

# ACADEMIC YEAR IN THE USA, PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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## GENERAL INFORMATION ON HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The purpose of the High School Program is to provide opportunities for people of diverse cultures to come together to learn about different points of view and ways of life. Cross-cultural understanding is a fundamental step in promoting better friendship and world peace. Students also gain maturity, self confidence and develop intercultural skills.

As it is a selective program, we expect the highest standards of behavior from participants at all times and, in turn, assume responsibility for the welfare and safety of the student throughout the program. The student must be committed to comply with all reasonable rules of the host family; local coordinator and school during his/her stay abroad.

This way, the student benefits from a successful integration in the local community and makes lifelong friends and one in a lifetime experience!

### TRANSFER OF CREDITS AND TRANSCRIPTS OF GRADES

Please note that the student is not guaranteed:

- a placement at a certain grade level;
- that transferable credits will be granted;
- that a diploma will be awarded at the end of the academic program.

These decisions remain at the entire discretion of the national educational authorities of home and host countries. Nacel International is not responsible for the procedures and information required for this process.



Applicants must consider the possibility that they may have to repeat the corresponding grade in their home country upon return. Before departure, they must clearly understand the possibilities that exist to have their grades and school year abroad recognized in the school curriculum of their home country. They must also be clearly informed about the procedures involved. Your local representative can assist in these matters.

## DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the High School Program is to provide opportunities for people of diverse cultures to come together to learn about different points of view and ways of life. Cross-cultural understanding is a fundamental step in promoting better friendship and world peace. We expect the highest standards of behavior from program participants at all times and, in turn, assume responsibility for the welfare and safety of the student throughout the program.

The **Nacel Open Door Private School Program**, piloted in September 2000, has met with great success. Nacel offers a wide choice of **120 private schools** all over the USA, offering a safe and friendly environment to more than **500 international students** each year.

Through an extensive interviewing, testing, and screening process **only high-achieving college-bound students are selected for the program.**

### WHO CAN APPLY?

The program is for students who wish **to continue their studies and graduate** in private schools in the United States. Many of our students have already completed one year as an exchange student in an American public high school on a J-1 Visa but it's not mandatory.

Most of the students come as 10th or 11th graders. A few enter the program as 9th graders. English proficiency must be good (a TOEFL test is necessary).

### HIGHLIGHTS :

PROGRAM: HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

DESTINATIONS: ACROSS THE USA

AGE: 14 TO 17

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DATES: AUGUST TO JUNE

LENGTH: ACADEMIC YEAR

### How long does this study program last?

Our students usually go to school in the USA for **2 to 5 years** (exceptionally for one year only). Most of them continue their university education in the USA afterwards.

## WHY CHOOSE NACEL?

Schools are happy to accept students from abroad, but often times they do not have the support network required to give teenagers the safe and have balanced life they need, especially while living away from home. Nacel is proud to have facilitated F-1 student access to education the USA for over a decade, and to be the leaders in our field.

We currently have over 500 students in the USA; more than half of them are returning students. One of the major advantages to our program is that we provide a local layer of support for each student, in addition to a Regional director, an educated staff (including a licensed Social Worker) and 24-hour phone line for student emergencies. All of these services are included with no additional charge.

The majority of our schools work exclusively with our program because of our commitment to the student's safety and success.

Unlike students who attend private schools independently, Nacel students are assured to have a safe and secure host family, identified by our local coordinators, with a long history and strong reputation of successful placements. Our local reps maintain monthly contact with students to ensure they are safe and happy, and our host families are paid a fair stipend to reimburse them for living costs. Students need not fear financial exploitation by a Scam family.

Our students have successfully enrolled in the following Colleges and Universities: Boston University, Boston College, Georgia Institute of Technology, Brandeis University, University of Southern California, Marshall Business School, George Washington University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Temple University, Ohio State University, New York University, Purdue University, Indiana University, Iowa State University, Penn State University, University of Washington, University of Colorado, Arizona State University, University of Michigan, University of Iowa, Syracuse University, University of Minnesota, Canisius College, Moravian College, University of Illinois and University of California at Riverside etc.



## LOCATION

Nacel selects the most suitable schools based on the student's profile, preferences, interests and budget.

Nacel places international students in private schools in: **California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin.**

## TYPE OF SCHOOLS

### Private schools.

Please note that the small, Christian schools, that have Christ-centered curriculum, often offer excellent education, but may not be suitable for those without a strong Christian background. The independent private schools are without religious affiliation.

High Schools expect exchange students to maintain high academic standards and to participate actively in school life. American High Schools believe the presence of exchange students enhances the learning environment.

