



## Important Information for International Students

As a member of the Sacred Heart Network of Schools, the following goals are the foundation for the education at the Academy of the Sacred Heart:

- Goal 1 - A personal and active faith in God
- Goal 2 - A deep respect for intellectual values
- Goal 3 - A social awareness which impels to action
- Goal 4 - The building of community as a Christian value
- Goal 5 - Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom

A school program that follows the goals and criteria educates the whole child: spiritually, physically, intellectually and socially, with equal weight given to each dimension.

### **On a practical level this means:**

- All students must take religion classes and are required to attend the religious observances of the school. The religion classes are serious academic courses and count as part of a student's grade point average.
- Our academic program is a solid liberal arts curriculum which emphasizes the development of intellectual curiosity and life-long learning. It goes beyond the mere accumulation of good grades.
- Community service is a major component of the school's program and every student is required to earn service hours.
- Learning to live with others in harmony and respect is developed through community building activities in both the day school and the boarding school. All students are expected to participate in these activities.
- Cooperation with and respectful behavior toward boarding school and day school staff is essential and expected.
- The guidelines of the Boarding School Handbook regarding school holidays, transportation, and travel arrangements are designed to contribute to the success and safety of international students.
- Parents must designate an English-speaking contact person within their family or a close friend as someone with whom the school could speak if necessary. This person's name, contact information and relationship to the family must be submitted to the school.
- The boarding school staff will attempt to find host families for international students during school holidays, with the exception of the Christmas holiday. Typically host families are chosen from within the school community. Boarding students staying with host families should exhibit respectful and cooperative behavior.
- A signed contract for admittance to the school is legally binding. Parents are responsible for the payment of all fees, tuition and boarding, even if a student leaves or is dismissed by the school before the end of the school year. No refund will be given, as stated in the contract.

## Other Important Information

### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

Academy of the Sacred Heart offers **English as a Second Language (ESL)** to help students improve their English language skills. The school provides a supportive environment that addresses individual needs and allows students to develop the cultural understanding and performance skills necessary to function appropriately and successfully in both academic and social situations. Upon arrival at Sacred Heart, all international students are given an assessment to measure their verbal and written English proficiency.\*

**Grades 7 – 8:** Students in grades seven and eight are given an assessment to measure their listening, speaking, reading and writing proficiency in English. Based on their diagnostic results, ESL students are most often assigned to ESL I. In this program, students in grades seven and eight take a selection of classes with U.S. students and some classes with other foreign language speakers. Students whose assessment scores indicate advanced proficiency are placed in ESL II, a program in which they are enrolled in History (ESL) and English (ESL). All other classes are taken with U.S. students.

**Grades 9 – 12:** Students in grades nine through twelve are given an assessment to measure their listening, speaking, reading and writing proficiency in English. Based on their diagnostic results, international students are enrolled in English (ESL) for one period. International students take six additional classes with U.S. students. These classes apply toward graduation from Sacred Heart. After a student's first year at Sacred Heart, placement in a traditional English course is determined by the student's proficiency\* in the English language.

All placement decisions require the approval of the division head.

*\*English proficiency is defined as the student's ability to effectively listen, speak, read, write, and analyze information in the English language as determined through an assessment by the staff at the Academy of the Sacred Heart.*

**Boarding School Closures:** Placement with a host family cannot be guaranteed. If a host family cannot be found, the boarding student must go home for the holiday.

**Travel Arrangements:** The school requires that whenever a student 14 years old or younger travels without an adult, she is designated as an "Unaccompanied Minor." Parents must pay a fee to the airlines to provide supervision of the minor. All travel arrangements must be provided to the Head of the Boarding School, in advance, for approval. All flight arrangements are required to be made in and out of the Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT). The Boarding School Staff will only provide transportation to and from LFT. All students will be required to have a ticket with a confirmed seat; no standby arrangements will be allowed. Travel arrangements must be synchronized with the school calendar.

**Medical Insurance:** Sacred Heart requires international health insurance for all boarding students. This insurance must be purchased through ACE American Insurance Company [www.isminc.com](http://www.isminc.com). Parents are to arrange for and provide proof of this coverage before the student enters the United States.

**Athletics:** Boarding students are immediately eligible to participate at all levels of competition in the school athletic program. All international students must have a physical examination performed by their physician, prior to arrival in the U.S.