



School District #22 (Vernon)

International Student Program

Pre-Departure Information Package September 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Vernon and teaching you about living in Canada. You will become an important part of our International Program “family”. Here is what we are working on right now:

- 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 counselors in the schools are planning your class schedule to find a great combination of courses for your studies. Your courses will be chosen based on your application and your program.
- We are also reviewing your homestay profile to find the best homestay family match we can. All students will receive information about their new Canadian family at least one month before arrival.

When to Arrive in Canada

You should book your flight to **arrive between Tuesday, September 1st, 2020 and Monday, September 7th, 2020**. Flights should be booked to arrive and depart to/from **Kelowna International Airport (YLW)**. There will be additional costs of \$60.00 per day for students who arrive prior to September 1st, 2020. You should not arrive earlier unless you have registered for the English Preparation program which runs **from August 31 to September 4th, 2020**.

Please remember that you will now need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to fly to or transit through Canada. To avoid delays, it is best to apply for an eTA before booking your flight. For more information, and to apply for an eTA, please visit Canada.ca/eTA. Please ensure students with Study Permits, or students who are not requiring a study permit, but may want to extend their stay, give their biometrics at their point of entry into Canada.

Once you have booked your flight, please inform the International Student Program office and provide them with a copy of your travel itinerary – send to admissions@sd22.bc.ca. We will ensure that your host family is available to meet you at the Kelowna International Airport.

Connect with your Host Family

You will be provided with the profile and contact information for your host family in Canada at least **one month before your arrival**. 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 anything that will make your stay in Canada more comfortable.

Student Orientation – Tuesday, September 8th, 2020

Orientation will include valuable information for your successful transition to your new school and life in Canada. We 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!

Calendar and Important Dates for the 2020 -2021 School Year

There are a number of important dates to keep in mind when you make your plans to travel to Canada, or are returning home for the holidays. **If you are travelling home for the holidays, your travel should not include days when school is in session**

Event	Date
English Prep Program – registered students only	Monday, August 31 –Friday, September 4 th , 2020
Student Orientation for Secondary Students	Tuesday, September 8th, 2020
Elementary Orientation (at your school)	Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Semester 1 begins for Secondary International Students	Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Thanksgiving Monday (schools closed)	Monday, October 12, 2020
Remembrance Day (schools closed)	Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Last day before schools close for winter vacation	Friday, December 18, 2020
Schools reopen after winter vacation	Monday, January 4, 2021
Semester 1 students departure	January 25 – 27, 2021 (to be confirmed)
Semester 2 begins	Wednesday, January 27, 2021 (To be confirmed)
BC Family Day (schools closed)	Monday, February 15, 2021
Last day before schools close for spring vacation	Friday, March 19, 2021
Schools reopen after spring vacation	Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Good Friday (schools closed)	Friday, April 2, 2021
Easter Monday (schools closed)	Monday, April 5, 2021
Victoria Day (schools closed)	Monday, May 24, 2021
Schools close for academic year	Friday, June 25, 2021
All students must depart	Prior to Sunday, June 27, 2021
Medical coverage expiry date	Wednesday, June 30, 2021

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. (In your home country, you are covered by your family's traditional, local medical coverage.)

When you arrive and attend the orientation program, you will receive more information about the insurance program, including your insurance card.

Cell Phones

If you are bringing your own cell phone, please make sure the phone is unlocked and that you purchase your SIM card in Vernon.

More Questions?

Wow! So much to think about! We are very excited to welcome you to Canada in September and hope that this package answered some of your questions. Still have more questions? Please do not hesitate to ask! Email us at admissions@sd22.bc.ca or call us at 1-250-549-9263.