



School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Pre-Arrival Check List for Students - September 2019

- ✓ **Congratulations:** We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Okanagan Skaha School District and helping you learn about life in Canada. You will become an important part of our International Program “family.” We are very excited to be meeting you soon.
- ✓ **Here is what we are working on for you:**
 - We are placing all of our new students in schools to create a community of international students. You can look forward to meeting students from Canada and many countries from all over the world!
 - Our teachers and counsellors in the schools are planning your class schedule. Your courses will be generated based on the course selection form you submitted with your application.
 - We are reviewing your homestay profile to find the best homestay family match we can.
- ✓ **Connect with Your Host Family:** You will be provided with the profile and contact information of your host family in Canada as soon as placements are established. Once you receive this information, contact the family and start getting to know each other. Ask questions, share information and get comfortable with your new host family. This is a chance to find out many things that will make your stay in Canada more comfortable.
- ✓ **When to Arrive in Canada:** You should book your flight to **arrive in Penticton between Saturday, August 31st and Monday, September 2nd**. You should not arrive earlier. **There will be an additional homestay cost of \$30.00 per night for arrival prior to September 1, 2019.** This should be paid by the student to the host family.
- ✓ **Where to Arrive in Canada:** You should book your flight to **arrive at the Penticton Airport (YYF)**. **There will be an additional Airport transfer fee of \$100.00 each way for students who require transportation to or from the Kelowna Airport.**
- ✓ **Booking Your Flights:** Once you have booked your flight, please inform the International Student Program office and provide them with a copy of your **travel itinerary – email it to kvevesque@summer.com**. We will ensure that your host family is available to meet you at the Penticton Airport.
- ✓ **Settling In:** Use the time before the official start of your program to settle in to your new homestay and get to know your new family. It is also a great time to get to know the neighborhood and the community. Be sure to connect with your family at home to assure them that you arrived safely.
- ✓ **Canadian Cell Phone Number:** For safety reasons, students are required to carry a cell phone with an active Canadian phone number. Shortly after arriving, host families will assist students in acquiring a phone plan to use with an “unlocked” phone the student brought from home, or with a new phone purchased in Canada. Apps requiring Wi-Fi and foreign telephone numbers are not sufficient replacements for a Canadian cell phone number.
- ✓ **Student Orientation:** This will be held **Tuesday, September 3, 2019**, from 9am - 3pm at the School Board Office located at 425 Jermyn Avenue in Penticton (in the IMC Building). **All International students must attend.** Your host family will help you get to the orientation. Students may bring a snack and / or drink; lunch will be provided. Please **bring your passport and study permit**, and a pen to the orientation. Sessions will discuss topics such as academic programs and expectations, course registration and school activities. You will meet the staff, other students, ask lots of questions, and have fun!
- ✓ **First Day of School:** The first day of school, September 4, 2019, consists of a morning orientation and an afternoon of classes. A member of your homestay family will take you to the Main Office at your school about 15 minutes before your start time. You will be met by school staff and leadership students who will welcome you and help you find the orientation. The afternoon of classes, will be a quick introduction by the teacher and a preview of the subject area.
- ✓ **School Supplies:** It is suggested students wait until arriving in Canada to purchase school supplies (3-ring binders, 8½”x11” lined paper, dividers). Students will also need gym strip (grades 6-10); PE is an elective for grades 11-12.

Calendar and Important Dates for the 2019-2020

Event	Date
Arrive in Penticton / Summerland	Saturday, August 31 to Monday, Sept 2, 2019
Labour Day Holiday (school closed)	Monday, September 2, 2019
Mandatory Orientation for all International students	Tuesday, September 3, 2019 (9am - 3pm)
Semester 1 begins	Wednesday, September 4, 2019
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Monday, September 23, 2019
Thanksgiving Day – schools closed	Monday, October 14, 2019
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, October 25, 2019
Remembrance Day observance – schools closed	Monday, November 11, 2019
Schools close for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 20, 2019 (last day of school)
Schools Reopen	Monday, January 6, 2020
Family Day – schools closed	Monday, February 17, 2020
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, February 21, 2020
*Schools close for Spring Break	Friday, March 13, 2020 (last day of school)
Schools Reopen	Monday, March 30, 2020
Good Friday – schools closed	Friday, April 10, 2020
Easter Monday- schools closed	Monday, April 13, 2020
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Monday, April 20, 2020
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, May 8, 2020
Victoria Day – schools closed	Monday, May 18, 2020
Last Day of School	Thursday, June 25, 2020
Administrative Day (students not in attendance)	Friday, June 26, 2020
Medical Insurance coverage expiry date	Tuesday, June 30, 2020 (midnight)
All students must depart by	Wednesday, July 1, 2020

- ✓ **Course Timetable and Changing Courses:** On the first day of school you will also receive a timetable listing your courses. It was created based upon your course selection and the availability of courses. Please do not request any course changes prior to Sept. 15/19. If a course change is required it must be approved by the District Principal of the International Student Program.
- ✓ **Travel/Holidays:** There are a number of important points to keep in mind when you make your plans to travel or return home for the holidays, or throughout the year:
 - **Your travel should not include days when school is in session.**
 - The Travel Authorization form and travel itinerary must be sent to the Homestay Coordinator and the Admin Assistant a minimum of 10 days before the trip.
 - If travelling outside of Canada, a special Travel Letter must be prepared by the ISP office.
 - If travelling alone, a Travel Release form prepared by the ISP office must be signed by the natural parents.
- ✓ **Medical Insurance:** As a part of your participation in the International Student Program, you are covered by our private medical insurance. We will automatically register you for the insurance program and the coverage will begin on the day you arrive in Canada. Please note the coverage only begins when you have left your home country. When you arrive and attend the orientation program, you will receive more information about the insurance program, including your insurance card.
- ✓ **More Questions:** Wow! So much to think about! We are very excited to welcome you to Canada in September and hope that this package answers some of your questions and helps you feel less stressed.

Still have more questions? Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the International Student Program Team.

Steve Cann, District Principal
Kathy Levesque, Admin. Assistant

scann@summer.com
klevesque@summer.com

(+1) 250-809-9503
(+1) 250-770-7700 (ext. 6326)