**THE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MILWAUKEE**

**GLOBAL STUDIES PROGRAM**

**Admission into Our Schools**

The Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee includes Lake Country Lutheran High School, Martin Luther High School, and Milwaukee Lutheran High School in the association. The Global Studies Program of the LHSAGM is open to all three campuses and applying international students may attend any of the three schools for their high school career, but must follow the admission process outlined below:

The three schools are aimed at preparing students to be lifelong learners who excel in the pursuit of academic excellence and progress. In addition, the school focuses on the development of faith as we are partnered with parents and family in nurturing the faith of each student. International students who want to attend one of our schools must understand the demands of acquiring an American high school diploma that is focused on a college prep course of study. In addition to the demands of our rigorous curriculum, international students are also developing their spoken and academic English. These demands increase even more the expectation that an attending student must have the heart and desire to be an excellent student.

The Intensive ESL program within the LHSAGM is led by Dr. Alvara who’s PHD in ESL clearly makes the English as a Second Language portion of our Global Studies Program the best in the United States. Teaching English to students who are learning English as a second language requires a unique set of teaching skills that are different than what the average English degreed teacher has and uses. We are privileged to have the leadership and degreed experience of Dr. Alvara who continues to guide and administer the educational component of our ESL program beyond the majority of High Schools in the USA.

International students must apply for a LHSAGM school through Martin Luther High School where Dr. Alvara performs all the interviews and testing components of our admission and enrollment process. International students who want to apply to Lake Country Lutheran or Milwaukee Lutheran High School must have a high level of spoken and academic English and require only minimum ESL needs to attend these two schools. All students must test at Martin Luther High School upon arrival in the USA. If a student applying for Lake Country Lutheran or Milwaukee Lutheran High School does not meet the minimum standards established in our testing procedures the student must attend Martin Luther for the first year. After one year at Martin Luther, (that first year includes a heavy ESL component within the students course work), the student **must** test out of the intensive ESL program and is **now permitted** to attend Lake Country Lutheran or Milwaukee Lutheran High School having demonstrated proficient English Language skills. No student scoring less than a 5 on the TOEFL Jr or an 80 on the TOEFL Test will be permitted to attend these two schools. Test scores from outside the USA are not accepted. All testing must be done at Martin Luther High School.

We do not want to set students up to fail in their core course work. We do not want students to migrate to the university level having to take a full load of ESL course work their first year. The latest studies from university level research concludes that more and more international students are graduating from American High Schools unprepared for university level education because their English skills are still lacking. This results from high schools claiming to have comprehensive programs in ESL when they really do not. Students that graduate from our program will have taken 16 credits of ESL and 16 credits of Core English. The student will also take the TOEFL JR Test or the TOEFL test 9 times while attending one of our schools. A student’s testing progress will clearly demonstrate to the universities they apply to that they possess an English Language growth pattern that clearly qualifies them for university admission.

It is tempting for High Schools in America to join the ranks of “international education” placing tuition dollars ahead of a students’ academic and English development. Dr. Alvara has influenced our Administrative thinking to understand that the development of English Language Skills is critical to the development of an international student’s collegiate success. The student must come first and we must serve each student in a way that sets them on a course for success.

It is important that parents understand that some students are not prepared for our rigorous academic and language programs. If a student does not have the heart to excel and adjust to an American style of education very quickly they should not apply to our schools. The ultimate success of an international student depends upon four critical components:

**PARENTS WHO ACCEPT THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO EDUCATION AND TRUST THE SCHOOL AND ITS’ REPUTATION**

**QUALITY SCHOOLS THAT WANT STUDENTS TO SUCCEED AND PLACE STUDENTS FIRST-THE 2013 NAEP REPORT-LUTHERAN SCHOOLS ARE THE BEST IN THE USA**

**LEADERSHIP WITH EXPERIENCE THAT COMES WITH CREDENTIALED PEOPLE-DR ALVARA ESL DIRECTOR OF THE LHSAGM**

**STUDENTS WHO HAVE THE HEART AND DESIRE TO EXCEL AND SERIOUSLY DESIRE TO ATTEND AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**