

Welcome
**OKINAWA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL**

Thank you for your interest in Okinawa Christian School International. It is our hope that the faculty, staff, and administration of this school be able to meet the spiritual and educational needs of your family.

Established in 1957, Okinawa Christian School began as a small school for missionaries' children. With one teacher and eleven students, OCSI was conceived with the mission of spiritually training in the disciplines of the Christian faith while providing the best education possible. Now, nearly 50 years later, this school serves over 350 students representing nations from all over the world.

The decision to enroll a student in OCSI must be an informed one. As an international college preparatory school, OCSI does not teach English to students, rather we teach **IN** English. Because this is **NOT** a language school designed to develop conversational skills, students are expected to use English to study core subjects such as Bible, mathematics, history, and science.

To ensure that students are able to meet the academic standards set by the school, OCSI requires that students demonstrate proficiency with English that will allow them to study and learn independently.

Therefore, we place great emphasis on the early development of literacy skills. Literacy for our purposes is simply defined as, "The ability to speak, read, write, and interact in a given language at a level that is age and grade appropriate." This focus on literacy directs many of the school policies on how students are admitted, promoted, retained, or allowed to continue their enrollment.

Success at Okinawa Christian School International requires the commitment from all – students, parents, faculty, and administration. To know if OCSI is right for you and your family we invite you to review the enclosed school information. Again, thank you for your interest in this school and ministry.

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Admissions guidelines:

The admissions guidelines for OCSI are inclusive and do not regard race, religion or gender. Gaining admission to OCSI is a multi-faceted process that includes one or more of the following:

- An **administrative interview** of the student and parents
- **Review of previous school records**, including but not limited to, report cards, standardized test results, behavior records, etc.
- Verification of an **English language support system in the home** e.g. one custodial parents or guardian that speaks English in the home
- Demonstration of **sufficient English language skills by age 5**; language proficiency test may be administered
- **Completion of a reading diagnostic** to determine if a student is reading at a level that is within one year of the grade to which they are seeking admission
- **Identification of special learning needs** that may require special accommodations by either the classroom teacher or administration

Promotion and retention guidelines:

ELEMENTARY

The process of determining whether a student is promoted to the next grade level is based primarily on observations and assessments made by the classroom teacher. Those assessments may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- **Proficiency with the English language** that can be demonstrated both orally and in written form; **results of reading diagnostics** and standardized testing
- **Competence with grade-appropriate skills**
- **Content knowledge**
- Proper development of **social skills** needed to maintain peer relationships
- Age-appropriate **work habits** that support independent learning
- At the discretion of a school administrator, students whose assessments show an English language deficiency of more than one year **MAY not be allowed to continue enrollment at OCSI.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Middle school students who fail to learn at least 65% of the material in two major courses (math, science, English or social studies) must repeat the grade. If a student fails any three courses, the student repeats the grade. In exceptional circumstances, a student may be allowed to do remedial work during the summer to permit passage into the next grade. Students who fail three courses must repeat the grade. No middle school student will be allowed to repeat a grade more than once at OCSI.

HIGH SCHOOL:

High school students are placed at grade levels according to the following chart:

Freshman	Less than 5 high school credits earned
Sophomore	5-9 high school credits earned
Junior	10-14 high school credits earned
Senior	15 or more high school credits

Withdrawal guidelines:

Given that the school has been provided no less than two weeks notice, students may be withdrawn from the school at any time of the year at the discretion of the parents. Failure to provide two weeks notice will result in school fees being assessed. **Students who are withdrawn following a recommendation for retention must receive the approval of the Education Committee before being granted permission to reenroll.**

Parental Agreement

I have read and understand the policies of Okinawa Christian School International regarding admissions, promotion/retention, and withdrawals. Should my child or children be recommended for admission, these policies will be applied to them over the course of their enrollment.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Child(ren)' names:

