



# International Student Support

For more than sixty years, international students have chosen West Nottingham Academy in preparation for American colleges and universities. At WNA, students receive support to improve English language fluency and to fully integrate into the school community. International students from countries all over the world call WNA home because of its caring and committed faculty and diverse student body. International students play a vital role in our community in the classroom, on the sports field, and in the dormitories. Our international students are community leaders and are fully engaged and integrated into the wider community.

The international student program’s focus is to develop and improve academic language skills to assure success in both a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum and eventually in American universities and colleges. Students are initially enrolled in the ESL program based on English language testing scores submitted during the admissions process as well as at the recommendation of the program director after reviewing teacher recommendations, academic transcripts and a virtual interview. Some students with highly advanced English-language skills might be placed directly into the college-preparatory curriculum, while still being closely monitored by the director of international programming. On the Duolingo evaluation, we ask that all applicants score a minimum of 80 for entry into grade 9, to 100 and above for entry into grades 12 and post graduate.

## Features of the ESL program include:

- ◆ Two levels of English preparation at the intermediate (ESL Communications I) and advanced (ESL Communications II) levels.
- ◆ ESL content classes in History Humanities (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and Modern World History (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>).
- ◆ Average class size is 5 students.
- ◆ Preparation of language skills include both productive (speaking and writing) and receptive (reading and listening), as well as intensive work in developing and improving grammar and vocabulary.
- ◆ Support for work in all other WNA classes, including extra help and tutoring as needed.
- ◆ Benchmark testing at the beginning and end of the school year to demonstrate progress in academic English skills.
- ◆ Progress in English language advancement is closely monitored.
- ◆ Students are fully mainstreamed by senior year.

<u>Duolingo</u>	<u>TOEFL</u>	<u>Placement</u>
80-90	50-70	ESL Communications I
95-105	71-85	ESL Communications II
Over 105	Over 85	English and History courses

**Add on value:** The international student program is a comprehensive program that supports both the student and the family in the adjustment to an American high school. WNA recognizes and appreciates that international students and their families have unique needs and therefore the director of international programming provides the following services.

- ◆ Acts as secondary advisor to all international students
- ◆ Assures a smooth and successful transition to the WNA community
- ◆ Assists in the college counseling process
- ◆ Assists in the visa process and maintaining status while at WNA
- ◆ Facilitates registration for programs that offer trips and experiences during school breaks
- ◆ Coordinates travel during school breaks
- ◆ Acts as an advocate with our health services program
- ◆ Assists students in registering for the TOEFL, SAT and ACT
- ◆ Facilitates celebrations of international holidays, cultures, and events.