

## FAQ's Regarding Potential International Student Applications

➤ **When should I start the admissions process to enroll my child?**

The application process may be started the fall before the year the student is applying for enrollment. To avoid being rushed to complete the process, it is recommended to start the paperwork no later than March or April of the year in which the student wants to attend. The goal is to complete the process and conduct the final interview no later than the end of June. This will allow enough time to have an I-20 issued and the student to get settled into the home where he/she will be staying prior to the first day of school. It is preferred the student be enrolled by the first day of school.

➤ **Can my child enroll in your school after the school year has started?**

Yes, a student can still apply to attend after the school year has started. This would include a mid-year start beginning at second semester in January as well. Any enrollment after the start of the school year would be a case by case basis determined by the principal if the student can enroll for that school year.

➤ **Can my child transfer for second semester into your school?**

Yes, a student can apply to begin with us for second semester in the beginning of January.

➤ **Does your school arrange the host family or locate the guardian for my child?**

No, we do not play a part in locating host families for international students. This is something the international family will be required to set up on their own for their child to attend here. We do require a guardianship arrangement form to be completed for proof of who will be responsible for the student while they attend school here. For elementary age students, guardians will also be expected to interview with the principal as part of the process.

➤ **What grades can my student apply for?**

International students may apply for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

➤ **Can my child repeat a grade at your school that he/she has already completed in his/her home country?**

Typically students enter into the next grade level they would have entered had they continued at their current school. For example, if the student just completed 8th grade in their home country, they would not complete their first year at Brentwood Christian as an 8th grader again. The student would begin with us as an incoming 9th grader. When the home country school year runs opposite the U.S. school calendar, then the student would end up repeating one semester. For example, if the student has just started 8th grade in his/her home country in February and attends until he/she transfers to the U.S. to start school here in August, we would have the student come in as an 8th grader for the complete school year.

A student can choose to apply to Brentwood Christian repeating a grade he/she just completed in their home country. Please know if a student repeats a year in high school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade), they do have to understand that with more than four years of high school level classes, they will not be allowed to qualify for valedictorian, salutatorian, or top ten percent of their class with us. Also, the student's age for the grade will need to meet the TAPPS guideline requirements (cannot reach age 19 prior to September 1 of the school year in which they would be a senior). Any high school student is also limited to a total of four years to compete in TAPPS competitions for athletics and fine arts.

Ultimately, the principal will make the final decision about grade placement on a case by case basis.

➤ **Is there an age range per grade level or is my child's date of birth not a concern for the grade he/she is applying for?**

Yes, we have an age range per grade level that we follow. The Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Association requires that a student not reach 19 years of age prior to September 1 of the school year in which they would be a senior.

➤ **Does your school provide an I-20 so my child can study with you in the States?**

Yes, once the student completes the admissions process and is formally accepted after the principal interview, we will issue an I-20.

➤ **Do you offer ESL courses?**

No, unfortunately we do not offer ESL classes at this time.

➤ **My child knows some English, but can he/she come to build their English skills at your school?**

Students applying for grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> need to score well enough on the English proficiency test and interact well in the interview to reveal if they are ready to be immersed in English taught classes. For our younger applicants, English proficiency will be evaluated through a Skype/Zoom screening with the Elementary Principal. Please refer to the International Student Testing Guidelines document for specific test result ranges.

➤ **What score does my child need to make on the exams to be considered?**

Please refer to the International Student Testing Guidelines document for specific test result ranges. This document can be found on our website under Admissions, Admissions Process, and then International to learn more about what is required.

➤ **Can we substitute grades or another exam in place of the required ISEE exam or English proficiency exam?**

No, we do not accept any substitutions for these required exams.

- **Do you prefer we arrange to have the test results sent directly to the school?**  
Yes, that would be easiest, although not required. This applies only to our 6th through 12th grade applicants. If this option is not chosen or not available, then the student will need to provide the exam results directly to the school.
- **Is the tuition amount different for international students?**  
The annual tuition amount is not different for international students. International students will pay the same amount as the American students. The Annual Enrollment Fee is higher than that of our American students due to the additional paperwork required, fund raising efforts international students do not participate in, parent volunteer hours that are waived, etc. Please refer to the tuition and fees information on the website for details.
- **What are the application fees for an international student?**  
The fees a student are required to pay in order to apply with Brentwood Christian School consist of the Application Fee due at the time of application and the Annual Enrollment Fee due within five days of being accepted and then each spring when you choose to renew the spot for the next school year.
- **What forms of payment do you accept for the tuition and fees?**  
The Application Fee is paid online as a step in completing the online application. You may submit the Annual Enrollment Fee and tuition fees by way of cash, check, or a wire transfer.
- **Can tuition be paid in installments?**  
No, the tuition for international students must be paid in full by June 1st or within 5 business days of acceptance, whichever is later. For students starting after the school year begins, tuition must be paid within 5 business days of acceptance.
- **Are there fees that will be in addition to the Application / Annual Enrollment Fee and annual tuition?**  
Yes, there are some additional fees which are required and some that are optional based on what the student chooses to participate in during the school year. The required additional fees include uniforms, school supplies, and fees associated with specific electives that are chosen. Optional fees include cafeteria lunches, sports, choir, band, drama, academic competitions, after school extracurricular clubs and activities, etc. Textbooks are provided at no additional cost, but must be returned at the end of the school year in good condition.
- **Does your school provide bus transportation for the students to get to school?**  
We do not offer regular transportation for our students. Parents and guardians drive their students to and from school. However, we do offer one bus route that leaves from a Round Rock location and has one additional stop in the Round Rock area. This service is an additional monthly fee.

➤ **What months is the school year?**

Our school year typically runs from the middle of August through the end of May or beginning of June. The exact start date and end date do vary each year.

➤ **Do you require the students to wear a uniform during school hours?**

Yes, we are a uniform based school. Our students are required to wear a uniform to school every day. Our dress code is outlined in the school handbook. The school uniforms do need to be purchased from Dennis Uniform, which can be done online or their store location in San Antonio, or at our on-campus uniform resale offered one to two times per year. The cost for the uniforms is in addition to the tuition.

➤ **Will you accept a student wanting to come observe for a few weeks, but not attend the complete school year?**

No, we do require that the student be applying for a minimum of one or more years in which they intend to study at our school.