

School District No. 60  
**Peace River North**  
10112 - 105 Ave., Fort St John, BC V1J 4S4



## **International Student Program**

# **Pre-Departure Handbook**

## **2020-2021**

**(September 8, 2020 - June 24, 2021)**

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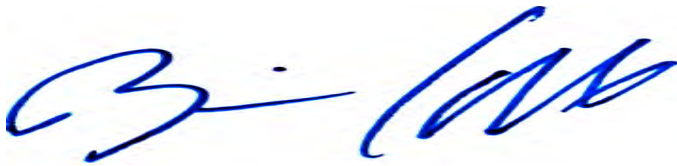
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## Welcome!

The International Education Office welcomes you to the Peace River North School District.

This handbook will provide you with important information and general guidelines concerning your program. Please read this handbook carefully as it addresses many questions commonly asked by international students coming from overseas.

We wish you an enjoyable and successful experience in our district.



Brian Campbell  
District Principal of International Education

## Peace River North School District

### International Student Program

The International Student Program is responsible for the enrollment and support of international students in our Peace River North schools. It is not a separate educational program, as international students are integrated into regular classes alongside Canadian students. In addition, international students will receive extra English Language support (ELL) where necessary. As international students are integrated into the regular school environment, they will truly have a Canadian educational experience.

### International Education Office

The International Office is located at North Peace Secondary School (NPSS) shared with the Computer Tech office. The District Principal's office is located at our school district office. These two offices collaboratively manage the International Student Department. Our international staff provide a support system for students. They process applications, determine school placement, assist with course selections and provide additional support as needs arise to international students and their families.

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the International Education Office as follows:

Telephone: 250-261-8203 - cell

NPSS: 250-785-4429 Ext 337

Website: [www.prn.bc.ca/int](http://www.prn.bc.ca/int)

Email: [bcampbell@prn.bc.ca](mailto:bcampbell@prn.bc.ca) - District Principal  
[dpimm@prn.bc.ca](mailto:dpimm@prn.bc.ca) - Admissions

Address: District Administration Office  
10112 - 105 Ave Fort St John, BC V1J 4S4  
North Peace Secondary School  
9304 86 St Fort St John, BC V1J 4X4

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Getting Ready

Once you receive a letter of acceptance from the Peace River North School District, there are many things that you need to do to prepare yourself for a rewarding experience. The following is a short list of things to consider. We have also included a checklist, which is located on page 27.

**Learn more about where you are going:** It is very important to take time to learn about our city and province. The more you learn about Peace River North and the surrounding areas, the more you will appreciate the experience and the faster you will adjust to your new surroundings.

<http://www.prn.bc.ca/>

**Learn more about your school:** Each Peace River North school has its own website. Review your appointed school's website to learn about all the opportunities your school offers. Also check out our Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/School-District-60-International-Education](http://www.facebook.com/School-District-60-International-Education)

**Make sure your passport is in order:** You will need your passport to enter Canada, as well as for other things like banking. It sometimes takes quite a while to obtain a passport, so be sure to apply early. We recommend that you make several photocopies of your passport and leave one at home with your family.

**Obtain a Study Permit:** You will need a Study Permit to live and study in Canada for more than six months. This process can take a few weeks, so apply as early as you can. To apply for a Study Permit, you must take the letter of acceptance received from the Peace River North School District to the nearest Canadian embassy, consulate or high commission. The Canadian representative will ask for proof of financial support and in some countries completion of a medical examination. For more details, please visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca).

**Book your flight:** Investing time into booking a flight is worthwhile. If you begin your search early enough, you are more likely to find a special seat sale. Our airport is called the North Peace Regional Airport. Since it is a regional airport you will likely fly in from the Vancouver, BC (YVR) International airport to Fort St John. This is a short flight of approximately 1.5 hours. Please keep this in mind when booking your flights.

**Buy additional health/travel insurance:** The International Education Office will organize health insurance for you, which comes into effect when you arrive. You will need to purchase travel insurance at home for your trip to Canada and for any extra days you are in Canada prior to your arrival in Fort St John.

