

# Lighthouse Christian Academy Handbook Supplement for International Boarding Students and Host Parents

## Traveling to and From the USA

The student and his or her parents must communicate with the boarding director prior to the student's departure from the home country. New boarding students may not arrive on campus prior to August 21, 2017 without prior permission from the boarding director.

The student is required to purchase round-trip international air travel before the student departs from his or her home country. This information must be forwarded to the boarding director by the date specified in the contract. The itinerary shall include the reservation/confirmation number, airline, flight number, date and time. Parents, not students, are responsible for directly purchasing airfare and making travel arrangements.

Students can return home during Christmas break and must return home on summer break, unless permission to make other plans is granted by the boarding director. These are the following travel dates for the 2017-18 school year.

Aug. 21-22, 2017 International students arrive at LAX

Aug. 30, 2017 First day of school

Dec. 15, 2017 Last day of school; may not leave until after 10 p.m. on December 16 and must return by January 2, 2018

June 8, 2018 Last day of school; students may not leave until after 10 p.m. on June 8, 2018; must leave by Monday, June 12, 2018

The student is permitted to travel domestically with the host parents or with LCA-sponsored trips. Independent travel, aside from trips directly to and from the home country, is not allowed unless prior approval is granted from the boarding director. The cost of independent travel would be the student's and home family's responsibility.

The student will incur an additional \$500 fee for any travel that is outside of the listed dates of travel.

## Living With Host Families

Boarding students will live with an LCA host family. The host family assignment is for one academic year. Most students will live with a different host family each year. Some students will be the only international student in a host home. Most international students will have a roommate with another domestic or international student.

The student will become an integral part of the host family. Assuming duties and responsibilities are normal for a child of his or her age in the host family household. This may include cooking, doing dishes, helping with laundry, and cleaning the home.

The student must obey the host family's rules and be willing to participate in family activities such as attending Christian church and activities.

The Homestay Family and Student will agree upon a reasonable curfew, or time the Student must be inside the house each night. The Homestay Family and Student will agree upon a reasonable bedtime. At that time, the computer and television goes off. The Student should not come home from school and take a long nap, then not be ready to go to bed and stay up all hours of the night. Excessive use of the computer keeping the Student from doing their homework is discouraged.

While LCA respects all cultures, the primary goal of the Student is to come to study in an English language environment. Thus, English shall be the primary language spoken within the home.

Problems that arise in the host family are to be resolved first through discussion with the host family, then with the assistance of the boarding director. The student is not to discuss problems of a personal nature with members of the community. If the student is experiencing any sort of relational stress or difficulty, or experiences abuse or harassment of any kind, he or she will immediately disclose the incident to the boarding director.

Students must disclose to their host family any medication they bring from their home country to take on a regular or occasional basis.

A personal cell phone must be provided to each international student by his or her parents, unless the boarding director waives this requirement.

Internet may be accessed from the host family residence. The host family may limit Internet and cell phone usage to certain hours of the day if they feel it is interfering with academic progress or with face-to-face social connections.

Students may bring their own computer. It will not be permitted in the student's room, but rather in a general living area of the house. Inappropriate use of the Internet by the student, including viewing pornography or visiting questionable websites, is not

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acceptable. Such activity may result in program termination.

The student may not operate a motorized vehicle including the host family's vehicle or any friend's vehicle. Nor will the student get his/her driver license while attending LCA.

The student is forbidden from participating in any dangerous sports or activities such as hang gliding, bungee jumping, and skydiving. The home family will accept full responsibility for any situation arising from the student's involvement in a forbidden activity.

Homestay Family is granted authority by Legal Guardian/Parent's signature on the enrollment package to act in the best interest of the Student in terms of school decisions as well as any other routine day-to-day life choices.

Homestay Family is granted authority by Legal Guardian/Parent's signature on the enrollment package to act in the best interest of the Student in terms of medical emergencies and treatments. Homestay family will notify LCA as soon as possible should a medical situation arise.

## LCA International Boarding Students

Will be placed at an appropriate grade level and may be slightly older or younger than their peers.

Will attend school regularly; will be enrolled as a full-time student.

Must make a concerted effort to make satisfactory academic progress and must be involved in some co-curricular activities. If a student is achieving a C average or lower, the host family and boarding director may require study hours and limit co-curricular and weekend activities until the grade is improved.

