

## **American Schools Adapting to International Students**

With the influx of international students seeking educational options in the United States of America, boarding schools are adapting to meet the demand.

### **ESL / ELL Programs:**

It is important that American schools prepare international students with the skill set necessary for high school and university success. International students enter the US with varying English abilities. Private schools understand this and are creating curriculums and courses to accommodate the wide range of skills. The primary goal, regardless of level, is to help the individual student acquire the skills needed for success. Specific courses in Grammar, Writing, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and Listening & Speaking are typically offered in most American boarding schools. Additional courses in TOEFL and SAT preparation are often offered as supplementary options.

### **Summer English Language Programs:**

International students find that their success rate is much higher when they attend a summer English-language program prior to their first full year of study in America. Further, many international students are using summer programs to preview a course, remediate an area of weakness or earn new credit. Because of this, schools are adding or modifying their summer curricular offerings. Modifications include offering specific intensive English-language summer program, test preparation programs and tours of American universities.

### **Residential Life:**

Different languages, cultures and traditions come into play for boarding school environments. Schools have been quick to adapt their residential life curriculums and policies. Schools make efforts to match international students with an American roommate. This simple concept facilitates learning beyond the classroom.

Some college prep boarding schools have also created formalized programs that pair an international student with an English-speaking partner. Activities and events are organized for the pair; all of which help the international student learn about the American culture and practice English at the same time.

The boarding school environment is ideal for international students, as much of the learning comes outside of the classroom. Boarding schools are able to facilitate this extra learning through intentional residential life programs, extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics.

### **Emphasis on University Placement:**

The goal of the vast majority of international students and their families is to attend a top-25 American university. College placement counselors are formalizing programs that make this goal a reality. It is not just about grades and standardized test scores anymore. More and more, universities are looking at the “whole person” and want to see extracurricular involvement, community service and initiative.

### ***About Grand River Academy:***

*Grand River Academy is an all-boys boarding school in Ohio. The Academy's proximity to major metropolitan cities, while situated in a quiet corner of Ohio, makes it's' location ideal for study. For more information on Grand River Academy and its programs for international students, please visit*

*[www.grandriver.org](http://www.grandriver.org)*