

F A L L 2 0 1 6

the

# ISP News

International Student Program  
Grand Rapids Christian Schools



## Welcome!

We are excited to welcome 34 international students this year from China, South Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Uganda, Bolivia, and Peru! International students bring a variety of rich contributions to our community and it is always a blessing to host students from all over the world at GRCS.

Our theme verse for the year is from Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am send me'."

## Save the Date!

### ISP Fall Retreat October 19-21

Fun at Pine Ridge Bible Camp, invite an American friend!

### Guys and Dolls November 10-12

Come see a great show and support your classmates who are part of it!

### Thanksgiving November 23-25

Enjoy American culture and food with your host families!

## Fall Retreat

The ISP Retreat will be held at Pine Ridge Bible Camp again this year. Last year the three day and two night program was a great success with over 40 international students and 20 American students attending. Students said that they were tired and sore from all the outdoor games and activities and they slept great when they got home!

Get-aways like this bring social, emotional, physical and spiritual benefits to students. Stress is relieved through exercise and spending time with friends. Students need a break from their studies so they can refocus and recharge. Retreats are also a great way to develop new friendships and deepen existing ones. The daily devotional and worship times are powerful and prompt students to look within and grow.



## Orientation Camp

Orientation Camp is a two-week program just before school starts for all new international students.

### Cran-Hill Ranch

"I loved Cran-Hill Ranch because there were so many new activities and I learned how to communicate with American students and get used to American culture and the atmosphere here. I loved staying in the cabins because you face nature at every moment. In China we always stay in hotels. We play games but don't have a lot of chance to stay outside. I got to try archery, horseback riding, tubing, crafts, rock climbing, high ropes course, and many new games.

The cabin leader was so nice and always ready to help. They showed us another way to live, showed how they mix religion with their daily life. What impressed me was that they related Christianity with everything in the day. We prayed in the morning and at meal times, and had small groups to talk about a passage in the Bible. They applied their worship to their daily life, that's so cool."

-Yingjie Guo

"Before I go to American I think America is just a new country, I didn't know the new culture. At the camp I realized the culture is really, really new so I must learn many things in the camp from my counselor and some friends such as they just drink cold water and eat a lot of cold food. They like to go outside and feel some fresh air and play with the animals."

-Mary Zhou

### Chicago

"We took different transportation in Chicago. The view was beautiful on the boat to Chinatown along the river. The Science Museum showed us the beauty of science that makes us really want to search for knowledge. The Blue Man show was so amazing and really funny. We got to see all of Chicago from the Ferris wheel on Navy Pier and other famous sites like Michigan Ave and Millennium Park."

-Mandy Li





## Fall Sports

### Friday night football!

Hanging out at the football games on Friday nights is a fall tradition at GRCHS. Cheering for the Eagles, chatting with friends, drum roles after touchdowns, and dressing up for each theme all add to a great atmosphere. "Everyone should go to the games to support your school and have fun with friends." -Chen



### Cheerleading

"I like the Cheer team because the girls are really nice and it's easy to make friends. It's a good workout for my body. It's fun because more people know you when you are a cheerleader. You get other people to cheer with you, so it adds spirit to the game and supports the team and makes them more confident."

-Ashley Zhou



### Tennis

"I wanted to join a sports team because it's helpful for me to make friends and team sports are fun. In China I played tennis with a coach, not on a team. It's not so popular there. I learned that your mental attitude is important. Even if you are losing you should set the goal to get the next point and don't give up. Communicating with your partner is important and encouraging him when he has a good shot."

-David Wu



### Cross Country

"I joined the Cross Country team because exercise reduces stress and being part of a team is a good way to make friends. I really like it that we pray before the race and we have a prayer buddy. Cross Country pushed me out of my comfort zone since I used to not like sports. I started off slow but improved a lot so I feel an encouraging sense of accomplishment." -Alice Jiang



## Clubs and Activities

### Adventure Club — [christianhighadventureclub.com](http://christianhighadventureclub.com)

“Be Outside. Be Active. Be Challenged.” Is the motto for Adventure Club. Here students get to discover who they really are and build community through outdoor activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing, backpacking, and paddling. “I went mountain biking for the first time. I fell a few times and was very tired but told myself to never give up.” -Leo Zhang



### Robotics

“I joined Robotics because I love to create new things and in robotics you can really express your imagination. I met people there who are warmhearted and helpful. In Robotics I built a car with my team and programmed it to carry a cube to a destination. We compete with other groups to get the most points by carrying more cubes to the goal point.” -Max Li

### Girls 620 - [girls620.wordpress.com](http://girls620.wordpress.com)

The name of this group comes from 1 Corinthians 6:20, “You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

The goal of Girls 620 is to provide opportunities for young women at GRCHS to grow in their physical fitness and spiritual fitness in community.