Will obey the disciplinary rules of LCA and will be respectful of school staff and faculty.

Will make a concerted effort to improve his or her ability in the English language.

Will make an effort to get involved in our community by attending and participating in school, church, and/or community events. The student should not spend all his or her time with other international students and should seek guidance from host parents and school personnel when choosing friends.

Must obey the laws of the United States and the states where they live and visit. A student found guilty of violating the law will be returned home, at his family's own expense, as soon as authorities release the student.

Are not allowed to possess or use illegal drugs or other substances.

Are not allowed to smoke and/or use or possess of any tobacco products.

Are not allowed to drink or possess any alcoholic beverages. United States law strictly forbids the consumption of alcohol by anyone under age 21.

Will abstain from all sexual activity. Any romantic involvement or dating is prohibited.

Are not allowed to view pornography, either in magazines or online.

Are not allowed to possess or use firearms, knives or objects that could be used as a weapon.

May not take any action that may change the nature of his or her life (e.g., become engaged or married).

Are not allowed to get any new tattoos or body piercings while participating in the boarding program.

The student's acceptance into Lighthouse Christian Academy does not guarantee athletic eligibility. An eligibility ruling is made for each individual case by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). International students are usually NOT eligible for varsity sports their first academic year at LCA, but may participate in varsity practices.

Medical insurance is provided for international students, but costs due to pre-existing conditions will be the responsibility of the home parents.

Student who is 18 or turns 18 during their program agrees to abide by all of the same policies.

Student must fully vacate premises and take all personal belongings after the program dates have expired.

## Home Parents

Parents must communicate directly with the boarding

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director for any and all official business regarding their student.

While enrolled at LCA, international students (F-1 Visa) will live only with an appointed and approved LCA Homestay family. International students may live with biological parents who carry valid business visas or green cards. Any exception to this policy is at the discretion of the boarding program coordinator and international student boarding committee.

It is not the intention of the Lighthouse Christian Academy Homestay Boarding Program for parents to live nearby LCA in the Los Angeles metropolitan area (including Santa Monica and adjacent communities to the school). Parents living in the area violate the spirit of the Homestay Boarding Program and hinder students from connecting with and relying upon their host family, in ways that help them to thrive in their new educational environment at school and in our community in general. Parents who interfere by living or spending too much time in the area will cause us to re-evaluate their student's continuation in the program and may result in asking the student to withdraw from LCA.

Visits by the student's family or friends while in the program must be approved by the boarding director. Parents are permitted to visit only once a semester, unless otherwise approved by the boarding director. While visits are encouraged, host families will not be expected to house the student's guests at any time.

The student should have sufficient financial support to ensure his or her well-being during the entire program. Parents must submit proof of a checking account with an ATM/VISA card in the student and parent name with a \$1000 balance to be used for personal expenses while at LCA.

Room and board is included in the tuition amount. The host family will provide lunch fixings; if the student wishes to purchase lunch at school, it would be paid for by the student. The student may wish to purchase items such as clothing, room decorations and music lessons. He or she may also wish to attend senior trips or social functions. These expenses would be paid for by the extra money students bring with them on the ATM/VISA card.

The student is not permitted to borrow money from anyone, including host families.

If for any reason the student is unable to participate in the program, a refund is not guaranteed. The possibility of a refund will depend on the timing and

the circumstances of the withdrawal.

The inclusive tuition amount will not be pro-rated for services not used.

If a student needs unusual financial assistance for an activity not related to the academic requirements of LCA, the family would need to request permission for the activity and provide necessary funds and compensation for the activity.

In the month of May of a given school year, the I-20 will be extended for another academic year provided: the student has done well academically, a host family is available for the student for the following year, and the student demonstrates proof of travel purchase to return home for the summer months of June, July and early August.

Both boarding students and their parents are expected to read and be familiar with the LCA student handbook. By signing the enrollment documents, families are agreeing to the standards and rules detailed in the school handbook as well as the guidelines in this document.

## Miscellaneous

The student's parents give Lighthouse Christian Academy the right to use the student's photograph for reproduction in any medium for the purposes of publication, advertising, display, or editorial use. No personal information will be publicized.

Lighthouse Christian Academy reserves the right to terminate a student's participation in the boarding program if his or her conduct is considered detrimental or incompatible with the interests of the boarding program. In this case, all fees paid will be nonrefundable and the student's I-20 will be cancelled.