**Confirm your accommodation:** Although you will typically have confirmation of your home stay well in advance of your departure you should do a final confirmation of your homestay information as well as the date and time of your arrival. Home stay parent(s) and at least one of our international staff will meet you at the airport in Fort St John.



## Climate & Clothing

Temperatures will typically range between +20 and -20 C. The spring months (March to May) are pleasant with temperatures averaging about 20°. Although Peace River North is warm early in the Fall (September to November) it can also get cooler. You will need to have a warm jacket, especially for the winter months of December to February.



Since there are many interesting mountains and trails nearby, you may also wish to bring clothing appropriate for outdoor activities such as hiking. If you like to ski or would like to try skiing, bring suitable clothing, as there are mountains which are located a short distance away with skiing facilities. There are many options to purchase winter clothing locally if it is not available in your home country.





Students dress casually for school and when going out with friends (for example, jeans, a casual shirt, and runners). You will also want to bring one dressy outfit with you for special school events.





## International Student Orientation

Normally we hold an initial orientation the day before the start of school.

International Student Orientation provides new international students to the district with an overview of the International Student Program and the City of Fort St John. During orientation, you will:

- receive an overview of Peace River North, the school district, and the International Student Program services, procedures, and regulations.
- complete necessary paperwork
- have an English language assessment
- receive a tour and orientation of your appointed school. If you are a secondary student, you will also meet with a counselor to organize your course schedule.
- participate in a local excursion and an activity. These activities and excursion give you the opportunity to get a sense of the area as well as begin to make friends with other international students.

On the first day of your orientation, remember to bring with you the following:

- your passport
- copies of passport pages showing the passport number, name, date of birth, date passport issued/expiry date, and stamp made by Canadian authorities on your most recent entry into Canada
- photocopy of your Study Permit, if you have one
- your address/telephone contact information while studying in Peace River North
- if you are currently studying in British Columbia, a photocopy of your existing Study Permit and MSP CareCard

## Services for International Students

In addition to the International Department staff, Peace River North schools offer a number of services, including:

- Student Counselors: Counselors help students adapt to a new school and assist in planning their education program.
- Career Preparation and Work Experience Office (secondary only) – This office assists students in exploring their career goals and coordinating volunteer work experience opportunities.

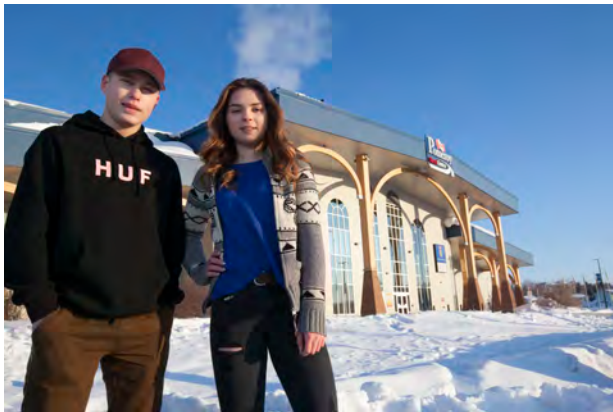
As we understand the added challenges international students may experience in studying abroad, you will be provided with the following additional services.

- International Student Support Worker/Home Stay Coordinator – This person is based in your school and is there to support you. If you have any questions or concerns, they are there to help you. They are your main support. This person will also travel to our elementary schools to assist parents of elementary students.
- International Student Liaison – Each secondary school has a teacher appointed to assist students to connect to their school community. This individual will help you meet other international and Canadian students as well as introduce you to clubs and activities in your school. They also arrange a variety of activities and excursions throughout the year.
- Principal in charge of international students – Each secondary school has a Vice Principal who has been selected to provide added support to international students. At the elementary level, the Principal is directly responsible for international students.
- International Admissions Coordinator - located at North Peace Secondary. This person can assist with paper work related to your acceptance/admission, medical, transcripts and more.

