



Hinsdale Adventist Academy
International Student Guide

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

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WELCOME

Welcome to Hinsdale Adventist Academy. We are looking forward to greeting you at our school in beautiful Hinsdale, Illinois. We know you will have many questions as you prepare to start the year with us here on campus. In this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) you will find useful information that will answer many questions which you may have. We look forward to your arrival and contribution to our campus community.

GENERAL LOGISTICS OF TRAVEL AND SETTLING IN

Students need to plan their departure so that they arrive in Chicago, Illinois. The destination airports are Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) and Chicago Midway Airport (MDW). Students will need to make sure to email the International student liaison of Hinsdale Adventist Academy a copy of their itinerary.

WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS PLAN TO ARRIVE?

New students should plan to arrive on the date given them in their acceptance letter. This date is usually 2-3 days before the first day of school. You should plan to arrive between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 pm. Upon arrival, you will move in to your host family's home, be shown the facilities, be given a tour of the campus, and start the International Student Orientation.

WHOM SHOULD STUDENTS CONTACT WITH TRAVEL INFORMATION?

As soon as a student obtains their student visa and books airline tickets, they should email Kym Parker, Hinsdale Adventist Academy International Student Liaison (kym.parker@haa.org) with their flight information and itinerary. They should make sure that their final destination is one of the airports listed above and should prepare the flight to arrive between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 pm.

WHO WILL MEET THE STUDENTS AT THE AIRPORT?

They will be met at the airport by either their agency representative or a school representative. The representative will have a sign with the student's name, and Hinsdale Adventist Academy, written on it. You will be able to see the sign at the baggage claim area. The representative will transport, and settle students into their homes making sure they have what they need, and give each a detailed packet of information to help them prepare for the school year.

FINANCES

Payment Information:

Please make sure you include the student's name with the payment.

There are three payment options to pay your bill and then receive your I-20.

1. Pay the entire amount and receive your I-20.
2. Pay by semester and receive your I-20.
3. Pay \$5,000.00 and get your I-20 and upon receiving your visa, pay the remaining balance before coming to school.

OUR REFUND POLICY

1. You will receive a refund minus \$250.00 if your child doesn't get their visa or is not allowed in the country. (\$250.00 covers Administrative costs.)
2. There will be NO REFUND of any money if any student gets dismissed, expelled (sent home for disciplinary reasons) no matter when it happens, there will not be a refund of any money.
3. You can expect a refund in 2 weeks of the written request to the Business Manager.

It is strongly advised that each international student travel with a credit card (Visa or MasterCard recommended) to be used for incidentals throughout the year. If the family chooses, the student may have a Student Bank account.

WHO IS THE PERSON TO CONTACT WITH FINANCIAL QUESTIONS?

Roger Maldonado, Business Manager (Roger.Maldonado@haa.org), 630-288-9014

WHEN ARE ALL PAYMENTS DUE?

All Financial payment, in U.S. dollars, is due prior to entering/attending school.

WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL INSURANCE?

Hinsdale Adventist Academy requires all enrolled international students to have health insurance. Proof of coverage is required.

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES / COSTS?

School Uniforms – approximately \$35/shirt and \$40/slacks (each) recommend 3-4 of each.

Textbooks– Vary from \$25-\$100 per book

School Picture – purchasing a package for the family is optional and prices vary based package type

Music Fees / Materials (optional) – Approximately \$150

Physical Education Uniform - \$24

Art Class (optional) - \$50 per class

Varsity Sports (optional) - \$200 for the first sport + traveling and tournament fees

Banquets (optional): \$30, or less, per banquet

Trips (students may want to bring money for extra activities, souvenirs, etc.):

- Student Association Activities (optional) – vary from \$10-\$20 per activity
- Bible Conference (optional) - \$85
- Junior/Senior Campout - \$50
- Senior Class Trip – approximately \$1500 (student's participate in fundraising events during their school career)
- Mission Trip (optional) – approximately \$500

WHAT WILL ORIENTATION BE LIKE?

Students will begin an orientation to help them become acquainted with the school, its facilities, and the local area. The following items will be a focus of orientation:

- Campus Orientation
- Getting to know Hinsdale Adventist Academy
- Getting to know the surrounding areas
- Obtaining cell phone plans
- Meet the staff
- Meet the students
- F-1 Visas: explaining responsibilities
- Survey of students interests
- American classroom expectations and culture

- Shopping
- Field trips to local attractions
- Details of the academic calendar and schedule
- Details on how grades are calculated

WHO ARE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STAFF?