### Theatre production

“I enjoy being part of designing the set because I get to share my input. There are many things to get involved in with the production like props, sound, lights, costumes, and makeup. You get the chance to look at the production from a different perspective because we literally built the whole set and understand the whole story and context. A lot of my friends are from the production so it has helped me build my social life.” -Sissi Liu





## Puzzle Club

I walked through the library to get my paper from the printer as usual, I had glanced at the table that had couple around it, I saw a jigsaw puzzle. I just have to walk over there and check out. And I started doing puzzles with them together almost every break time. But When I doing puzzle at lunch break, which is the longest break we have in school, I noticed that no one talks to each other and not because it is in library, I try to introduce myself, but the conversation just ends with that. This experience made felt a little awkward, because the puzzle has always been a social activity for me. I do puzzle back in China with my friends, we cheery about find a single piece, and laugh together..... even more, I could meet my friend's friend through doing a puzzle. In my opinion, completing a puzzle is a group activity, and if done with others it can really improve one's problem solving and interpersonal skills.

After I notice the weird atmosphere in the library, I decided to stat a puzzle club. This club would have allowed us meet regularly at one place, hopefully had more interaction with each other. The first time the club meets, I introduced myself, and people just started doing puzzles. And for the first time, not many people came. The second time we meet, I brought some cookies for the club, lets people sit and chat for 15 minutes before doing puzzle, and people will bring the conversation back to puzzle time as well. This solution works well for the club. Surprisingly, I began to see some of them hanging out at lunch time. I soon realized that accomplishing difficult puzzles was not my biggest goal, but instead it was helping people build friendships. Every time I saw the club members eating with and posting photos of each other, I was imbued with pride. As the leader of the club, I felt that I not only provided a pleasant space for puzzle lovers to gather, but I also brought people together, and that was my ultimate success.

—Jackie Liu



## Mooncakes

**Mooncakes are eaten during China's Mid-Autumn Festival, celebrated at the end of September**

### Filling

1 can lotus seed paste, 1/4 cup finely chopped walnuts

### Dough

4 cups flour, 1/2 c dried milk powder, 3 tsp baking powder 1/2 tsp salt, 3 eggs, 1 c sugar, 1/2 c shortening, 1 egg yolk

1. Mix lotus seed paste and walnuts
2. Sift flour, milk powder, baking powder, and salt together, beat eggs until light and lemon colored. Add sugar; beat for 10 minutes. Add melted shortening; mix lightly, fold in flour mixture. Turn dough out on a lightly floured board; knead for 1 minute. Divide dough in half; roll each half into a log. Cut each log into 12 equal pieces.

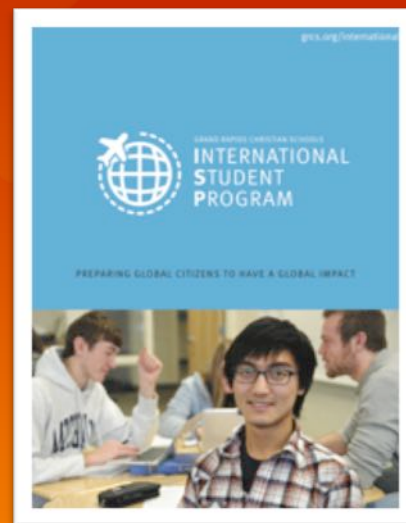
# Apply to GRCHS!

We are looking for students who:

- are eager to fully participate in school, extra curricular and family activities.
- demonstrate academic English proficiency.
- demonstrate character qualities of integrity, self-discipline, and motivation, consistent effort, obedient spirit, positive attitude and respectful behavior.

Visit our website for more information on the application process.

[www.grcs.org/international](http://www.grcs.org/international)



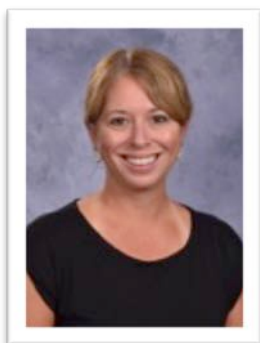
## The International Student Program Leadership Team



Rachel Mulder  
Director of International Student Programs  
[rhmulder@grcs.org](mailto:rhmulder@grcs.org)  
(616) 574-5621



Joelle Williams  
International Student Advisor  
[jwilliams@grcs.org](mailto:jwilliams@grcs.org)  
(616) 574-5652



Lisa Rozema  
International Student Academic Coordinator  
[lrozema@grcs.org](mailto:lrozema@grcs.org)



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS  
**INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT  
PROGRAM**