

Mt. Calvary Lutheran School
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I-20 Process

How do we apply to Mt. Calvary? Applications are available on the school website or in our office – simply follow the provided instructions. There is no application deadline, but we do encourage you to apply as early as possible. You will receive the International Student Director's/PDSO decision within 1 business week. If the student has been accepted, you will receive your I-20 at that time also. **DO NOT SUBMIT ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS** – Always provide copies of personal documents.

WHAT IS AN I-20 and what do we do when we get it? An I-20 is a U.S. Government document that is needed to apply for the F-1 Student Visa. Once you get the I-20: pay your I-901 fee (website below) and make an appointment at your local US Embassy (website below) to apply for the F-1 Student Visa. (This can be done up to 5 months before the start of school).

WHAT IS AN F-1 and what do we do once our student gets their F-1? The F-1 is the "Student Visa." 1) Fax or email a copy of F-1 to school. 2) Make travel arrangements – NOTIFY SCHOOL OF ARRIVAL DATE. Students are allowed to enter the U.S. 30 days before the start of school, NO EARLIER. Bring I-20 whenever traveling. 3) Submit remaining fees, immunization updates, health form, proof of medical insurance, and meet with the director of international students before starting school.

What if my student already has a valid I-20 & F-1? (He or she would be a "transfer" student from another U.S. school). Fees are the same. You must finish all documents and fees before the previous school is asked to transfer the I-20 to Mt. Calvary.

What if my student doesn't speak English very well? All international students must speak and understand a good part of the English Language. The students will be assigned to a foreign language program (Rosetta Stone) to help them learn and better their English skills. An EL teacher will work with the students on a pull- out basis, but we do suggest the student gets an afterschool tutor.

What about our student's grade level placement? The Principal and EL teacher, along with the Director of International Students, will review the student's grades, recommendation letter, and following the Skype interview, will recommend the grade level that they feel is best for your student's success. Most international students choose to repeat the grade they were in back home. This is to enable them to strengthen their English and fulfill grade requirements as well as their level of ability.

Host Families: We do not place the children in homestays. They must be placed with a Guardian Host Family, or family member, that can speak English and is willing to help with the student's educational responsibilities.

How can we see our student's homework, tests, and grades? Mt. Calvary has a wonderful program available to parents, students, and guardians to monitor their student's academic progress. "Gradelink" can be accessed on-line to see student's grades and e-mail teachers.

When is school in session? Our school year starts in early August and ends in early June. Our students are in class Monday-Friday, 8:00AM – 3:00 PM. We have an after school care program for K-8th graders. We are on break 1 week in November for Thanksgiving, 2 weeks in December for Christmas, 1 week in the spring for Easter, and 11 weeks in the summer. We also have a summer camp program which is also available for our younger children. The students cannot leave school early for a vacation or return after the start back time. They must follow the school calendar and only have off the days listed above.

How do we find out about school news and announcements, holidays, grades, final tests, events, sport schedules, etc.? Please refer to the school website at www.mclodb.org for important school information and to see the school calendar, handbook, etc. You must check this website regularly.

Medical Insurance: Medical insurance is mandatory for all international students as well as all immunizations must be up to date. We also require a health exam once the student arrives in the U.S.

School and local ethnicity: Mt. Calvary is similar to the local ethnicity. The ethnic breakdown is 28% Asian, with the second highest ethnicity being 25% of the students who identify as Other. Following is 23% of the students identifying as Caucasian, 19% who identify as Hispanic, and 5% identify as African American.

Where is the school located? Mt. Calvary Church and School is located on 6.75 acres of sloping land in the northern part of Diamond Bar, CA. Diamond Bar covers approximately 15 square miles and is located at the junction of the Orange (57) and Pomona (60) freeways. It is conveniently located at the center of three major market areas: Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties. It offers easy access to the beaches, mountain resorts and tourist attractions. Diamond Bar is central to the entire Los Angeles basin and all that the active Southern California lifestyle incorporates.

The city's vision distinguishes itself as a special community offering an excellent environment in which to live, work, and play. Goals for the city include the following: retention of the rural/country living community character, preservation of viable commercial activity, provision of well-maintained attractive housing, and creation of a community environment.

Important Date:

*Apply for 2016-2017 school year:	Accepting applications starting February 22, 2016
*Make Embassy appointment:	As soon as student is accepted by Mt. Calvary
*Arrive to Southern California and check in with Mt. Calvary School	Early August 2016
*2016-2017 school year:	Aug. 15, 2016 – Early June 2017

Helpful Websites:

Pay I-901 Fee (after I-20, before Embassy interview)	www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/
Locate your U.S. Embassy in your home country	www.usembassy.state.gov/
Wait times for your Embassy interview	http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php
General Student/Immigration information	ice.com
Student and Exchange Visitor Program	www.fmjfee.com/index.jhtml
U.S. Department of State general information	www.travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html
U.S. Colleges information	www.educationusa.state.gov