



## **SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22 (VERNON)**

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### **HOMESTAY GUIDELINES**

School District #22 (Vernon) invites International Students into District Schools to encourage intercultural and international understanding. The Homestay Program is organized to provide visiting students with the security of a family, a cultural education in a home setting and the best possible environment to learn English. The goal should be for all involved (host family and student) to learn from each other and to foster friendship.

The following are designed to establish the guidelines of the Homestay:

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. The School district will pay homestay payments to families around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
4. The homestay family provides the student with a “home away from home”. The visiting student should be welcomed into the home with the spirit that they are new members of the family. The student will be expected to conform to the normal rules and routines of family life. This will include keeping their own room clean and tidy and may include helping with household chores. Appropriate discipline and supervision consistent with being a responsible parent is provided.
5. Homestay parents provide a separate bedroom, bedding, closet, desk and study lamp. The student has access to the remainder of the house, including laundry facilities.
6. The student is provided with three wholesome Canadian meals each day. In some cases the student may be expected to prepare his/her own breakfast or lunch but all the groceries are provided by the homestay parents. Students should not prepare any food after 10:00 p.m.
7. Students are expected to pay for their own toiletries and bus fares. If the students are invited to participate in family holidays and/or travel where costs are incurred, they are expected to assist bearing the costs. When students choose not to participate in the activity, they must accept alternative arrangements made by the homestay parent.
8. Room and board is the major monthly expense incurred by the students. Extra money is not required for food. Other expenses may include clothing, medicine and entertainment.
9. Students may use their own telephone calling card and must pay for all long distance phone calls, as soon as requested by the homestay parents. Students are discouraged from using the telephone after 10:00 p.m. except if is for emergency reasons. Students should not spend long periods of time on the telephone, 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. Students are expected to be in bed before 12:00 a.m. because adequate rest is necessary for success in school. If students require a ride home and it is inconvenient for the homestay family to provide the ride, then the students should take a taxi or bus.

11. Students should complete all homework assignments and should be expected to spend a reasonable amount of time per day doing homework.

12. 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 family home are subject to the prior approval of the homestay family.  
A. Overnight stays outside of the family home are subject to the prior approval of the homestay family. The homestay family must have the name, address and phone number of the person(s) the student will be staying with. The homestay family must make contact with the adult in the home where the international student is sleeping over. If contact cannot be made then no sleepover will occur.  
B Out of town travel is subject to the approval of both the homestay family and the Principal of the International Education program. The International student must have written acknowledgment of the travel from their natural parent.

14. Students who are 16 years and under will not be left unattended overnight. Adult supervision will be arranged for the student if the homestay parent will be away.

15. International students are expected to attend all classes on every school day, unless too ill to attend. Lengthy absences from school, will seriously affect the student's ability to pass courses and, ultimately, to graduate.

16. The use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited and may result in the student being sent home. No smoking is allowed in homes unless permitted by the homestay family. In Canada it is illegal for people under 19 years of age to purchase cigarettes and illegal for people under 19 years of age to purchase and consume alcohol.

17. Immigration Canada does not permit visa students to hold jobs in Canada.

18. International students are not allowed to own their own vehicle or drive while in Canada They are not necessary for transportation and create an unnecessary worry for homestay parents. There is a Municipal bus system and the homestay parents will provide occasional rides for the student. The students are encouraged to purchase a bicycle. A vehicle is not required.

19. The District strongly discourages boyfriend/girlfriend relationships. They create an unnecessary worry for homestay families, and may interfere with the reasons students are present, that is, to learn English, to do well in school, and to participate in Canadian family life.

20. It is expected that homestay families will pick-up their student from the airport and transport to the airport upon departure from Canada. If the family is unable to arrange transport to or from the airport on first arrival and final departure they should contact their homestay coordinator who will arrange transport. \$75 will be deducted from the corresponding homestay payment to cover the cost of the transport.

21. If the student or homestay family is not happy with the homestay arrangement, they are to inform the your homestay coordinator. Only after mediation will a transfer occur unless there are exceptional circumstances. The guidelines provided are reasonable expectations designed to provide a framework for host family and student relationships to find their own balance and provide a positive experience for all.