



## **GREATER ATLANTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY**

**An Early College High School –Gateway to United States Universities  
At 401 Hamilton E. Holmes Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30318**

### **Office of the Principal—Welcome Letter!**

May 2018

Dear Prospective Student and Parents

I am Dr. Lashley, your principal. I grew up in Barbados, the US Virgin Islands, Trinidad, Anguilla, Montserrat, Jamaica, and Michigan. I lived in New York, Boston, Orlando and now Atlanta. I know what it is to be an international student and that is why I can welcome you to the Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, [www.gaaaschool.org](http://www.gaaaschool.org) (our high school) and Berean Christian Junior Academy, [www.bcjaschool.org](http://www.bcjaschool.org), our elementary school. We are one K-12 school Complex on 15 acres, consisting of a church, a bookstore, Cafeteria, Gym and Super Mart.

This program is for students whose parents desire to study in the United States for college or desire them to gain an international experience in the United States. Accordingly, all of our academic programs are geared for entry into the American college system, and residence in the United States before college entry helps students to adjust, take the SAT, ACT and visit American universities and colleges while still in high school. The elementary/middle school (Grades 1-8) and Academy, Grades 9-12 are fully registered in the State of Georgia and accredited by several bodies. We are schools founded and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the largest Protestant educational system in the United States. Our schools are private, safe and secure. Upon completion of the pre-application form, we will then release to you our full application form.

**Faculty Support System**--Upon academic acceptance, each student will be assigned a faculty mentor as a support person along with regular staff.

**Sports**—there are several active basketball and volleyball teams—there is an additional fee of \$400.00 per sport per year—Sports are optional.

**Choir & Orchestra**--we have the best high school choir in Georgia; we tour other states in the South, and the Northeast of the country. Orchestra—Grades 4-8.

**Our Agents/Representatives**--We will have certified and approved agents that will contact you. Upon interview with you, we will verify the same. No funds are to be remitted to anyone except us, for any recruitment service rendered to you. Only the persons we specify are approved by us for officially contacting you in your country. Do not sign any form except your parent or guardian signs the same.

**Fast Facts:**

1. **Instruction**--All instruction is in English
2. **Advanced Academic Standing**
  - a. Students upon graduation from the high school may receive advanced standing into an American College/University up to completion of the first year in college while still in high school, due to our dual programs.
  - b. Students upon graduation from elementary/middle school get advanced high school credit by taking high school classes in grade 8
3. **Residence**--Students will stay with American host families whose children attend the school or who are closely associated with the schools—the families will transport them to and from school, take them to church on weekends, and shopping—they will become part of the American family.
4. **Student Matters and Services**
  - a. **Conduct**--Students are expected to be well-behaved and of good conduct and willing to follow directives according to our student handbook. We work closely with parents through progress reports.
  - b. **Religion**—this is a Seventh-day Adventist school—students who live with church members attend church on Saturdays as part of the school program. Students are NOT required to become members of the church.
  - c. **Diet**—the school does not prepare or use pork, or ham products. The school cafeteria is vegetarian but homes are free to serve non-vegetarian foods. Home do not serve pork or ham products.
  - d. **Age Limit**—High School—from form 2/grade 9; Elementary: Gr 6-8
5. **Accident Insurance**—students are covered by an accident insurance policy as part of their general registration fee and will be provided with an IPAD
6. **Health Insurance**—arrangements—students are advised to travel with the same, but arrangements can be made for insurance for an additional fee.
7. **Immunizations and Vaccinations**—we need a record before you arrive
8. **Passports and Travel Documents**—are kept in the vaults of the school to prevent loss
9. **Emergencies**—parents must sign a form permitting the school to act in events of emergencies and absolving the school of any liability.

**Sincerely**

*Sylvan A. Lashley*

Sylvan A. Lashley, B.Ed., MA, MBA, MEL, Ed.D., J.D.  
Principal, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy/Berean Christian Junior Academy  
[slashley@gaaaschool.org](mailto:slashley@gaaaschool.org) (470) 725-0486, cell; (404) 799-0337, extension 223



## ADMISSIONS BROCHURE

# GREATER ATLANTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

[www.gaaaschool.org](http://www.gaaaschool.org) and [www.bcjaschool.org](http://www.bcjaschool.org)

An Early College High School –Gateway to United States Universities  
At 401 Hamilton E. Holmes Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

**Invites International Students  
To Early Academy/Early College  
In its High School (Grades 9-12), GAAA  
And Middle School (Grades 1-8), BCJA**