The school year begins in August and school days begin at 8am and finish at 3.30pm. Courses last 45 to 55 minutes and there are 6 to 8 courses a day. The curriculum is not standardized. Subjects offered include:

- English (Grammar, Writing, Literature, Theatre etc...)
- Physical Education including medicine and hygiene courses
- Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Social Sciences including the History of the United States and the Constitution of the US Government
- Business
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Industrial design
- Economics
- Etc...

Besides main stream courses, most schools also offer Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses. Students are College-bound and committed to their studies at distinguished private schools.

Students organize their choice of subjects to suit their requirements with the support of an orientation counselor.

The lunch pause may last 30 minutes only: students go the cafeteria or bring their own packed lunch.

The student is responsible for all school fees not included in the price. These may include but are not limited to: registration, books, lockers, laboratories, gym/physical education, yearbook, class ring, letter jacket, student activities, etc...

## SCHOOL PROFILES (examples)

Our private High Schools may have a religious affiliation or not but welcome students from all religious backgrounds. Some of them require a school uniform; others have a specific dress code. Their size varies and the student population ranges from 200 up to 1000 students. All schools offer excellent academic, arts and sports facilities and a safe study environment.

Extracurricular activities are offered in all schools: some of them emphasize sports (popular sports like baseball, basketball, football etc. but also more specific sports like golf or ice hockey) and/or on arts and music (choir, band, drama, photography etc.). Many social clubs are also available.



Please find listed some school profiles which are used to provide examples of schools we may offer to our students. Note that we offer more than 120 schools!

**Pennsylvania:** the Catholic school is located in a suburban area. There are 823 students enrolled in this well-maintained older school located in a nice area of Lancaster.

**Academics:** 94% of school graduates enter further education, of which 76% go to college. The school offers 8 AP and Honors classes.

**Extracurricular activities:** This school offers an extensive sports program (baseball, basketball, bowling, cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, wrestling) as well as an excellent music program (Concert choir, freshman chorus, color guard, jazz band, percussion ensemble, show band, woodwind ensemble, spring musical stage crew, mallet percussion ensemble, mass choir, mixed chorus, concert band, marching band, brass ensemble, spring musical, spring musical cast, theatre orchestra, string ensemble) and various clubs.

Plus: a friendly atmosphere and a safe environment, strong academics, religious instruction daily, competitive athletic program and outstanding art and music program.





**Virginia:** the small sized Catholic school (451 students enrolled) is located in Virginia Beach and offers excellent facilities.

**Academics:** Among required courses and electives are a broad array of language arts courses, mathematics, history, government, science, health, fine arts and business. From foreign language to computer art and design, calculus to oceanography, public speaking to comparative religions, the school offers an exciting and stimulating curriculum. 14 AP courses are offered and 98% of graduates enter further education.

**Extracurricular activities:** Various sports are offered (Baseball, Softball, Football, Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Tennis, Field Hockey, Cheerleading, Wrestling, Swimming and diving, Crew, Lacrosse, Track and Field, Crew, Golf) as well as arts activities (Art/AP Art, Band/Orchestra Ensemble, Ceramics, Chorus, Computer Arts and Graphics, Drama, Photography) and clubs.

**Plus:** family atmosphere of the school, competitive academic and sports program, rich art program.

**Rhode Island:** the school welcomes about 1000 students a year in excellent facilities including a large gym, a theatre, a music complex and an ice arena. It is located about one hour away from Boston.

**Academics:** the school provides students with 13 AP courses as well as Honors classes. 93% of school graduates enter further education. Electives include art, architecture, drama, dance or chorus classes.

**Extracurricular activities:** students may choose various activities: cross country, soccer, tennis, volleyball, swimming, ice hockey, baseball, golf, gymnastics, track, basketball, Fine Arts Day, Drama and various clubs.

**Plus:** a traditional school with modern facilities, a strong emphasis on Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Theater Arts, and Drama.



**Florida:** the middle-sized (525 students) Catholic school is located in Melbourne, Florida, near the ocean.

**Academics:** the school offers 19 AP courses and 29 Honors classes, covering all major subjects. Almost all graduates enter further education (College and University). The school offers outstanding science facilities.

**Extracurricular activities:** all kind of sports, visual arts (sculpture, ceramics, pottery, paint/draw), Theatre – Drama and Stage Club.

**Plus:** Community atmosphere, outstanding academic results, excellent climate!



**Wisconsin:** this Lutheran school welcomes about 420 students each year and is located in a rural area, close to Milwaukee.

**Academics:** the school offers 4 AP courses as well as Honor classes. More than 90% of graduates enter College and University.

**Extracurricular activities:** a full range of sports as well as symphonic bands and a performing arts center planned.

**Plus:** good academic and caring environment, with excellent facilities.



Please inquire for a specific destination or extracurricular activity.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are offered by the schools. These activities are a good way to integrate and to make friends among American students. Major characteristic of American schools is the high priority given to sports, clubs and activities by the community, the parents, the schools and the students themselves. Many elementary, junior high and senior high students participate in extracurricular activity. Extracurricular activities are educational activities that are not within the scope of the regular curriculum but under the school's supervision.

