

## Welcome to the Central Okanagan Public Schools International Program



We look forward to welcoming you to the Central Okanagan Public School District. Our staff continues to prepare for your arrival in November and February. We hope you are excited to start your new adventure very soon.

### ARRIVAL IN CANADA

Please refer to **International Student Arrival Guide** for details of the COVID-19 protocols. Border officers will ask to see your letter of acceptance and custodian declaration form. You will need to show your **letter of approval to study in Canada to receive your study permit** at the port of entry into Canada. You will also need to complete the **Federal Arriv CAN** application (see Student Arrival Guide for details). Please request any additional documents required for travel as needed. Send requests to [international.education@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:international.education@sd23.bc.ca).

You must travel with a face mask to all Canadian destinations. You should also bring a hand sanitizer and additional masks. You must wear a mask in Canadian airports. Masks are required in school when you are in the hallway and other common areas. Masks are not required in your classrooms.

### ARRIVAL IN KELOWNA at the AIRPORT

You will be picked up at the airport by your host family. If your host family is unable to be at the airport, a program staff member will be there to meet you. Please contact your host family or call the **emergency line 1-250-801-5684** if you miss a flight, have a cancelled flight, or your arrival time changes.

### 14-DAY QUARANTINE

Our program has organized for you to quarantine in your homestay family's home during your 14 days quarantine. This quarantine period is in compliance with the **Emergency Order** under the Quarantine Act, requiring mandatory quarantine upon arrival in Canada. It is your responsibility to ensure that you physical distancing from others, monitor your health, communicate your needs to your host family, engage in on-line orientation, participate in homestay on-line sessions, stay physically active, and respect the guidelines of your host-family. You will be contacted by government or health officials to ensure that you are following the requirements of self-isolation. Your homestay parent(s) and program staff will be checking with you daily. Please remember, **we are all here to help** you and make the 14-day quarantine as comfortable as possible.



## KEY START UP DATES

DATE	EVENT
<b>October 29<sup>th</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Suggested Arrival Dates
<b>November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Virtual Orientation & On-line English Assessments
<b>November 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Virtual School Orientations
<b>November 16<sup>th</sup></b>	First Day of Quarter 2. New classes begin.
<b>To be determined</b>	Orientation & English Assessments for Late Arrivals
<b>November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Monthly Activity – Cosmic Bowling Night
<b>December 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Monthly Activity - Holiday Movie Night
<b>December 19<sup>th</sup> – January 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Winter Break
<b>January 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Suggested Arrival Dates for Second Semester Students (if quarantine required)
<b>January 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Virtual Orientation & On-line English Assessments (if quarantine required)
<b>January 28<sup>th</sup></b>	End of First Semester 1/Quarter 2
<b>January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Suggested Arrival Dates (if no quarantine required)
<b>February 1<sup>st</sup></b>	First Day of Second Semester/Quarter 3
<b>March 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Spring Break
<b>June 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Last Day of Regular Classes
<b>June 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Report Card Day (not mandatory - report cards will be emailed if not in attendance)
<b>June 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Suggested Departure Dates

Summary of all calendar dates: <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/futurestudents/calendar/>

Program calendar for students: <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/currentstudents/>

## WHAT TO BRING

- Important documents
  - Passport
  - Custodian declaration (page 2)
  - Study permit/Letter of approval/introduction
  - Travel Letter
  - Medical information (if applicable)



- Clothing for four seasons

Typically, the weather in winter can be cold average -5°C to 15°C, and will start to warm up in mid-March. Packing for all seasons is important. Students will have time to shop throughout the year when they are in Canada. Students will also need running shoes and gym attire for their PE classes and a bathing suit for indoor and outdoor water activities.

- Health & Safety Supplies
  - Washable mask
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Prescription medicine (if applicable)

- Cell phone

- Basic schools supplies

Teachers will provide information about specific school supplies on the first day of school





## WEBSITE

Our website has a lot of information that students will find helpful. Students are encouraged to visit our website to access the calendar, forms and announcements. Our student handbook is also posted on our site.

Main page - <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/aboutus/>

Student Page - <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/currentstudents/>

Program Activities - <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/currentstudents/programactivities/>

Community Activities- <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/currentstudents/communityactivities/>

Medical Insurance - <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/currentstudents/medicalinsurance/>

Student Expectations - <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/currentstudents/studentexpectations/>

Program Calendar - <http://www.international.sd23.bc.ca/currentstudents/programcalendar/>



## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of quarter 2 is November 16<sup>th</sup> and semester 2 is February 1<sup>st</sup>. International students will find out more details about the first day and their timetables during their orientation.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Most courses do not require any special school supplies. **Students will need basic supplies such as paper, binders, notebooks, pens, pencils, a calculator, an eraser and a ruler.** They will also need running shoes and gym strip for PE classes. Teachers will inform their students of any special supplies that are required on the first day of classes.

## ORIENTATION

School and program orientations will be done virtually in daily sessions and the school orientation will be done in person once students can attend school. Homestay coordinators will be sending you more detailed information about orientation soon.

## CELL PHONE APP

iCent is a mobile app designed for our international students. This app provides you with important information and is used for activity sign up during your stay in the Central Okanagan. Instructions about signing up for iCent will be shared at orientation. For more information about iCent please visit: <https://www.icentapp.com/>



## CELL PHONE PLANS

To simplify the process for international students to obtain a Canadian phone number and mobile phone plan prior to arrival, PhoneBox has prepared the following website. Homestay families will have sim card for you when you arrive to activate your plan -

<https://try.gophonebox.com/newarrivals/> .



## MEDICAL INSURANCE

Student will receive medical insurance through Guard Me and BC Medical (if applicable). You will receive an email with your policy number before you arrive. You can sign up for your account and print off a policy card before your travel. This information will be sent to you once we have your flight information.

For detailed coverage, information and claim forms, visit the [Guard.Me website](#)

Guard Me also provides a [Mobile Doctor](#) service and a [Keep Me Safe](#) counselling service.

For more information about medical insurance and programs, students can contact their homestay coordinator or refer to our website: [Current Student Section – Medical Information](#)



## BIG WHITE SKI PASSES

Many students enjoy skiing and snowboarding in the winter months in the Central Okanagan. Big White has created an on-line permission system for our international parents. Instructions for how to purchase a Big White Ski Pass and provide parental permission is posted on our website.

- Step 1: Students purchase the pass online
- Step 2: Parents email [tickets@bigwhite.com](mailto:tickets@bigwhite.com) & [scarr@bigwhite.com](mailto:scarr@bigwhite.com) stating that they have bought the pass online and need to sign the online waiver
- Step 3: The Big White ticket office will send them the instructions
- Step 4: Once this has been completed and verified Big White can update the student profile and the student can collect the pass in Canada at the Big White Ticket Office



The Big White website is: <http://www.bigwhite.com/season-passes#>. The homestay coordinators will help the students with this process if they are unable to purchase season passes before they arrive.





## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Emergency Phone Line: +1-250-801-5684**

*Monitored 24 hours a day by one of our staff members*

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.