



GREATER ATLANTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

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

www.gaaaschool.org

May-August 2018

Dear Prospective Student and Parents & Sponsors:

I am Dr. Lashley, your principal. I grew up in the Caribbean and the USA-- Barbados, the US Virgin Islands, Trinidad, 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 (our high school) and Berean Christian Junior Academy, www.bcjaschool.org, our elementary and upper school. We are one K-12 school with two divisions on the same physical campus.

This program is for students whose parents desire them 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, conservative, 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--we have the best high school choir in Georgia; we tour other states in the South, and the Northeast of the country.

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 approves the same.

Fast Facts:

1. **Instruction**--All instruction is in English
2. **Philosophy**—This is a school owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist church of the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The school practices the beliefs and teaches the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist church in its educational and spiritual philosophy. The campus is completely non-smoking, drug-free and non-alcoholic.
3. **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 while in the last year of middle school (grade 8)
4. **Residence**--Students will stay with Seventh-day Adventist Christian 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. Families are approved through a “Verified Volunteer” program by the school and strictly monitored and must pass a background check.
5. **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 or shell-fish products. The school cafeteria is vegetarian but homes are free to serve non-vegetarian foods. Home do not serve pork or ham products and adhere to the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle.
6. **Accident Insurance**—students are covered by an accident insurance policy as part of their general registration fee and will be provided with an IPAD

7. **Health Insurance**—arrangements—students are advised to travel with the same, but arrangements can be made and a fee charged.
8. **Immunizations and Vaccinations**—we need a record of these
9. **Passports and Travel Documents**—are kept in the vaults of the school to prevent loss
10. **Emergencies**—parents must sign a form permitting the school to act in events of emergencies and absolving the school of any liability.
11. **Our Rules and Regulations**—please see the website for all details—financial information is included in this document—a Student Handbook is in force with all the regulations and rules of the school. Parents and students are expected to sign-off on these rules and regulations at the start of the new year, or when the student first comes to the school.
12. **Immigration Requirements**—the United States Consulate in your country will require you to be able to demonstrate that you can support your child while he/she is in the United States.
13. **School Financial requirements**—The school requires a parental declaration of finance through recent bank-statements certified that you can support your child in the United States during the duration of his/her stay
14. **Safety and Security**—the campus is secure and safe and monitored 24/7 through a video surveillance program as well as by trained and certified safety officers during the school day. The student family engages in all the protocols of safety drills.
15. **Refundable Deposits**—deposits are refunded at the end of your stay or become a part of your credit toward your bill in the last term. Deposits may vary based on distance away from the United States, and will range between \$1200.00 and \$3100.00.

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 (470) 725-0486, cell; (404) 799-0337, extension 223

P.S. Be sure to visit our website at www.gaaaschool.org for the high school (academy of Grades 9-12) or at www.bcjaschool.org for the elementary/middle school



ADMISSIONS BROCHURE

GREATER ATLANTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

www.gaaaschool.org and 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 11th 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 (470) 725-0486,
Dr. Willis, swillis@gaaaschool.org, (404) 223-3168,
Tonya Campbell, 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, a mere 20 minutes away. 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 11th 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.

General Information

Please see the website for all general information about the school—Note the following:

1. **Entry Periods**--We accept students for entry into classes twice per year—in August of a year and also again in January. Any applications that are made after school begins will be accepted for entry into the school for the next start-of-term date
2. **Registration**—students must REGISTER for classes at the start of each of the two terms—this means selecting classes and completing
3. **I-20 Expiration**--Your I-20 will expire 60 days after the end of your schooling—students continuing on to college and/or to another school should arrange to have a transfer made before that time.
4. **Attendance Policies**--All general attendance policies of the school apply. Students are required to be in class, and ONLY at this location
5. **Academic Load**--Students must do a full school load in a face to face instructional mode between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm with not more than ONE online class allowable in that time period, but with other Online classes, done outside of the school day. Academic loads will be reduced in the summer and/or if there is an illness, or in the last term of residence.
6. **Work**--Students may NOT work off-campus at any time—there is limited work available as part of a work-study program but the main emphasis is on study and NOT work.
7. **Travel Documents**—These are lodged in the safe-keeping of the school

8. **Meals**—Lunch meals and breakfast are served on campus Monday-Friday; other meals are served at the host family
9. **Scholarships**—based on your academic qualifications and performance we may give you a scholarship.
10. **Interview**—we will interview you before finalizing your acceptance

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 Coordinator
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, 8th 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—tcampbell@gaaaschool.org](mailto:tcampbell@gaaaschool.org)
2. The Middle [School, Rosita Lashley—rlashley@bcjaschool.org](mailto:rlashley@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, or short email before release of application form, which is instant—**This form is the last page on your International Admissions Brochure—go to our website at www.gaaaschool.org, and look under “Admissions” to find the International tab. Use this same tab for the elementary school.**

