



Grand Rapids is located in West Michigan, just a 3.5-hour drive from the city of Chicago and a 45-minute drive from Lake Michigan beaches. Grand Rapids was nicknamed "Furniture City" as its home to five of the world's leading office furniture companies. Today the city and surrounding communities are economically diverse, based in the health care, information technology, automotive, aviation, and consumer goods manufacturing industries, among others. The Grand Rapids area also has the reputation as one of North America's finest medical centers.

Grand Rapids is the home of ArtPrize—the world's largest art competition. The downtown area offers many opportunities to attend theatre productions and concerts. Grand Rapids is alive with team sporting events all year long. Every May, one of the top 25K sports events, Fifth Third River Bank Run, hosts thousands of runners from around the world. The Grand Rapids Crew Cup soccer tournament is another important sporting event in the area that brings hundreds of teams from all over the Midwest and Canada.

The Grand Rapids area thrives with superior golf courses, pristine parks, and lakes, streams, and rivers. Considered one the "best" walking cities, Grand Rapids is also great for biking and hiking and it was named the "Best Town for Mountain Biking" by Outside Magazine. On Michigan's West Coast the lakeshore appeals to beach enthusiasts with dune rides and dune climbing as well as beach volleyball and swimming. Grand Rapids has been rated the sixth most popular fishing city in the United States.

## **FUN FACTS**

- Grand Rapids is the childhood home of U.S. President Gerald Ford.
- · Grand Rapids is the second-largest city in Michigan and the largest city in West Michigan,
- Grand Rapids is home to the international headquarters of many international corporations such as Amway, Steelcase, and Whirlpool.
- West Michigan is home of the Dutch Winterfest and the Tulip Time Festival.
- Greater Grand Rapids is ground zero for the annual Meijer State Games of Michigan, a twice-yearly Olympic-style sporting event bringing athletes of all ages from across the state to Grand Rapids.





Grand Rapids Christian High School (GRCHS) is a parentally-controlled, private Christian secondary school in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Founded in 1920, Grand Rapids Christian High School is one of West Michigan's top-performing high schools. Named an "Exemplary Secondary School" by the U.S. Department of Education, it's recognized for its extraordinary culture of faith, the breadth and excellence of its academics, the quality and diversity of its fine arts and its wide range of athletic activities. Students are held to rigorous academic standards and are positioned for acceptance at colleges and universities and for success in the workplace.

The school's rigorous and well-rounded curriculum includes an extensive selection of Honors, AP classes, and a premier STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) course that equips students to be problem-solvers, innovators, and logical thinkers who are prepared to compete in a global economy. The unique daily schedule – similar to a college model, featuring classes which meet for up to 80 minutes three times a week – gives students the time needed to delve deeply into a particular subject or topic. This allows students the time they need to master academic skills and pursue elective courses for which they have a passion or about which they desire to learn more.

Grand Rapids Christian High is a Michigan Class A high school with 52 teams competing in 27 varsity sports that include: Cross Country, Equestrian, American Football, Soccer, Sailing, Tennis, Swimming & Diving, Volleyball, Sideline & Competitive Cheer, Golf, Basketball, Bowling, Hockey, Downhill Skiing, Wrestling, Baseball, Lacrosse, Track & Field and Softball. Each athletic season has at least one "no-cut" sport for student athletes to participate in and 60 percent of the student body participates in athletics.

School website: www.grcs.org











#### MINI HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

The Mini High School Experience is a shadowing program where international students will have the opportunity to experience the daily life of an American high school from 4 to 8 weeks. Students may also participate in any events and after-school activities but will not receive grades nor credits for classes attended. The main purpose of this program is to provide students with a cultural immersion experience and to give them the opportunity to see what an American High School looks like.

Students will stay with one of our carefully screened host families during the entire duration of the program. Host families will provide breakfast and dinner during the week and all 3 meals on weekends and holidays. Students will have lunch at school every day, which is already included in the program. Staying with a host family is a great opportunity for students to practice their English and experience more of the American culture. Host families may host more than one student at the same time; therefore, single and double rooms will be available.

## AGE: 14 to 17 years old

DURATION: 4 or 8 weeks

**DATES:** Students may join the program anytime during the school year (August through May). Groups must confirm with at least 3 months in advance.

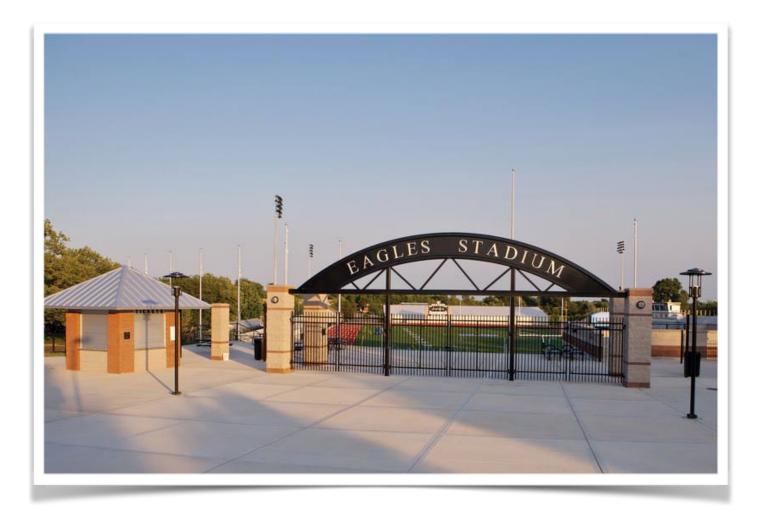








# **PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM USA**



#### **GRAND RAPIDS - MICHIGAN**