## Advantages—Early Start

- 1. APPLY--**Apply to come to the United States for high school/Middle School and start your college career by the 11<sup>th</sup> grade with dual enrollment
- 2. EARN--**Earn high school credits and college credits at the same time for a fraction of the actual college costs
- 3. PREPARE--**Prepare emotionally and socially for US college entry
- 4. NETWORK--**Network and visit US colleges and universities early.
- 5. Lodging--**Stay with American host families and acclimatize to America
- 6. HEAD-START--**Get a Pre-Arrival Orientation—foods, history, literature, culture along with a course packet upon acceptance
- 7. PERSONAL TOUCH—**Get your own personal faculty mentor

Text/call/WhatsApp: Dr. Lashley, [slashley@gaaaschool.org](mailto:slashley@gaaaschool.org) (470) 725-0486,  
Dr. Willis, [swillis@gaaaschool.org](mailto:swillis@gaaaschool.org), (404) 223-3168,  
Tonya Campbell, [tcampbell@gaaaschool.org](mailto:tcampbell@gaaaschool.org), at (404) 483-2313

Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy and the Berean Christian Junior Academy are authorized by the United States Department of Homeland Security to accept international students from Grades 1-12, through the SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitors program) and Form I-20.

## **Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy**

### **A School of Christian Faith and Character**

### **INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS DIVISION**

#### **Introduction-**

The Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy and the Berean Christian Junior Academy form a private, religious education Complex located on 15 green acres, just 4 miles from Atlanta's downtown and a myriad of higher education institutions, and near three major interstate highways and the world's busiest airport. The Complex is part of a campus consisting of a Book Center, Mini-Supermarket, large church and Community Center. The Complex has modern technology with a fully-connected campus and uses technology real-time and delayed time as a complement in the support of its face to face classes.

The Complex serves as a GATEWAY to international students who desire to pursue collegiate education in the United States whereby enrolled students at GAAA can access college classes concurrently and through dual enrollment from the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, at minimal additional cost. Students in this program receive both college credit and high school credit at the same time, once they perform at a grade of B or better and meet other eligibility and admissions requirements of the specific college/university.

Further, students at the feeder Junior Academy, Berean Christian Junior Academy, on the same compound in the upper grades (the Middle School), can access enriched programs in high school grades as part of an early academy track.

#### **Faculty and Staff**

The Educational Complex faculty are highly qualified with terminal and graduate degrees in Biology, Business, Social Work, Leadership, Technology, English, Literacy, History, Religion. Of the 19 faculty, 4 have doctorates, 11 have Masters degrees, and 4 have Bachelor's degrees, and several are of international origin acquainted with Caribbean, British, African, and South American cultures.

#### **The Administration**

The administration and faculty hail from Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico and the United States, Bermuda

Dr. Sylvan Lashley, MA, MBA, MEL, Ed.D., J.D., Principal & Immigration

Delmas Campbell, BS, M.Ed., Vice-Principal, High School

Jeanette Lamb, Treasurer, Immigration representative, High school

Yvette Cooper, M.A., Vice-Principal, Middle School

Elvis Agard, BA, MA, Immigration Handling, Middle School

Marcia Davis, B.Sc., M.S., Instructional Technologist, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Dr. Sheila Willis, MSW, LCSW, D. Min, Guidance Counselor/Registrar & Immigration

Dr. Gary Gardner, MBA, Ed.D, Director of Development

Jennifer Wales, B.A., M.Sc., Online Education Support

Tonya Campbell, B.S., Office Technology, Admissions  
Lennel Hinds, B.Sc., Computer Science, IT Director  
Rosita E. Lashley, MA., MS., Administrative Assistant/Ed Complex Office Manager & Immigration I-20 specialist  
Jynean Reid, M.Ed., Chaplain  
Brenda Barber, B.A., Librarian

### International Application Correspondents

1. The High [School, Tonya Campbell—internationale@gaaaschool.org](mailto:internationale@gaaaschool.org)
2. The Middle [School, Rosita Lashley—registrar@bcjaschool.org](mailto:registrar@bcjaschool.org)

