



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

Always Supporting Learners

“ Valuing Individuals “ Fostering Pride “ Expanding Opportunities

International Education Program **Participation Guidelines for School Year 2008/2009** **Students – Host Families**

School District No. 48 (Howe Sound) invites International Students into District Schools to encourage intercultural and international understanding. The Homestay Program is organized to provide international students with the security of a family, a cultural education in a home setting and the best possible environment to learn English. The homestay family also benefits from the international experience at home.

1. With few exceptions, all international students are placed with a homestay family. Students may arrange their own homestays, which must be approved by the District, or if requested, the District will do so.
2. All homestay families should advise their Homeowner Insurance Companies that they will be taking in a boarder for the homestay period.
3. Homestay fees
 - a. Homestay fees effective September 01, 2008 – Squamish \$800/month, Whistler \$900/month, and Pemberton \$800/month.
 - b. International students pay the fee directly to the homestay family. It is due on the first of the month.
 - c. Holidays. The fee will be reduced by \$11/day from Day 8 up to a maximum of 9 days. There is no reduction in the daily rate from Day 1 to Day 7.
 - d. Storage over the summer holidays. Charging a fee for storage of belongings is discretionary. \$60 per month reflects local rates.
 - e. Airport pick-up and drop-off. The Homestay Provider will arrange for transportation for the international student between the airport and the Host family home. A fee is charged for this service: \$75 one way to/from Squamish; \$125 one way to/from Whistler and Pemberton.
 - f. Leaving before the month ends. If an international student who has paid the monthly fee should leave a homestay prior to the completion of the month – for any reason except on compassionate grounds – there will be no refund for the remainder of the month.
4. The Host parents provide the international student with a home away from home in a supervised setting. They are not landlords. The student will be treated as a member of the family and will be expected to conform to the normal rules and routines of family life. This will include keeping their room clean and tidy and may include helping with household chores.
5. Host parents will provide a separate bedroom, bedding, closet, desk and study lamp. The international student has access to the remainder of the house, including laundry facilities.

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6. The international student is provided with three wholesome Canadian meals each day. In some cases the international student may be expected to prepare his/her own breakfast or lunch but all the groceries are provided by the Host parents. Students should not prepare any food after 10:00 p.m.
7. International students are expected to pay for their own toiletries and bus fares. If the international students are invited to participate in family holidays and/or travel where costs are incurred, they are expected to assist bearing the costs. When international students choose not to participate in the activity, they must accept alternative arrangements made by the Host parents.
8. Room and board is the major monthly expense incurred by the international students. Extra money is not required for food. Other international student expenses may include clothing, medicine and entertainment.
9. International students should use their own telephone calling card, their own cell phone or pay for all long distance phone calls from the Host family phone, as soon as requested by the Host parents. They are encouraged to install their own telephone lines and internet lines, as this provides greater privacy for the international students, allows unlimited access to the telephone and internet, and prevents the Host family from being disturbed by international calls at odd hours. International students are discouraged from using the phone after 10:00 p.m. except for emergency reasons. International students should not spend long periods of time on the phone, as this interferes with necessary study time and opportunities to interact with the Host family.
10. Curfews will be the same as for family members or other local children of the same age. It is recommended that students be home by 10:00 p.m. on weeknights and by midnight on weekends. International students are expected to be in bed before 12:00 a.m. because adequate rest is necessary for success in school. If international students require a ride home and it is inconvenient for the Host family to provide the ride, then the international students should take a taxi or bus.
11. International students should complete all homework assignments and should be expected to spend a reasonable amount of time per day doing homework.
12. International students are strongly encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities at school and in the community. A regular program of physical fitness is recommended.
13. Overnight stays outside of the Host family home but within the local community are subject to the prior approval of the Host family. Out of town travel, which should be very infrequent, is subject to the approval of both the Host family and the international student's parents. The Host family must have the name, address and phone number of the person(s) the international student will be staying with. International students may NOT stay overnight outside of the Host family home without adult supervision.
14. Students (with or without adult supervision or natural parent permission) may NOT travel outside of Canada during the course of the school year, except to return to their home country.
15. Host parents are not employees of the District but they act "*in loco parentis*" (in place of the student's parents) and as such are responsible for providing or ensuring adult supervision for the international student during non-school hours.
16. The Manager (International Education) of the District will sign a letter of Custodianship for all international students under the age of 19 years who are in District without a parent or parents or a legal guardian.
17. Students who are 16 and under will not be left unattended overnight. Adult supervision will be arranged for the international student if the Host family will be away.

18. International students are expected to attend all classes on every school day, unless too ill to attend, in which case the international student or Host parents must notify the school to ensure an Excused Absence. Lengthy absences will seriously affect the international student's ability to pass courses and, ultimately, to graduate. Classroom behaviour and academic performance must be exemplary.
19. The use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited and may result in the international student being sent home. No smoking is allowed in the Host family homes unless permitted by the Host parents. In Canada it is illegal for people under 19 to purchase cigarettes and illegal for people under 19 to purchase and consume alcohol.
20. International students who are involved in sexual activity will have their parents and the Homestay Provider notified immediately and may be sent home without a refund. Further, no international student is allowed to have another student of the opposite sex in their bedroom without the permission of the Host parents and must conform to the rules of the Host parents e.g. leave the bedroom door open.
21. Immigration Canada does not permit high school students holding a study permit to hold jobs in Canada.
22. The District prefers that the international students do not have vehicles. They are not necessary for transportation and create an unnecessary worry for Host parents. There is a Municipal bus system and the Host parents will provide occasional rides for the student. A vehicle is not required.
23. Hitch-hiking is not permitted.
24. If the international student or Host parents are not happy with the homestay arrangement, they are to inform the Homestay Provider. The Homestay Provider will also be consulted. Only after mediation will a transfer occur unless there are exceptional circumstances. In cases where the student's safety or health is not in jeopardy, one month's notice, as of the 1st of the following month, is required. In lieu of notice one month's homestay fees are payable to the current host family by the student as well as payment to the new host family starting on the day of arrival at that host family home.
25. All international students' activities must be pre-approved by the Host parents and/or the school. International students must always advise their Host parents or school officials of their whereabouts and when they will return to the Host family home.