



International Student Program Conference 2021

Session Descriptions

Program Essentials

10 Things Principals Should Know and Do to Support an International Program [Kori Hockett]

Support from teachers and school leadership is essential to the success and ultimate buy-in of an international student program. The principal's articulation of program goals and how this ties into mission, vision, and strategic plan is really important. Come hear how school leaders can support the international staff as they build these important programs on campus.

International (F-1) Student Lifecycle for Private K-12 Schools [Saskia Hofman]

Representatives from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will present the F-1 Student Lifecycle, updates for SEVIS users and COVID-19 Resources for SEVP-Certified schools.

Learning from Mistakes & Engaging in Life Giving Reminders from Scripture [Naomi Peyton]

True learning comes from trial and error, wouldn't you agree? Would you like to hear about some mistakes that have been made in ISPs and how you can avoid them? In this workshop, we'll explore some specific blunders or unwise decisions and how they impact ISP ministry. Plus, opportunities will be provided to hear some of your own wilderness experiences! As we humble ourselves, we'll also invest in life-giving Biblical principles to spur us on to begin again in God's strength.

Creating a "Built to Last" International Program [Lorenzo Pablo]

Building and sustaining an international program should be a flexible and flowing system as it adapts to global political, religious, and cultural climates. In this session, we will explore fundamental concepts crucial for building and growing an effective international program and processes and methods to make it last.

International Student Program Director Panel [Lorenzo Pablo, Gay Bennett, Naomi Peyton]

Description Forthcoming

Academic

10 Strategies for Communicating with Chinese Parents [Rochelle Yang]

Come discuss common questions that most of the 1st year Chinese students and parents have. We will provide some examples of these types of questions and how you might go about answering these questions.

Creating & Cultivating Christ-centered Kingdom Fellowship: “They will know we are a Christian School by our love!” How to build and sustain a safe and honoring classroom (and school) for international students.

[Matt Dominguez]

Students must first feel trust for the teacher, learning environment, and peers. International students exploring the Christian faith have particular needs in this area. Come explore how to create and sustain a life giving, loving, and safe environment for students to be authentic in their journey and thrive in your school and classrooms. Community, particularly an educational community, thrives within healthy structure born out of safe boundaries and a loving culture. Learning requires vulnerability, and vulnerability is fostered in loving, safe spaces. Is your school known as a loving place where students can take risks to share their truest self in order to learn and grow? Building an anodyne, honoring, and vivacious culture in our schools, churches, and homes must be a top priority! Does your Christ-centered school have the public reputation for being loving and bearing fruit for Christ’s Kingdom? In this session, you will learn how to develop, nurture, and navigate the challenges of building and sustaining Kingdom Fellowship in your classrooms, hallways, and programs, ultimately helping your community to thrive and be more loving. Love is the foundational virtue that Jesus said we should be known for demonstrating to the world (*John 13:35 & 15:8*).

“Always Be Prepared To Give An Answer For the Hope That You Have...” Q&A Session on Teaching Worldview in a Safe, Honoring Way to International Students [Matt Dominguez]

In this session, author and twenty-five-year teaching veteran Matthew Dominguez will host a conversation and Q&A time on a revolutionary approach to understanding and making sense of the world we live in and why a Christ-Centered biblical worldview is the best most trustworthy option in a wide world full of a multitude of choices. A celebration of over two decades of research and classroom implementation, Matthew’s groundbreaking insights into how to equip people to view the world through the lens of reality will impact the way your school thinks and talks about worldview across all disciplines. This session will begin with a short summary of components to be considered when teaching Worldview, Discipleship, and Bible to international believers and non-believers. Then participants will have the opportunity to ask and discuss questions around this essential topic. Making sense of the world around us does not need to be complicated. In fact, a firm understanding of the nature of reality and a personal grasp of the implications of individual trust will equip students to confidently move beyond observation to accurately perceive, translate, and influence the world in which we live.

Academic Language and Vocabulary [Mary Perley]

Description Forthcoming

Student Care & Support

Medical and Mental Health Needs of International Students [Julie Grant]

Our international students come to us with many unique needs. A strong multi-faceted student services team is key to meeting the medical and mental health needs of our students. Learn some ideas for preventing, predicting and coping with these needs in your program. Also, come willing to share how your school is handling the growing needs especially during COVID.

Recruiting, Training, and Evaluating Your Host Family [Julie Grant]

Your program is only as good as those who are caring for your students in their home. The right host families are key to a successful program. Come hear ways to build on your host family team through recruiting, training and evaluating them.

Give Your International Student Leaders a Voice! [Gay Bennett]

Have you ever asked your students how to improve their experience at your school? Returning international students have ideas and very strong opinions about what works and what doesn't! The challenge is finding a 'structure' for leadership where they can flourish and gives them a voice that is heard. We are in Year FIVE ... come learn from our mistakes and get ideas from our successes!

Admissions & Recruitment

A New Era for International Student Recruitment [James Brannon and David Rivera]

With everything moving online in recent years, video has become the most powerful medium for communication. A new generation of marketers and influencers have harnessed the tools of social media to advertise, promote, and create brands. In this session, James Brannon and David Rivera will explore how Wheaton Academy's International Team is utilizing video as a recruitment tool through a successful recent case study.

Advising International Students on the College Process: What are Colleges At [Jim Crawley]

Join an experienced international admission professional to talk about many factors related to the college search process, as well as some key factors that colleges look for in an international applicant. The presenter currently works at a small private Christian college, but also has experience at mid-sized public institutions.

Developing Pathway Programs to Universities as a Recruitment Tool [Bryant Kong]

Options for International students to attend a secondary school with western based education have been multiplying in recent years. In-country International Schools have exploded in certain regions of the world. Aggressive recruitment practices from private secondary schools in Canada, Australia, and the UK have increased as more financial aid is being given out and full marketing plans are being utilized. And now, even public schools are now in the international recruitment mix in both the US and Canada as they seek to build in this market. The need to find new ways to recruit and to stand out is becoming necessity to continue an international student program. One less utilized, but distinctive tool to help give you some unique leverage in your international student marketing and recruiting is the development of institutional partnerships. In our talk, we will explore the concept about partnering with certain universities and other institutions in order to build distinctive pathways for international students to join your school.