Many schools also have non-varsity sports teams; however these are usually given fewer resources and attention. The idea of having sports teams associated with high schools is relatively unique to the United States in comparison with other countries.

Sports programs and their related games, especially football and/or basketball, are major events for American students and for larger schools can be a major source of funds for school districts. Schools may sell "spirit" shirts to wear to games; school stadiums and gymnasiums are often filled to capacity, even for non-sporting competitions.

No guarantee is made to the student with regard to participation in interscholastic sports. Eligibility is at the discretion of each high school and/or regional/state high school athletic association. Depending upon local regulations, if a student has graduated from high school in their home country or has completed a certain number of years of high school, he/she may not be eligible for interscholastic sports. Students who try out for high school sports teams are not guaranteed a place.



## TERMS AND DATES

Classes start in August and finish in June.

## ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of a few boarding school students, **all Nacel students live with a Nacel screened and vetted host family**, all of whom submit to a criminal background check, undergo an annual interview, and have a home visit with our local representatives.

Students are hosted by families from the school community, further enhancing the cultural exchange experience for all involved. **Families receive a hosting stipend.** Note that on the east coast and some urban areas, the host family stipend is higher due to the cost of living.

The students return to their home country for the summer months.

Please note that:

- students are not allowed to drive a car;
- students are not allowed to smoke, to drink alcohol and to use drugs;
- students are not authorized to work in the United States.



## LOCAL COORDINATOR

Our local representative works as a liaison between the host family, the student, the school and our National Office. The local representative maintains monthly contact with the host family and the student to make sure that everything is going well and to answer any questions/concerns.

Nacel has a full-time staff in the National Office who works in partnership with full-time Regional Coordinators.



## BUDGET

Budgets are specific to each of the 120 schools; they range from 13 500 USD to more than 85 000 USD per school year, including tuition fees, miscellaneous school fees, host family placement, stipend and follow up, assistance and insurance. Although we try to get a comprehensive invoice from our schools for each student, prospective students and parents must understand that the price quoted is not absolute. There are always some additional costs that are incurred at school that the student has to be prepared to pay.

Uniforms can fall into this category. Some schools have full uniforms, which need to be purchased through a uniform company (this can usually be done on line). The uniform will usually cost \$200-300, but aren't generally purchased at the school, so are not included in the invoice. Many schools have a Dress Code, rather than full uniform. This may mean purchasing logo shirts and sweaters, sometimes directly from the school, which could be included in an invoice; others will be through a local store/vender. There is no set standard, so this is an expense that can't be programmed into the program fee. We will do our best to provide all of the known school fees, but it is likely that other expenses will come up.

## REQUIREMENTS

Students must be interviewed in their home country before being accepted. **They must not have graduated in their home country.**

While most private schools would prefer that international students stay more than one year, there are some who will allow 9th, 10th, and 11th graders to come for just one year.

Only high-achieving college-bound students are selected for the program, after an extensive interviewing, testing, and screening process. Students are screened and chosen for their maturity, academic achievement, adaptability, and English skills. They are eager, young people who are interested in learning as much as they can about the United States.

We will consider each criteria such as the student application packet materials, academic background, high school transcripts, age, education level, physical and mental health, references, essays, and personal interviews in determining whether to admit a student into the program.

Students should take a TOEFL exam before applying because the private schools are really competitive.

### Other requirements:

- Strong English proficiency is necessary to follow the high school curriculum.
- Acceptance into one of our private schools
- Translated transcripts for past three years in home school.

Students must be serious, willing to study as well as live with an American family. Students do not have to be first in their class but must maintain at least a C average (majority of students maintain A and B averages. Many are in the top 10% of their class.).

Students are expected to graduate and most of them go on to American Universities, many to excellent colleges with scholarships.



## AGE

From 14 to 17 on arrival.



## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 30th for arrival in August. Late application may be accepted on a case-to-case basis. Please ask for the specific application form.

Prospective applicants are required:

to provide Nacel with a detailed **transcript of grades** for the last three years of study, translated into English, and provide a grading scale;

to inform Nacel about **their academic and extracurricular projects and interests, maximum school year budget** as well as their **geographical preferences** if any.

Nacel will then make a selection of schools matching the students' preferences as closely as possible.

Prospective applicants are required to fill out a so called *IPSP cover sheet*, **listing three schools in priority order**, as well as prepare their complete application form. Nacel will then process application.

The F-1 visa is required to study in a private school in the USA.

## STUDENT VISA

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Please refer to the <http://www.csiet.org> website for information on US government regulations for this program.