**NOTE: During the first week of orientation you will meet the Principal in charge of international students as well as the other staff members listed above..**

- International Education Office – While your main support is your school's International Student Support Worker, the International Education Office staff are also available to assist you, your custodian, and overseas parents. Our District Principal, Brian Campbell is available at any time at [bcampbell@prn.bc.ca](mailto:bcampbell@prn.bc.ca)

- Health insurance – The International Education Office organizes health insurance for international students. The health insurance begins on the day of your arrival and is cancelled at the end of the school year.
- Homestay – The International Education Department only organizes home stay placements for the duration of the school year (September to June). Students staying over the summer months must make their own arrangements.
- Activities and excursions – In addition to the new student orientation, the International Education Department coordinates excursions throughout the year to provide students with a truly Canadian experience, while also giving them the opportunity to meet other students. Our Facebook page has many photos of our excursions.



- Post-secondary information session – the International Education Office holds a post-secondary information session for students interested in going on to post-secondary education in Canada.
- Graduation Information Event – the International Education Office holds a graduation information event to assist students in fulfilling their graduation requirements and to provide information on post-secondary opportunities.



## Your School

The following provides a general overview of the Peace River North education system. During orientation, you will be provided with a more detailed overview of the courses, programs and services offered at your appointed school.

- **School Calendar:** The following provides you with an overview of the school calendar for subsequent years:

DESIGNATION	2020/21
Labour Day	Sep 7
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 12
Remembrance Day	Nov 11
Schools close for Winter vacation	Dec 18
Winter vacation period	Dec 21 - Jan 1
Schools reopen after Winter vacation	Jan 4
Family Day	Feb 15
Schools close for Spring vacation	March 12
Spring vacation period	March 15 -26
Schools reopen	Mar 29
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Monday	April 5
Victoria Day	May 24
Last day of school for students	June 24

- **School Hours:** Students from kindergarten to grade 12 attend school from Monday to Friday for approximately six hours per day, generally 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students are supervised during both school hours and organized school activities (for example, sports, art or choir) occurring before and after regular school hours. Students who are not involved in organized school activities should come to school no earlier than 30 minutes before school begins and leave no later than 30 minutes after school has ended for the day.

- **Semester versus Linear School (Secondary):** In Peace River North we have two different school calendars:
  - a linear calendar which means students take eight courses, starting in September and ending in June
  - a semester calendar in which students take four courses from September to January and then another four from February to June also for total of eight courses.

- **School Day (Secondary):** Each school's timetable will vary somewhat. Normally students attend school from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Students receive a brief nutrition break in the morning and then a lunch break around 12:00 pm.
- **Student Services:** In addition to the services for international students that are mentioned above, normally in each school you will have access to: counselors, youth workers, career preparation and work experience counselors (secondary only), peer mentoring programs, after-school tutoring and homework clubs.
- **Facilities:** Each of our secondary schools are equipped with art studios, cafeteria, computer labs, dance studio, two gymnasiums, home economics labs, information technology labs, industrial technology labs, library, music room, school stores, science labs and weight room. Elementary schools are normally equipped with gymnasiums, library, music and art rooms, and computer labs. Some elementary schools offer a Hot Lunch Program.
- **Clubs and Sports:** International Students are encouraged to take advantage of these activities, as they are an excellent way to develop your English language skills while making new friends. Peace River North schools offer a number of extracurricular activities. Your school's International Student Liaison can provide you with advice on joining an extracurricular activity. Some examples of extracurricular activities at the secondary students include:

School: Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball

Community: Curling, Dance, Hockey, Running, Speed Skating, Skiing, Swimming, Yoga





- **Lockers:** You will be assigned a locker during your first week of school. You are expected to keep your lockers clean. You must clean out your locker and return all your textbooks at the end of the school year.
- **Internet:** Each school provides students with access to the internet. Speak with your International Student Support Worker to find out the internet access available at your school.
- **Code of Conduct:** Student must follow a specific Code of Conduct. You will be expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and responsible manner or you may be removed from the program.
- **Dress Code:** Canadian public schools do not require students to wear a uniform. However, students are expected to dress appropriately.
- **Report Cards:** Students receive three or four formal report cards a year, normally in late November, January, April and June.

A copy of the report card for international students is sent to their parent(s) overseas if the parent(s) are not living in Peace River North and have not registered for the IE Program through an agent. In addition, parent/teacher conference nights are held to discuss the student report cards twice a year. If a student has a custodian then the custodian attends this conference in lieu of the parent(s).