The faculty looks forward to assisting students of Hinsdale Adventist Academy. The following are administrators and staff who will be working with them:

JANESTA WALKER, Principal Mrs. Walker has worked for 21 years as an elementary and high school teacher and principal. She is a strong believer in relational education that has as its primary focus the development of a meaningful, mutually respectful, relationship between teacher and the student.

FAWN SCHERENCEL, Vice Principal for Academics. Ms. Fawn is currently serving as the Vice Principal at Hinsdale Adventist Academy. She has been in Education for over 10 years as a Teacher, Registrar, and Vice-Principal. She is a graduate of Great Lakes Adventist Academy. Her passion is serving and working with young people.

KYM PARKER, International Student Liaison.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Below is a suggested list of things to bring or plan to purchase locally near the school:

- Alarm Clock
- Bible
- Book bag/backpack
- Computer
- Electronic Chinese / English Dictionary
- Toiletries

Optional Items:

- Portable music device with headphones
- Casual and athletic clothing , light weight jacket
- Business casual clothing

- Business attire (girls are to bring a blouse and skirt/dress)

WHAT IS LIFE INSIDE THE CLASSROOM LIKE?

The classroom environment at Hinsdale Adventist Academy is both student-centered and rigorous. Students are nurtured by their teachers in a manner that promotes learning. Often, students are seen working collaboratively on specific content-related tasks. Classroom behavioral expectations are held at a high standard, as this is integral to an environment that fosters focus and ultimately, learning. Students are cooperative with both their teachers and their peers.

WHAT ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

Please contact these faculty members for the following:

Academic Information: Fawn Scherencel, fawn.scherencel@haa.org

Student Finances: Roger Maldonado, roger.maldonado@haa.org

Technology Coordinator: Jerry Newsom, jerry.newsom@haa.org

ELL Teacher: Mabel Noverola, mabel.noverola@haa.org

WHEN WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR SCHEDULE OF CLASSES?

The first day of school for our International students will be a day of orientation to Hinsdale Adventist Academy. This orientation will include academic advising from the registrar, at which point they will receive their class schedules.

WHAT ABOUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES?

ELL classes are required until placement into regular classes is evaluated by testing and the ELL teacher recommendation. Two types of tutoring is available to the students. Student tutors are assigned times to offer their assistance. Tutors are available upon request and their services are available with charge.

WHAT ABOUT ACADEMIC ADVISING?

The primary goal for our guidance department, which includes academic advising, is to provide our students with the appropriate guidance and resources that are necessary for achieving academic success in high school, and strategic planning for college entrance. The registrar provides academic advising, which includes the following:

- An overview of the diploma types offered and their relevant graduation requirements

● Classroom Guidance – This is a series of scheduled and intentional visits to students' classes. In these classroom visits, the guidance counselor shares:

- A grade-level, "What Every Student Should Know", checklist
- Testing information
- The role of the guidance counselor
- Effective study skills
- Simple and effective test-taking strategies
- College planning
- College financial aid
- Career planning
- Standardized Testing results
- Upcoming year Course Request process
- Individual student planning

WHAT ABOUT COLLEGE COUNSELING?

The registrar provides college counseling through group and individual opportunities. In these opportunities, students are given information and guidance on:

- College Planning
- College Financial Aid
- Preparation for the College Entrance Exams: the Scholastics Aptitude Test (SAT) and the Achievement College Test (ACT)

WHAT KIND OF CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS MAY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN?

Class Officers for each class: Our class organizations are quite active and involve students in parties, get-togethers, fundraisers, and teams to participate in all-school activities.

Varsity Sports: offers an opportunity to try-out for the basketball (varsity and Jr. varsity boys, varsity girls), volleyball (Varsity boys and varsity girls), soccer (varsity boys, and varsity girls),

Music department: A huge part of Hinsdale Adventist Academy is our music department which includes: Concert Choir (a large choir open to all students

approximately 40 students), Chamber Singers (a small select choir by audition), Concert Band (instrumental ensemble by audition approximately 30 students), Praise Ringers (a handbell choir by audition).

Student Association: A group of students voted into office to organize social events for the school.

Drama Club: open to all students that are interested in the performing arts.

ABOUT THE AREA

HISTORY

The opening of the Hinsdale Sanitarium (now Adventist Hinsdale Hospital) brought many Adventist families to the area, creating a need for a Christian school. In 1914, five boys and 10 girls attended school in a one-room "cottage" that was built on Sanitarium property. Geraldine Young was the teacher.

The academy remained a one-room school through 1924, when the school moved to the Life Boat Home and stayed there until 1928. After enough money was raised, a new school was built. The students called it the "Sears Roebuck House" because it came from a mail-order catalog!

