

International Student

Approved:
Revised:

1. Background Statement

White Rock Christian Academy (WRCA) recognizes that our world is increasingly becoming a global community while our own school has, in the past, remained quite culturally homogenous. We believe there is great value in having our school community exposed to different cultural viewpoints. Experiencing different cultures encourages us to examine our own cultural assumptions. This serves to better enable us to clarify our own understanding of the viewpoints we hold; at the same time, it gives us a deeper appreciation for the variety and uniqueness of God's world and His people. As Christians, it is our responsibility to develop strong relationships with people of varying cultures; it is our way of living out the "oneness in Christ" encouraged in the Bible (John 17:22-23). Therefore, White Rock Christian Academy seeks to include international students in its regular program while at the same time providing services to these students that are unique to their needs. In so doing, students from the established community are exposed to other cultures while international students receive a quality Christian Education in English. It should also be noted that the assumption that international students are not proficient in English is erroneous. WRCA has hosted a number of international students from English speaking countries.

2. Policy

- a. White Rock Christian Academy strives to provide an international student program to meet the needs of students from different countries who wish to be educated at WRCA to maximum of 10% of the total student population.
- b. No one class will have more than one student with significant ESL needs (as determined by the school prior to enrolment). A language exam may also be required once the student has enrolled at WRCA.
- c. Students in grades six or lower must reside with at least one parent while students in grades 7-12 will, whenever possible, reside at a WRCA family homestay.
- d. Short term students (one year or less) will be received on a case by case basis.
- e. Tuition, homestay and ESL (English language support) fees will be set by April of the previous year by the administration and approved by the board of directors. The additional ESL (English language support) fees may be assigned at the school's discretion when a student is deemed to require such ESL (English language support).

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- f. International students will not receive an official letter of acceptance from WRCA until they have paid half of their annual tuition. International students are required to pay their tuition in either one complete installment or two half installments.
- g. All international student applications will be subject to the regular admissions policy and procedures of WRCA
- h. All international students will be subject to the expectations outlined in the parent/student handbook

3. Rationale

- a. **An International student program serves to enrich the WRCA culture.** Students from different cultures bring unique experiences, insights, expressions and perspectives that challenge the established community to learn, grow and change.
- b. **An International student program highlights the reality that we live in a global community.** Our students and our community need to develop the skills, knowledge and understandings to communicate with varying cultures. This reality will only become increasingly evident, especially for the WRCA community, which is located within the Pacific Rim.
- c. **An International student program enables us to understand and embrace the diversity of the greater church body.** Key to the Biblical call on our lives is the mandate for the church, made up of many cultures and nations, to be one body. WRCA has historically been a very homogenous organization and can benefit greater from interaction with members of the international Christian church.
- d. **An International student program allows WRCA to make more stewardly use of its educational resources.** Within our K-12 program there may be student spaces and the accompanying instructional resources available that can be utilized to provide a quality program for international students. The revenues generated from international student enrolment can then be used to supplement and support other WRCA programs.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to the sister school arrangement WRCA has with Chukyo High School in Japan and the students who attend WRCA from Chukyo.