

# **Long Term, Academic Year Expectations for Homestay Families and International Students**

The homestay program is dedicated to promoting international understanding and language education.

Homestay families are looking forward to sharing their home and culture with an international student.

We will visit, discuss, and answer any questions before placing a student, but the following expectations will give you some idea of the technical side of the program.

The warmer side will come from the interactions between your family and the students which is the reason so many families continue to host.

## **THE FAMILY**

All families who apply are visited and screened by a local representative.

All adults in the family are required to have a police security clearance check.

Most of the families have many years experience hosting international students. They will

- be aware of the difficulties and cultural shock faced by international students and be supportive
- have English as their primary language in order to help the student learn the language and culture of Canada
- help the student become familiar with the environment and neighbourhood
- help the student arrange transportation to and from school when necessary (BUT the student is responsible for arranging and paying for transportation.)
- provide the student with 3 meals a day – breakfast and dinner and a packed lunch on school days.
- explain household rules and routines, including use of laundry facilities, mealtimes and showering
- provide the student with an opportunity to participate in family activities
- generally, give the student a house key and show the student how to lock up
- explain smoke and CO alarm sounds and the household fire escape plan
- listen empathetically when the student asks for help or has a problem, work with the student in seeking resolution, and encourage the student to write notes to improve successful communication
- assist the student to open a local bank account and activate a cell phone
- contact the local representative who has legal custodianship of the student when necessary.

## **THE HOME**

The family will provide

- a private room with a private study area
- a private or shared bathroom
- access to free wifi
- clean bed linen and towels on a regular basis
- adequate lights or lighting in the private study area
- a home that complies with local building codes

## **THE STUDENT**

The family will expect the student to

- keep the room clean and reasonably tidy
- attend school regularly and do all assignments to the best of the student's ability
- follow Canadian law
- tell a member of the family when the student feels unhappy or misunderstood or has a problem
- inform the family of food allergies and preferences

## **WHEN THERE IS A PROBLEM OR MISUNDERSTANDING**

Problems generally begin as misunderstandings. International students will often find it difficult to say what they really think or want. Sometimes they do not want to be impolite and cause offense. Sometimes they are embarrassed to admit that they do not understand. The family will try to resolve misunderstandings in conversation with the student but should email or call their homestay representative before a misunderstanding becomes a problem. The host family should read this form carefully and keep this copy for their records.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND LIMITS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

You, as host parents, can authorize everyday activities and interactions such as school field trips (excluding overnight trips), joining school clubs and teams, purchasing uniforms, year books, photographs etc., and contacts regarding club and team activities, initial contacts regarding attendance and discipline, and emergency contact for injury. All potentially life altering issues remain the responsibility of the natural parents and / or agent guardian. (Our local representative) These include overnight field trips, any decisions making material changes to the student's Individual Education Plan or arising from changes to the student's IEP, and continuing concerns regarding attendance and discipline.