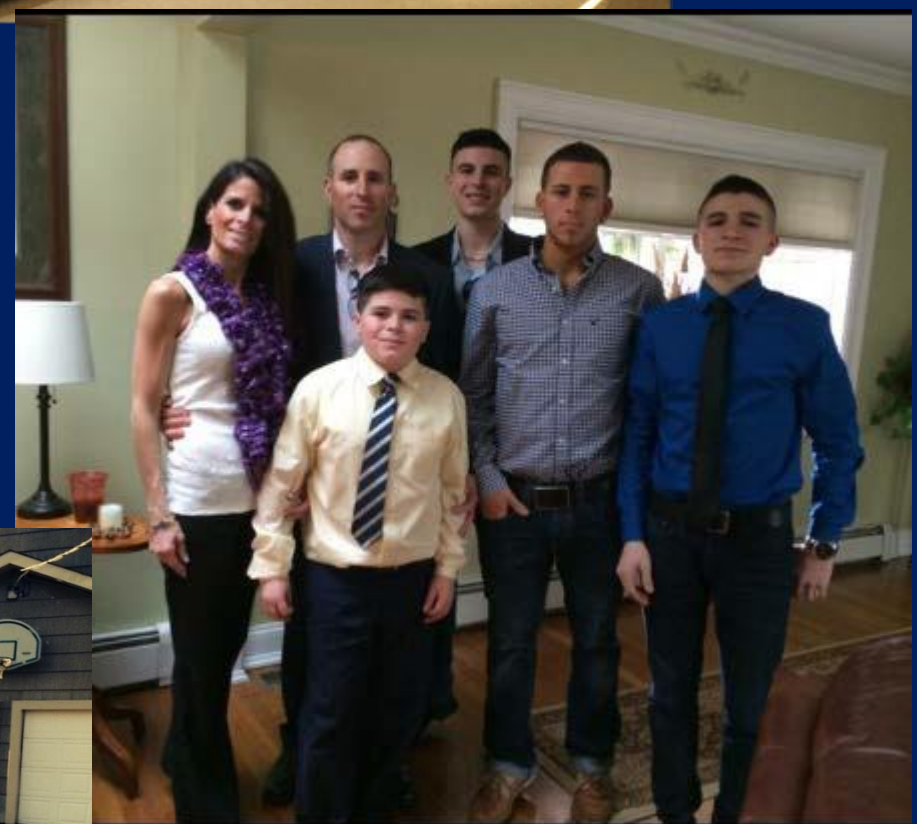


## HOST FAMILIES

All of GCA's host families are carefully selected and screened, to ensure they are able to provide a safe and secure home for our students. While living with a host family our students will be able to practice their English even more than if they were boarding. It also gives them the opportunity to gain a unique insight and understanding into the American way of life.

## HOST FAMILY HOME

As diverse as our families are, their homes are just as varied. Long Island has an eclectic architecture style, and the homes come in all shapes and sizes from small to large. You may have a shared or private bedroom; there may be one bathroom or more. No matter the style of home, it will be a safe, welcoming environment.





# DINING

Lunch is brought from home, or can be purchased from area restaurants. Upper School students, after given permission, are able to take a safe five minute walk to the town center, where there are many restaurants to choose from.

