



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
**INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
PROGRAM**

2018 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Thanks for reading our International Student Program (ISP) Newsletter! We want to keep you updated on what is happening at Grand Rapids Christian Schools and what our students are up to. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our program and how you can get involved.

SENIORS



Liu Zhihui (CeCe) Shenzhen, China - [Carnegie Mellon University](#)
Zhu Han (Elsa) Yiwu, China - [New York University](#)
Yuqi Shao (Sean) Guangzhou, China - [Illinois Institute of Technology](#)
Wang Xuan (Sean) Beijing, China - [University of Michigan](#)
Heejun Noh (Paul) Seoul, South Korea - [Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University](#)
Yuan Yi (Ada) Shanghai, China - [Wheaton College](#)
Ding Jiayang (Victoria) Shanghai, China - [University of Michigan](#)
Jiang Yashi (Alice) Guangzhou, China - [Wheaton College](#)
Zhou Ziyi (Ashley) Beijing, China - [California State University Long Beach](#)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Forensics: Public Speaking Competition



Liu Zhihui (CeCe), from China, placed 4th in the Michigan State Forensics finals. She gave an informative speech on Kungfu, the history, the meaning and how we view it in pop culture.



Vanessa Blas, from Bolivia, placed 5th in the Michigan State Forensics finals with an informative speech on humor, different kinds, cultural expressions, and how it affects us.

Other students who participated on the Forensics team include Yuan Yi (Ada), Xue Ziyi (Cathy), Jiang Shiyu (Andrea), Zhu Yutong (Cici), Zhou Xinmeng (Mary), Gong Shiyuan (Steven), and Einstein Essibu.

[FORENSICS website](#)

Michigan Math Prize Competition

Gong Shiyuan (Steven) - Grand Rapids Christian High School winner

Michigan Mathematics League

Wu Lexiao (David) - 10th grade winner

Li Shuai (Max) - 11th grade winner

Senior Awards Night

Wang Xuan (Sean) - Outstanding Student in Mathematics

Science Olympiad

In Science Olympiad a team of dedicated students practice several hours every Thursday evening in preparation for intercollegiate competitions in over 20 Science related categories. Our students won several awards throughout the season and placed 16th in Michigan. International students on the team include: Gong Shiyuan (Steven), Wang Xuan (Sean), Li Shuai (Max), Xie Enchong (Catherine), Zhou Xinmeng (Mary), Zhang Zhongyu (Johnny), and Wu Lexiao (David).



Helicopter Flight



Disease Detective



Mission Possible

Kuyper College Triple Bottom Line Business Contest

Zhou Ziyi (Ashley) 3rd place (\$250 prize for her; \$250 for GRCHS)

[more extra-curricular activities](#)

INTERVIEW WITH A HOST SIBLING

How have you learned more about your Chinese host sister's culture?

Mostly through food! Near the start of the school year, our international student invited over about 20 other international students to our house to help cook a massive, incredible meal of authentic Chinese food. Experiencing their culture through the food they eat back in China was both delicious and intriguing (and I discovered my newfound love of jalapeño egg dishes!).

What was a fun experience with your host sister?

It has been a lot of fun including our international student in our various family traditions. I loved that she was able to celebrate my birthday with me, and it was a lot of fun having some authentic Chinese dishes present on our Thanksgiving table.

What is hard about hosting an international student?

Figuring the balance between respecting and participating in her cultural traditions, while still encouraging her to participate and learn about ours.

How has your host sister shaped your view of the world?

Through hosting an international student, I've learned a lot about the cultural values and traditions practiced by those across the world from me. This has given me a great appreciation for the beauty of diversity, and has allowed me to experience things from her culture that I have fallen in love with.

Would you recommend hosting an international student?

ABSOLUTELY!

[Video about hosting](#)

[homestay program webpage](#)



SPRING BREAK 2018

Every year we provide a Spring Break trip for any international students who wish to join. This year we rented a house on a river in Saugatuck. Even though it was not the warmest weather we still braved a walk to Lake Michigan and a few even went kayaking. The highlight, as usual, was the food! We were impressed with the students' cooking skills and stamina to eat hot pot until the early hours of the morning.



Brave Kayakers



Food, Food, and more FOOD



Hello Lake Michigan!

TEST PREP AND COLLEGE ESSAY

SAT/ACT Preparation

We provide intentional tutoring throughout the academic year; the SAT/ACT focused tutoring is geared specifically toward improved test scores. Our Juniors have been meeting at least once a week since March for focused test prep work with Mrs. Jane Parker, who works one-on-one and in small groups with students.

Our international students on average improve their SAT English score by 117.5 points and their ACT English score by 6 points after 2 years in our program.



College Application Essay Writing

This May we are holding a 2-part College Essay Writing Workshop. Writing one or more essays is what most/all students will be doing as part of their college application process. These workshops are designed to give students ideas and help them begin the process. Rebecca Stein, a graduate of The University of Chicago and Harvard Divinity School, will be leading these sessions.

[English language support for international students](#)

COUNSELOR UNIVERSITY VISITS



Each spring Mrs. Williams travels with other counselors from GRCHS to visit universities and colleges. These visits provide valuable insight and information about a variety of schools and helps the counselors advise students on schools to which they might apply. Trips in recent years have taken us to Southern California, Indiana, Chicago, Texas, Ohio, Washington D.C., Baltimore, and Boston. This April counselors visited the following schools: Georgetown University, George Washington University, Howard University, Catholic University of America, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, and American University.

Important dates

May 17: Seniors' last day of school

May 28: No School - Memorial Day

May 28, 6pm: End of Year dinner

May 29: Graduation!

May 29-June 1: Final Exams

August 14: Orientation for all international students

August 15: First day of classes

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Student Testimonials

Chinese

[Two students who have been accepted at NYU and University of Michigan tell about their experiences at GRCHS in Mandarin.](#)

Vietnamese

[Hanh tells about her experience at GRCHS in Vietnamese.](#)

Visit our website

[Prospective Student Handbook](#)

