

## **Immaculate Heart School International Students Frequently Asked Questions**

Thank you for your interest in our school!

*Just a few questions and items to consider prior to having the I-20 issued:*

- How long are you considering having your student in our school?
- Are you thinking about one year or would you like the student to complete his/her studies with us through 12th grade?
- Do you want the student to begin in the middle of our current school year, which lasts from August to May? Or, are you considering next school year?
- Has the child had any behavioral issues or discipline problems in their previous school(s)?

*Important to know:*

- We are a Catholic school and all students, Catholic or not, are required to study our faith (which will include classwork and tests) and attend prayer times and other celebrations we hold relating to our faith.
- We do not have an ESL program in grades K-8. Students are immersed in English through regular classes. They will receive some extra language support, but it is minimal. There is an ESL program at the high school level for grades 9-12.
- We do not house students or have a boarding department. Typically, international students will come to the United States with their parents or will stay with family or friends currently residing here. Immaculate Heart School is not responsible for student housing.
- We do expect students to have some basic understanding of English so they will have to take a test for English proficiency in the home country when they apply for a visa.

*Steps for Admission:*

1. The school will issue an I-20. There is a \$150 fee for this process per applicant. This fee is non-refundable if your child cannot acquire a Visa. What usually happens is a friend or family member will meet with the principal, who will issue the I-20. The I-20 will be mailed electronically back to the parents/guardians in the home country. The document is then taken to the immigration office in the home country.

*The information required for the I-20 is as follows:*

- Copy of Passport – this can be scanned and emailed
- Home address in country of origin
- Home address where child will be living in the United States
- Current email address of parent/guardian where the I-20 can be emailed
- We usually list living expenses at about \$10,000 for the year and we will need some form of financial documentation, such as a bank statement, showing that the parents/guardians receive enough of an income to afford tuition and living expenses.

2. After the student receives permission from immigration in the country of origin, parents/guardians will complete the registration packet. The packet is for the current school year, so if the child will be attending the next school year, it will need to be completed in January/February when the new registration forms are available. Please contact the Principal if you have any other questions!