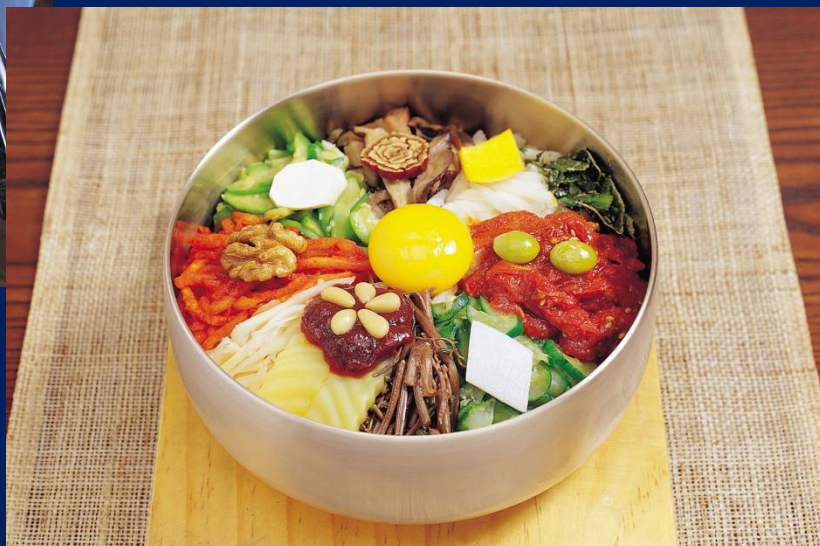
Some of our students get together and order food to be delivered each day. Our staff can help you with this option.

Friday is Pizza day at GCA , our students purchase the pizza in advance, and it is delivered to school each Friday.



Meal time with your host family is an important part of the day. Dinner time is when families discuss the day, coming plans, or any problems they may be having. We ask that you sit down to as many family meals that your, and your family's, schedule allows.

During a Home-Stay program, breakfast and dinner are provided during the school week. On the weekends, you are provided with breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



We know that you, at times, will miss food from your home country and we make an effort to bring our International Students shopping for items they miss. We also take trips into NYC as a group to share a meal and quality time together.





# AT SCHOOL

## EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES:

Service Club  
American Heritage Girls  
Fencing  
Volleyball  
Math Olympics  
Mock Trial  
Drama Club  
Strings Program  
Basketball  
Flag Football



## Some of the universities and colleges our students have been accepted to are:

Baruch College  
Brown  
Carnegie Mellon  
University Clearwater  
CW Post  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Five Towns College  
Fordham University  
Gordon College  
Hunter College  
John Jay College

Johnson and Wales  
Macaulay Honor College  
MIT  
Nassau Community College  
New York University  
Penn State  
Pratt  
Stony Brook University  
SUNY Old Westbury  
University of North Carolina  
University of Rochester  
Yale





# WEEKENDS



# PROM 2018









# GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## MANDATORY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TUITION AND FEES BASED ON 10 MONTHS 2021-2022

International Student Tuition and Fees	\$15,500
ESL Fee*	\$ 1,000
Home Stay	\$14,500
Airport Pickup upon Arrival (JFK)	\$ 175

ESL is **required** for all students up until 12th grade. Seniors may test out by taking the TOFEL IBT with a combined score of over 100.

ESL price is for 10 months for 1 up to 3 classes per day NOT per class.

Home Stay fee includes vetting of host family, background checks, photos, placement fee, and 10 months placement stipend.

Supervision Fee includes monthly visits to the home-stay, planning of activities, chaperones during activities, monthly reports to home agent, counseling, advisement.

Health insurance is not included, but required. We can recommend, but do not sell insurance. **Other fees not included**, but not limited to, uniform, supplies, some text books, personal spending money, school lunch, transportation other than school, AP testing, TOTEL prep and testing, SAT testing.

Grace Christian Academy does not provide school transportation, but we make every effort to find host families that will car pool or drive students to and from school.

A small amount of Scholarships money is available of **up to** \$9,000 for International Students to apply for; scholarship awards are based on grades in home country, essay and Skype interview. Not all students will qualify for scholarships, and any student not taking ESL will NOT receive the full scholarship award.







## CONTACT

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Grace Christian Academy is located on scenic, historic Long Island, just 45 minutes away from New York City. In addition to its convenient location near the most diverse, famous City in the World, Long Island can boast of beautiful beaches, nature reserves, and national parks, amongst the many attractions it has to offer, from its most Easterly point by the Lighthouse at Montauk Point, all the way West to the highlights of Manhattan, just a short train ride away from the School's location in Merrick.

