

May 11, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians of International UFCA Students,

In an earlier communication I described the ISSF (International Student Support Fee). Since then I have had several questions and requests for additional information about why this fee was implemented and the purpose of the fee. The ISSF for returning families in 2011-12 is \$1000 and will be \$2000 in 2012-13.

Let me again state the importance of our international students to the vision, mission and curriculum of United Faith Christian Academy. It is our intent to encourage and grow our international student population.

The ISSF has been instituted to provide resources that will better serve our international students. Part of this fee will be allocated to the administrative expenses of maintaining the process of issuing and tracking I-20 visas. There are additional administrative costs involved in processing the admissions applications of international students. Those costs include transcript interpretation, translation, and then sequencing with our American curriculum.

Another part of the ISSF will be allocated to providing support for our international students. Our intent is to generate enough funds from the ISSF to allow us to provide additional support in English. This may take the form of after-school tutoring, TOEFL preparation, English classes as an alternative while other students are taking Spanish or Chinese, and may allow for a host family/guardian support office. This ideally will include a dedicated teacher for students whose primary language is not English.

I can tell you that our faculty has asked for help in supporting the English abilities of our international students. I have also heard from parents and guardians that more English support is desirable. Of course, in order to provide additional resources, it will take additional funds. That is the reason for the ISSF and provision of these services is dependent on the income from this fee.

We are also considering how we can assess sufficient English proficiency so that once a student is no longer in need of this additional support, there would be a corresponding decrease in the ISSF fee.

I hope this provides some additional background for this fee. Remember that financial aid is available for students who apply and qualify. If you have questions or would like to discuss this, please feel free to contact me.

Serving,

Joseph S. Siragusa, D.C., M. Ed.  
Headmaster



## International Student Support Fee (ISSF)

The ISSF is intended to cover some of the increased expenses associated with the acceptance of international students into our student body. Those expenses include (but are not limited to):

- Maintenance of PDSO officer to ensure compliance with Homeland Security and other regulatory agencies.
- The administrative costs, and increased communication required for the issuance of I-20 visas.
- Costs associated with international postage and communications.
- Costs associated with translation/interpretation of international transcripts.
- Costs associated with maintenance/tracking of visa status when students return to country of origin or travel internationally for vacations and school breaks.
- Communication with host families, guardians, and parents.
- Increased faculty support for students whose primary language is not English.
- Other costs incurred in the process of administering, communicating, and supporting students who are far from home and usually without their primary family to support them.

International Students are defined as any student who is not a citizen of the United States regardless of English proficiency.

### **Fee**

(Effective for all students accepted for the 2011-12 school year.)

\$2000\* /student per school year.

\*International students who have already attended at least one semester of school at United Faith Christian Academy will pay a reduced fee of \$1000 for the 2011-12 school year only.

This fee is in addition to tuition. This fee may be reduced or waived based on the same criteria applied when qualifying for need based financial assistance.