## TRANSFER OF CREDITS AND TRANSCRIPTS OF GRADES

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## REVIEW

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*"I left Italy with my parents on the 18 of August. When I arrived to Washington DC we drove down to Leonard town where we took a room in a Best Western hotel. When I finally moved to my host family it was like a dream, the house was on the river and there were many activities to do on the water such as wakeboarding, canoeing, fishing, boating... My new brother was two years younger than me, he was very friendly. My English understanding was quite good with adults but not with teenagers, I couldn't understand their slang immediately; I also had many troubles with my Italian accent even if girls loved it. My classes were: British literature, American government, trigonometry, physics, world cultures, sacraments and business math. I had no difficulties to study in the English language. As sport activity I chose sailing, it was very nice to spend hours after school on the water. After the first month I started to understand all the school system and I was able to speak with teenagers easily. My daily routine was: wake up at 6 am, one hour of bus riding to school, school till 2.30 with lunch included, 2 hours of sailing, go back home by car or bus, study, have dinner around 7pm and turn off the lights at midnight. My host parents were fine, they worked a lot so sometimes they were stressed but it wasn't a big problem, my host mother helped me a lot in understanding the school system and speaking with teachers to give me some pieces of advice. I liked a lot the school system without any book but with only the ipad, it was easier to organize stuff. Classes were easier compared to my school in Italy; my final grades were all positive except for sacraments. At the end of the semester in the US I could understand perfectly the English language and I improved my speaking skills. The thing I enjoyed the most at school were the open space, every time you end a class you go outside and have a walk to go to the next class. I liked a lot this experience and I suggest it to everyone."* **Francesco, from Italy**

## PRICE

Country	Program	Dates	Ref.	Net Prices in USD* (Commission not included)
USA	Private school Kansas	August to June	ZUSP1	From 17 690 USD
USA	Private school Wisconsin	August to June	ZUSP2	From 18 150 USD
USA	Private school Pennsylvania	August to June	ZUSP3	From 20 350 USD
USA	Private school Ohio	August to June	ZUSP4	From 21 500 USD
USA	Private school South Carolina	August to June	ZUSP5	From 26 150 USD
USA	Private school Minnesota	August to June	ZUSP6	From 25 190 USD
USA	Private school Massachusetts	August to June	ZUSP7	From 24 350 USD
USA	Private school Florida	August to June	ZUSP8	From 34 350 USD
USA	Private school Connecticut	August to June	ZUSP9	From 27 490 USD
USA	Private school New York	August to June	ZUSP10	From 19 590 USD
USA	Private school Virginia	August to June	ZUSP11	From 26 650 USD
USA	Private school California	August to June	ZUSP12	From 21 890 USD
USA	Private school New Jersey	August to June	ZUSP13	From 30 390 USD
USA	Private school Maryland	August to June	ZUSP14	From 46 790 USD
USA	Private school Rhode Island	August to June	ZUSP15	From 46 090 USD

\* Price in US Dollars per participant.

\*\* Programs subject to a specific agreement with Nacel International. The number of places will be stated in the specific program agreement and accurate prices will be fixed based on a student's application.

Agents interested in this program should contact us before beginning to promote the program on their market. A specific agent agreement with Nacel must be signed before any enrolment.

Budgets are specific to each of the 120 schools; they range from 13 500 USD to more than 85 000 USD per school year, including tuition fees, miscellaneous school fees, host family placement, stipend and follow up, assistance and insurance.

Although we try to get a comprehensive invoice from our schools for each student, **prospective students and parents must understand that the price quoted is not absolute.** There are always **some additional costs** that come up at a school, which the student must be prepared to cover.

## PRICE CONDITIONS

### INCLUDED

- Administration fees
- Host school placement and tuition fees
- Host family accommodation with full board
- Support, assistance and 24 hour emergency phone number during the whole program
- Medical, Liability and Emergency Repatriation Insurance

### NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Travel insurance (luggage lost, flight delay etc.)
- Visa, passport and medical exam fees
- School lunches, school fees (registration, books, lockers, laboratories, gym/physical education, yearbook, class ring, letter jacket, student activities etc.)
- Transportation to and from school
- Extra activities organized by schools and others
- Personal expenses and pocket money

## CANCELLATION POLICY

A 4000 US\$ deposit must be paid as soon as the student is accepted in the program (from which 2000 USD are non refundable) and before he/she receives visa application documents. Payment schedule and cancellation policy is then specific to each private school.



**Nacel International**  
**BP 83 329**  
**F-12033 Rodez**  
**Cedex 9, France**  
**Tel: 00 33 9 70 40 79 22**  
**info@nacel.org**

**www.nacel.org**  
Programs updated all year  
round on our website.