- Students also receive interim report cards throughout the year. Students are not given marks on their interim report card. Rather the interim report cards help students identify their strengths and give advice for improvement. They also provide a good indicator of the letter grade the student will achieve in the class on their next report if they are to continue at the same level.

## Your Academic Program

### Secondary Program

During orientation you will have an opportunity to visit your school and meet with a counselor to arrange your courses. Depending on your English language capabilities, you will be placed in courses alongside local students. You can choose from a range of core academic subjects and a number of specialized electives as you progress through your secondary studies.

Some international students require English language training, which is referred to as English Language Learning (ELL) program (*previously known as English as a Second Language (ESL) program*). Students complete ELL courses as well as regular academic courses suitable for their English language level.



## **Immigration Requirements:**

Canada Immigration: Direct Telephone Access: 1-888-242-2100

Website: [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

## **Obtaining a Study Permit**

You will need a Study Permit to live and study in Canada for more than six months. This process can take several weeks, so apply as early as you can. To apply for a Study Permit, you must take the letter of acceptance received from the Peace River North School District to the nearest Canadian embassy, Consulate or High Commission. The Canadian representative will ask for proof of financial support and in some countries completion of a medical examination.

## **Renewing your Study Permit**

The school staff and/or International Office staff are no longer allowed by law to assist. This process normally takes six to twelve weeks. You are strongly recommended to apply for an extension at least three months before the expiration of your current Study Permit. Immigration will not accept applications before three months of the Study Permit's expiry date.

Immigration services are coordinated through the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta. When you extend your Study Permit, you must complete the forms in the Immigration Kit. These kits are available on the internet at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca). The kit includes the necessary forms and information for mailing your application.

Along with your Application to Extend a Study Permit, you will NEED to include:

- Copies of passport pages showing the passport number, name, date of birth, date passport issued/expiry date, and stamp made by Canadian authorities on your most recent entry into Canada.
- Copy of current immigration authorization document.
- Letter of acceptance from the Peace River North School District.
- Copy of most recent report cards.
- Custodianship Declaration (IMM 5646)\*\* – students studying in a secondary program in Canada without a parent or legal guardian must complete this with their study permit application.  
\*\*This is a new form which is available on Canada Immigration's website.
- Proof of funds available (banks statement).



**Be sure to keep a copy of all documents you mail to the Canada Immigration office in Alberta.**

### **Visiting the United States of America**

You can phone the US Consulate in Vancouver at 1-900-451-2778 (at a fee) to arrange an appointment for an interview to receive a Visitor Visa. Please make the appointment well in advance of when you want to travel. You can also make an appointment on-line at [www.nvars.com](http://www.nvars.com) (\$10.00 CD). The address is: US Consulate, 1095 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC. Phone: 604-685-4311

***Warning:*** It is critical that you purchase extended health insurance if you are to travel to the United States. The British Columbia Medical Services Plan will not cover costs for any medical attention delivered in the United States. In the unlikely case of an accident, medical attention could cost you thousands of dollars.

## Culture Shock & Adjustment

Coming to a new country and culture is an exciting adventure. You may also find that you have some ups and downs during your adjustment to life here in Canada. Give yourself time to feel at home.

**Stage 1:** When you first arrive, you typically go through the “honeymoon stage,” where the excitement and enthusiasm of being in a new place takes up most of your thoughts and time. The activity of settling in is also very time consuming.

**Stage 2:** The second stage can be a bit of a down time where the differences between your home and here become clear. You might also find yourself missing family, friends and some of your favourite food. Working on your English can also be a tiring aspect of getting started in Canada.

**Stage 3:** The third stage can be a frustrating or restless time. At this point you may feel angry with your new life, classmates and hosts. This is normal and will not last.

**Stage 4:** The fourth stage usually involves finding your sense of humour again, seeing this adventure in a new perspective, and appreciating both your home and Canada in new ways.

**Stage 5:** The fifth stage is where you feel almost at home here and can meet the day-to-day problems that come along. You’re also starting to think about returning home again. This can be a time of mixed feelings – both excitement and anxiety.

**Stage 6:** This sixth stage is called reverse culture shock and happens when you return home. You may find that your family and friends have a hard time understanding your experiences in Canada and that it takes time to settle back in. This is very normal.