When 80 students entered a new \$60,000 structure at East Hickory Street in 1954, the school had moved five times. Enrollment doubled in the 1950's; and in 1958 three classrooms, a library, kitchen, office and gymnasium--the David Paulson Auditorium--were added. More additions were made in 1960, 1967 and 1979.

By 1965, with 240 students, the school employed 12 full-time teachers, a principal, a French teacher and a band instructor. The school was named Hinsdale Junior Academy, and went from grades K through 10.

Enrollment in 1980 reached 329 students. Pastor Dan Smith, of the Hinsdale SDA Church initiated the thought of turning the school into a constituency high school to serve several congregations. Pastor Alger Keough followed through, helping complete feasibility studies and obtain necessary approvals. Thus Hinsdale Adventist Academy, offering preschool through grade 12, became a reality. Supported by six constituent churches, the school graduated its first 12th grade class in 1998.

Just a few years later, in 2001, HAA constructed additional facilities...four high school classrooms and a new preschool facility.

In 2013, Hinsdale Adventist Academy was one of three schools in the USA selected to join the Renaissance Network through the Alumni Awards Foundation.

Today Hinsdale Adventist Academy is passionately led by Mrs. Janesta Walker.

WHAT WILL MY LIFE BE LIKE AT HINSDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY?

This guideline is to provide information and care for all international students in the dorm and/or community. (I-20, F1 VISA)

Application Process – Kym Parker, Fawn Scherencel

Transcript Review – Fawn Scherencel, Janesta Walker, Justin Ferguson

SEVIS & VISA Issues – Kym Parker

ELL Teacher – Mabel Noverola

International Student Liaison (orientation to school, USA, dorm life, host families, etc.) – Kym Parker

ACCOUNTABILITY

International students must be accountable at all times. You must be in class unless you are sick and have been reported sick by their host family. You are not allowed to skip any classes, chapels/or study halls. You are never to leave the campus without permission or with anybody not approved by the school. Failure to comply with this rule may result in you being sent home, because we must always know where you are at all times.

BANK ACCOUNTS/CREDIT CARDS

International students must have a Visa/MasterCard credit card that parents set up for them before arriving here in the United States. This will allow for the parents to monitor the students spending and allows the student to have cash and purchase accessibility through the ATM.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The registrar will make up your class schedule in consultation with the Academic Standards Committee.

I-20/F1 VISA

I-20's and Visas/Passports are to be turned in to the vice principal and he will keep them in a fireproof vault for your protection. If you need them to travel come to the office and get them and the proper signature. When you return please bring them back to the main office for safe keeping.

ILLNESS

The student will pay with credit card and/or provide their medical insurance card for payment. The school will not pay for medical bills.

ADDITIONAL MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS OR VISITS

Medical emergencies will be taken care of as needed by the host family. Please do not make appointments without consulting (talking to) the host family/agency representative. Services like braces, etc. or elective medical services, should not be made while you are at school.

INSURANCE

Every international student must have their own medical insurance and show proof.

Hinsdale Adventist Academy provides Accident Insurance. If you get hurt report to the Teacher in charge, or principal. The Liaison will be responsible for obtaining accident reimbursement, and filing insurance claims for the international student. The student will pay with a credit card or provide their medical card when seen by a doctor, clinic, etc.

MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

There will be monthly meetings with the Vice Principal, ELL Director, and Liaison. The purpose of these meetings is to make sure that things are going well and that you understand what the rules are and to help you acclimate to the American culture. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any concerns or problems you may be experiencing. You may talk to your deans, Liaison, International Student Director, Guidance Counselor, Vice Principal, and Principal, Director of Student Records or any staff member anytime you have a concern.

NO REFUND OF TUITION

If any student gets dismissed (sent home), no matter when it happens, there will not be a refund of any money.

SMOKING, DRINKING OR DRUGS

These three activities are strictly prohibited on or off campus while you are a student at Hinsdale Adventist Academy. A violation of this policy will result in being dismissed (sent home).

TROUBLE WITH THE LAW – PROBLEMS WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Please be advised that if you break the law it could result in your deportation or being jailed. Hinsdale Adventist Academy will not bail students out of jail. (Drugs, stealing, assault, smoking, alcohol, etc.)

UNIFORMS

Hinsdale Adventist Academy uses Dennis Uniforms for the purchase of school uniforms. The Liaison and agency representatives will help the international students to get the uniforms they need. International students must follow the dress code at all times even outside of class time. Continual violations of dress code may result in serious discipline and possible dismissal. No jewelry or body piercing is a part of our dress code. If you have a tattoo it must be covered at all times, it is also prohibited to get a tattoo or body piercing while attending HAA.