

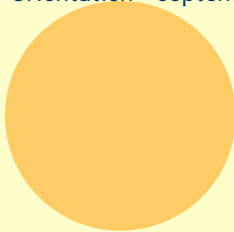


# Global Connections

School District #22(Vernon) International Student Program - 250.549.9295

## Special Interest Articles:

- Students - Return
- Students - Summer School
- Student Testimonials
- Homestay
- Orientation - September



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## Students - We Want You Back!

If students are interested in returning to School District #22 in September 2009, they should let their ESL teacher or the ISP office know as soon as possible.

In order to renew, students should first discuss this option with parents, and then also with the host family. Students should also contact their agent to ensure they are aware. Once you have permission from the student's natural family, be sure to let the International Student Program office know. **We will require written confirmation from either the agent or parents to confirm students will be returning.** Email or fax is just fine. We will then prepare your admission letters for the next year and ensure that your Study Permits and Visas are up to date.



before the current permit expires.

Application kits and detailed instructions are available on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca) or from the International Student Programs office at the School District Office.

## Students - Renewing your Study Permit

If your Study Permit will expire before you will complete your academic program, you will need to renew your Study Permit. Do not let your Study Permit expire! Please note that while Vernon School District can support your application procedure, it is your responsibility to ensure your travel documents are all current and up to date.

You may apply to renew your Study Permit as early as 90 days before it expires. Citizenship and Immigration Canada advises students to apply for Study Permit renewals at least 30 days

## Students - Summer School

Students who wish to remain in Vernon for the summer are strongly encouraged to enrol in summer school. Summer school will run from June 22 to August 14 and will allow students to get a jump on their course work, all while enjoying the spectacular summer weather in Vernon! Students will complete one full credit course (either in English or Math) during the summer session. Courses will be offered in person at WL Seaton Secondary School and will run weekday mornings for the duration of the program.



## Student Testimonials



*“Vernon School District is thrilled to have many cultures, countries, and languages represented in our program here.”*



Studying in Vernon is an experience that you will never forget. Choosing Vernon, you are also choosing for a different routine, activities and weather. It is a small, clean and beautiful city where you can have either a quiet or a busy life. Going to school is not a boring thing anymore; to learn everything in English can be scary in the beginning, but teachers are friendly and they are always trying to help you and make you feel comfortable during the class.

- Barbara, Brazil

I also think that Vernon is really kinda typical Canadian town, which enables you to get to know the Canadian culture. The most important issue, why Vernon is an excellent place to study abroad, is that all the people dealing with the international seem to know exactly what they are doing and they really care about us. If I had a serious problem I would always know who to go to.

- Lukas, Germany



Vernon is a wonderful place and also has a conducive environment for learning. There are different people from different parts of the world coming here to study which makes exposure to different cultures a lot easier for everyone.

Monica, Mexico

Most dwellers are Canadians, so it is easy to practice my English anywhere. Citizens are very kind, friendly farther than my imagination. Even when you are getting lost in the city, kind people will pitch you to your destination, if you ask them for help.

- Tianho, China

Living in Canada is good for improving your English. I am proud of myself. Since I came to Canada my English has become better. The courses are interesting, and good for university. The first time I was in the cooking class I thought that it would be really boring, but in fact it is very interesting. It is one of the classes where you can learn more about students. People are very friendly in the school. They come and ask you questions about where you are from to know more about your life.

- Daphne, Francophone Africa



## Homestay Parents - Information on Student Departure

As your student's program draws to a close, he will likely look to his departure with mixed emotions: excited to be going home but sad to be leaving his new friends and family.

### Last Few Days

Please do what you can to assist your student in collecting all of his items to ensure he leaves nothing behind. Well before the departure, it is important to assess the amount of luggage to be taken home. Airlines have very restrictive luggage limits which can be costly if exceeded. It is likely cheaper to ship some items separately from the flight.

Any textbooks borrowed from the school will need to be returned. There can be additional charges to the student if textbooks are not returned.

Be sure your student gets a good chance to revisit any favourite haunts and take any last-minute pictures to take home to share with family. A last farewell dinner with your family is a nice way to send the student off.

### Date of Departure

Generally speaking, the students have paid homestay fees until the end of the final month of their program (e.g. if school ends on June 25, their homestay fees are paid until June 30). If a student departs prior to the end of the month by a few days, the fees are not normally adjusted. If the student wishes to stay beyond the end of the last month of the program, this should be discussed with the HSC. Please do not make separate monetary arrangements with the student; speak with your HSC or the ISP

office instead and they can facilitate this process. It is not permissible for a student to remain in an SD #22 host family if the student is not registered in an on-going program.

Students who wish to remain in homestay for the summer must be registered in the summer program with SD #22. Students are not permitted to be in homestay if they are not actively participating in the ISP.

### Airport Departures

The final airport drop-off is a part of the homestay responsibility. It is a good idea to confirm in advance all flights (most students will have connections that need to be made). Online check-in for flights, where available, can save some time at the airport.

You are encouraged to walk your student into the airport and wait while the student completes his baggage check. Being there to assist with any last-minute problems or questions can greatly reduce the departure stress for the student. Reviewing the transit procedures if the student is connecting through Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto or another large airport is also helpful. Most airport websites have maps to show the general processes.

### Say "Goodbye"

Saying goodbye to a member of the family, however temporary, can be difficult. Share fond memories, make arrangements to stay in touch, and recognize all the positive things that have come of this amazing experience.



### Summer Student Belongings Storage Policy

When students go home for summer and plan to return to the same homestay, students are asked to pack up things that they plan to leave in Canada. Homestay families are asked to store belongings. Families will determine if a fee is required for storage of the belongings. The suggested fee is \$50 for the summer if required. Any fees should be paid directly to the homestay family. If storage at the host family is not an option the student should contact International programs for help.



## Orientation September 2009



*“Orientation is very important to starting the year off right!”*

September 2009 Orientation Week Schedule			
Details and locations to be confirmed			
Date	Event	Details	Who?
Thursday, September 3, 2009 8:30 AM to 1 PM	New International Student Testing	All new international students will write an English placement test and senior high school students will write a math placement test	New students beginning program in Sept 2009
Friday, September 4, 2009 8:30 AM to 3 PM	International Student Orientation	All international students to attend. Topics to be covered include: Timetables and schedules School and program rules Locker assignments School tours Study permit and visas	All international students in the program
Friday, September 4, 2009 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM	Welcome BBQ	A chance for international students and their homestay families to meet and visit before the school year starts.	All students, host families, and guests
Saturday, September 5, 2009 Noon to 4 PM	Waterslides	International students and their friends and homestay families are welcome to join us at the Atlantis Waterslides. (optional event; pay for use)	All international students and any friends and host family members
Sunday, September 6, 2009 Noon to 4 PM	Downtown Vernon Scavenger Hunt	A chance to learn about Vernon and have some fun! Join us for a walking tour/scavenger hunt around downtown Vernon. (optional event; free)	All international students and any friends and host family members
Monday, September 7, 2009	Day off	Enjoy Labour Day with your host family and your new friends!	
Tuesday, September 8, 2009	Day off		
Wednesday, September 9, 2009	First official day of classes	Classes begin!	Everyone!



*“We want to hear from you! Any suggestions or feedback are always welcome.”*

### Contact Us!

You are encouraged to call the International Student Program Office anytime to speak to someone about the program. The general ISP phone number is 250-549-9295.

Emails are also welcome -  
international@sd22.bc.ca



**School District #22 (Vernon)**  
International Student Program