**Stage 7:** The last stage is readjustment to being home. This happens when you have integrated yourself back into your own culture with the knowledge and experiences that living away from home has given you.

It is important to remember that you may not experience all these stages in precisely this order. Adjusting to living overseas takes time but the rewards are well worth it. Please contact your school’s International Student Liaison, a school counselor, or the International Education Office if you’re having any difficulty in your adjustment. We are here to support you.

## Living in Peace River North

To learn more about the City of Fort St John visit the City's website at [www.fortstjohn.ca](http://www.fortstjohn.ca)

### Transport

**Public Transit:** Public transportation in Fort St John is easily accessible and reliable. Once you register at your school, city bus passes are available at your school office which allows you to pay a discounted rate for public transportation.

**Cycling:** Some students opt to cycle to school as it is an inexpensive transportation method. The city of Fort St John has a system of bikeways for cyclists. If you choose to cycle to and from school, please ensure to wear a helmet as it's the law here in British Columbia. Make sure you use a strong bike lock, and always use it when you park your bike. Each secondary school has a location to park your bike.





## Communications

### Long Distance Calls:

To make a long distance call within Canada or the US, you must dial "1," then the city code.

To make a long distance call to most overseas countries, you must dial "011," then the country code, and the city code.

- Collect calls: dial 0+country code+city code+local number
- Direct dialed calls: 011+country code+city code+local number

See the first section of the phone book for country and city codes, or call the operator "0" for information and help.

### Phone Cards

Phone cards in a variety of dollar amounts are available at various stores such as 7-Eleven. They are a convenient way to keep in touch with friends and family.

### Postal Service

[www.canadapost.ca](http://www.canadapost.ca)

If you are expecting a parcel it will come to your home, but if you are not at home it may be redirected to the nearest postal station where you may pick it up. Be sure to take identification with you. A parcel or letter can also be posted at any postal outlet. There are a number of postal outlets located throughout Peace River North.

### Libraries

In addition to your school library, there is one public library located in Fort St John at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

### Banking

There are a number of banks located throughout Peace River North in which you can open up a bank account. You will be required to bring appropriate identification with you to open an account.

There are many types of accounts: personal checking account, daily interest chequing or saving, savings/chequing and savings accounts. You will find that interest rates vary between the type of account and between banks. Make sure you are aware what the charges and rates will be on any account that you open.

## Medical Services

There are a number of doctor's offices and walk-in medical clinics located in Fort St John. To locate an available doctor, we suggest you visit the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia website (<https://www.cpsbc.ca/cps>). The International Education Office can also direct you to local clinics and multilingual doctors. The City has one hospital - called the Fort St John Hospital, located at 8407 112 Ave. In the unlikely case of a student feeling seriously ill or had an accident, we strongly recommend the student go directly to the Emergency Department.

## Personal Safety

The City of Fort St John offers a safe living environment. Violent crime is not common and not very likely to occur to a resident or student. However, you still need to be careful, as with any other city. Please remember to always be aware of your surroundings and do not walk in the streets or parks alone after dark. At orientation we will provide you with detailed safety tips in order to ensure your stay with us is a pleasant one.

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## Foreign Consulates in Vancouver