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—you are completing an electronic full application with your own username and password. In addition, we may request copies of the following—in order to be fully accepted through the online portal:**
 - a. Furnish identification (passport, birth certificate)—send page
 - b. Furnish official academic transcripts---we will use unofficial copies initially to get you started—send these to us
 - c. Furnish two letters of academic recommendation
 - d. A non-refundable fee of US \$65.00—

<https://sac-sda.client.renweb.com/oa/register.cfm?memberid=105>

3. **Step 3—Student Services—provide the information below after you complete Step 2**
 - a. Furnish medical records and required insurance documents
 - b. Sign all parental documents that you see
 - c. One non-academic recommendation—enclose in one document
4. **Step 4—Financial Admission—Become financially certified—we will deal with this step after Step 3 is completed— Any deposits that you pay will appear on Form I-20. We require you to present us with a certified bank statement to show that you can support your child in the United States, and/or that you have a source of funding to do so. We will determine your situation by discussion and may offer you a scholarship dependent on your academic qualifications.**
 - a. Oral Interview along with parent and/or guardian
 - b. Submit our Declaration of Finances Form which may include a letter from your financial sponsor or parent—include full address
 - c. Copies of your financial spouse's bank statements for the last 3 months—we will send you this form privately
 - d. Remit required amounts as pre-arrival deposit as indicated for your country of origin—this will be sufficient funds to cover the first year of school as we will indicate on your final worksheet
 - e. Receive Form I-20 from the School
 - f. Receive full letter certifying academic, student life and financial clearance
 - g. Visit the US Consulate in territory for F-1 visa approval and present Form I-20
 - i. When you receive your I-20 you will find the SEVIS Student ID number on the top right hand corner of the I-20, which you will need to pay the I-901 filing fee; print the receipt and then schedule your visa appointment at the US Embassy/Consulate office in your country
 - ii. Present the academic acceptance letter, Form I-20 and the I-901 payment receipt
 - h. Sign Handbook and pledge to abide by all the regulations

5. **Step 5—Arrive in the United States, in Atlanta, Georgia no later than August 20, 2018 but as earlier as August 8, 2018**
 - a. Show your F-1 visa and letters of acceptance at the airport
 - b. Orientation in the United States
 - c. Registration at the school for the specific term listed
 - d. Remember to travel with your passport, your visa, and funds for the period, your I-20 form—you can wire these to us, and/or bring a banker's check addressed to the school
 - e. Lodging Installation
 - f. Academic Buddy and Selection of Mentor

6. **Step 6—Your Visa Regulations—Review and Reminders**
 - a. The US Embassy and the school will require you to show evidence of financial resources for one school year
 - b. You may only accept employment on campus at any time once you register for classes
 - c. Report any address changes to our registrar's office—you will be staying with a host family—we may pay you occasional visits at home.
 - d. When you complete your study, you are required to return home, except there is a F-1 transfer via an I-20 to another school.

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, where English is not your native tongue
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/> and/or school will provide you with specific brochure

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

GAAA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin. GAAA does expect students to be of good character, and to be supportive of its philosophy and practice through exemplary conduct in the community

1. Annual Cost Estimates

a. Annual Tuition , 10 months, full load++	\$6850.00
b. Registration Fees+	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
f. Total Costs minus deposit	\$15,867.00
g. Total Costs with deposit	\$19,292.00
h. Recommended Cost Estimate	\$22,000.00
i. Grades 9-10, subtract -3152.00 from total	\$18,848.00

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
e. Total Support Possible	\$2600.00

3. Optional Costs

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

4. Full Total Costs Estimates, Year 1

a. Total costs with Deposits	\$19,292.00
b. Optional Costs	1,800.00
c. Totals	\$21,092.00
d. Deposit credit to first term	-1,712.50

5. Final Full Total Cost Estimates with Deposit Credit \$19,379.50

+covers accident insurance, books

*some of the funds are paid to your host family for meals and lodging and transportation

*applied during the final term to bill

**refundable at the end of the school year, or applied to your bill, as needed—50% of this deposit may be applied in your first term costs

% applicable only to Grades 11 and 12

++scholarships applied upon review of highly qualified applicants—actual tuition may be lesser

International Pre-Application Information—this is your initial submission

(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 4th or 5th form or 11th or 12th grade. This Pre-Application is not an admission to entry but evidence of an 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.

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
- e. Performance in School—must be above average as per records*

4. Parent(s)—fill at least one below)

a. Father

- i. Name
- ii. Address-Tel _____ Email _____
- iii. Occupation

b. Mother

- i. Name
- ii. Address-Tel _____ Email _____
- iii. Occupation

c. Guardian

- i. Name
- ii. Address-Tel _____ Email _____
- iii. Occupation

5. *Transcripts—preference granted to students who perform at B or above

6. Return form to International Student Admissions

- a. [High School--slashley@gaaaschool.org](mailto:HighSchool--slashley@gaaaschool.org), or tcampbell@gaaaschool.org, or swillis@gaaaschool.org
- b. **Elementary and middle school, rlashley@gaaaschool.org**