### Steps to Enter the United States

- 1. Step 1—Complete the pre-application form** for security and safety and an initial interview either by webinar, skype, or short email before release of application form for completion.
- 2. Step 2--Apply and be academically accepted—you will receive a letter of academic acceptance—this is not permission to enter the United States**
  - a. Furnish identification (passport, birth certificate)
  - b. Furnish official academic transcripts from the school
  - c. Furnish two letters of academic recommendation
  - d. Complete application form with non-refundable fee of \$65.00
- 3. Step 3—Student Services—provide the information**
  - a. Select Housing/Lodging/interview
  - b. Furnish medical records and required insurance documents
  - c. Sign all parental documents
  - d. One non-academic recommendation
- 4. Step 4—Financial Admission—Become financially certified**
  - a. Oral Interview along with parent and/or guardian
  - b. Remit required amounts as pre-arrival deposit
  - c. Receive Form I-20 from the School
  - d. Receive full letter certifying academic, student life and financial clearance—along with the academic letter and I-20, you are ready
  - e. Visit the US Consulate in territory for F-1 visa approval and present Form I-20 which has listed the monies deposited at the school already
  - f. Sign Handbook and pledge to abide by all the regulations
- 5. Step 5—Arrive in the United States, in Atlanta, Georgia by July 29**
  - a. Orientation in the United States
  - b. Lodging Installation
  - c. Academic Buddy and Selection of Mentor

### Eligibility for Entry to GAAA/BCJA Programs

1. Good Health
2. Acceptable conduct, deportment as per recommendations
3. Ability to speak and write English acceptably
4. Academic Acceptance by letter

5. Financial Certification by letter—we send you Form I-20
6. Successful pre-orientation before entry
7. Foreign Language students must spend two terms to gain English proficiency
8. US Consulate Visa Approval outside of the US, in your country with I-20
9. Final Registration Onsite and physical appearance at the school

**Curriculum—see website—Programs of study—**

<http://gaaaschool.org/academics/curriculum/>

1. High School, GAAA—students must spend one term at GAAA before entering the dual enrollment program and must score grades of B or better
2. Middle School, BCJA

**Housing & Transportation**—with American host family with meals and transportation provided by family and by the school—school and family will meet you at the Atlanta airport.

**Finances—Estimates**—10 months (August to May)—does not include Summer months

**1. Annual Cost Estimates--Expenses**

a. Annual Tuition , 10 months, full load	\$6850.00
b. Registration+	865.00
c. Board & Lodging & Transportation*	5000.00
d. Collegiate Credits offered through a University	3152.00
e. International Student Deposit (held in reserve) *	3425.00
<b>f. Total Costs minus deposit</b>	<b>\$15,867.00</b>
<b>g. Total Costs with deposit</b>	<b>\$19,292.00</b>
<b>h. Grades 6-10, subtract -3152.00 from total</b>	<b>\$16,140.00</b>

**2. Income**

a. Work-Study (up to 20 hours weekly)	\$1400.00
b. Academic Merit Scholarships	500.00
c. Sports/Choir Scholarship--	400.00
d. International Leadership Scholarship	300.00
<b>e. Total Support Possible</b>	<b>\$2600.00</b>

**3. Optional Additional Costs**

a. Each sport, \$400.00 annually	400.00
b. Choir tours, \$400.00	400.00
c. Pocket Money	1000.00
<b>d. Total</b>	<b>1800.00</b>

**4. Full Total Costs Estimates, Year 1**

a. Total costs with Deposits	\$19,292.00
b. Optional Costs	1,800.00
<b>c. Full Total Costs</b>	<b>\$21,092.00</b>
<b>d. Net Totals—with work + Scholarships</b>	<b>\$18,492.00</b>

+covers accident insurance, books

\*applied during the final term to bill

++scholarships applied upon review of highly qualified applicants

## International Pre-Application Information

**(Return Pre-App to email at the end of this page for immediate contact)**

**1. Introduction--**this Pre-application is intended for students who desire to study in the United States, by starting early with selected classes while still in high school, either in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> form or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade or earlier from Form 2/grade 9. This Pre-Application is not an admission to entry but evidence of serious intent to talk with us about studying in the United States at the high school level for the last two years, while completing 24 units of college work. Students may start earlier from Grade 6 and 11<sup>th</sup> graders typically spend one term to gain a US GPA before accessing college classes.

### **2. Demographic Information—Student**

- a. Name
- b. Date of Birth
- c. Gender: Male or Female
- d. Address
- e. Nationality and Country
- f. Place of Birth
- g. Contact: Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. School Information in your Country**

- a. Name of School
- b. Country
- c. School Address
- d. Present Grade Level/Form/Class in school
- e. Performance in School—Will obtain \_\_\_\_\_

### **4. Parent(s)—fill at least one below of a, b or c)**

- a. **Father**
  - i. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Address \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. **Mother**
  - i. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Address \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. **Guardian**
  - i. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Address \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

**5. \*Transcripts—**Preference granted to students who perform at "B" or above

### **6. Return form to International Student Admissions**

- a. **High School - [internationale@gaaaschool.org](mailto:internationale@gaaaschool.org).**
- b. **Elementary and Middle school - [registrar@bcjaschool.org](mailto:registrar@bcjaschool.org)**