<p><b>Brazil</b> 2020 – 666 Burrard St. Vancouver, BC V6C 2X8 Tel: 604-696-5311 Fax: 604-696-5366 Website: <a href="http://vancouver.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/">http://vancouver.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:cq.vancouver@itamarty.gov.br">cq.vancouver@itamarty.gov.br</a></p>	<p><b>Mexico</b> 411-1177 West Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V6E 2K3 Tel: 604-684-3547 Fax: 604-684-2485 Website: <a href="http://www.vec.ca/english/10/consulate-vancouver.cfm">www.vec.ca/english/10/consulate-vancouver.cfm</a> Email: n/a</p>
<p><b>Chile</b> 1610 – 1185 W. Georgia Street Vancouver, BC V6E 4E6 Tel: 604-681-9162 Fax: 604-683-9181 Website: <a href="http://chileabroad.gov.cl/vancouver/">chileabroad.gov.cl/vancouver/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:cgchile.vancouver@minrel.gov.cl">cgchile.vancouver@minrel.gov.cl</a></p>	<p><b>Norway</b> 1480-1188 West Georgia Street Vancouver, British Columbia, V6E 4A2 Tel: 604-682-7977 Fax: 604- 685-8434 Website : <a href="http://www.emb-norway.ca/">www.emb-norway.ca/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:nor-congeneral@telus.net">nor-congeneral@telus.net</a></p>
<p><b>China / Hong Kong</b> 3380 Granville Street / 288-1338 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V6H 3K3 / Vancouver, BC Tel: 604-734-7492 / Tel: 734-0704 Fax: 604-737-0154 Website: <a href="http://vancouver.china-consulate.org/eng/">vancouver.china-consulate.org/eng/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:visa@chinaconsulatevan.org">visa@chinaconsulatevan.org</a></p>	<p><b>Singapore</b> Suite 1700, 1095 West Pender Street Vancouver, BC V6E 2M6 Tel: 604-622-5281 Fax: 604-685-2471 Website: <a href="http://www.mfa.gov.sg">www.mfa.gov.sg</a> Email: <a href="mailto:van@sgmfa.gov.sg">van@sgmfa.gov.sg</a></p>
<p><b>France</b> 1100-1130 West Pender Street Vancouver, BC V6E 4A4 Tel: 604-681-4345 Fax: 604-637-5301 Website: <a href="http://www.consulfrance-vancouver.org/">www.consulfrance-vancouver.org/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:visas@consulfrance-vancouver.org">visas@consulfrance-vancouver.org</a></p>	<p><b>Switzerland</b> World Trade Centre #790 - 999 Canada Place Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1 Tel: 604-684-2231 Fax: 604-684-2806 Website: <a href="http://www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver">www.eda.admin.ch/vancouver</a> Email: n/a</p>
<p><b>Germany</b> World Trade Centre Complex 704-999 Canada Place Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1 Tel: 604-684-8377 Fax: 604-684-8334 Website: <a href="http://Canada.diplo.de">Canada.diplo.de</a> Email: <a href="mailto:germanconsulatevancouver@netcom.ca">germanconsulatevancouver@netcom.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Taiwan</b> Taipei Economic &amp; Cultural Office Suite 2200 - 650 West Georgia Street Vancouver, BC V6B 4N7 Tel: 604-689-4111 Fax: 604-689-0101 Website : <a href="http://www.taiwanembassy.org/CA/YVR/mp.asp?mp=87">www.taiwanembassy.org/CA/YVR/mp.asp?mp=87</a> Email: <a href="mailto:tecovan@telus.net">tecovan@telus.net</a></p>
<p><b>Indonesia</b> 1630 Alberni Street Vancouver, BC V6G 1A6 Tel: 604-682-8855 Fax: 604-662-8396 Website: <a href="http://www.indonesiavancouver.org/">www.indonesiavancouver.org/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:congen@indonesiavancouver.org">congen@indonesiavancouver.org</a></p>	<p><b>Thailand</b> 1040 Burrard Street Vancouver, BC V6Z 2R9 Tel: 604-687-1143 Fax: 604-683-4434 Website : <a href="http://www.thaicongenvancouver.org/">www.thaicongenvancouver.org/</a> Email : <a href="mailto:info@thaiconqenvancouver.org">info@thaiconqenvancouver.org</a></p>
<p><b>Italy</b> Consulate General 510 West Hasting Street, Suite 1100 Vancouver, BC V6B 1L8 Tel: 604-684-7288 Fax: 604-685-4263 Website : <a href="http://www.consvancouver.esteri.it/Consolato_Vancouver">www.consvancouver.esteri.it/Consolato_Vancouver</a> Email : <a href="mailto:consolato.vancouver@esteri.it">consolato.vancouver@esteri.it</a></p>	<p><b>Turkey</b> 3 – 7257 Kingsway Street Burnaby, BC V5E 1G5 Tel: 604-526-1300 Fax: 604-526-6424 Website: n/a Email: <a href="mailto:msezgina@shawbiz.ca">msezgina@shawbiz.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Japan</b> 900-1177 West Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V6E 2K9 Tel: 604-684-5868 Fax: 604-684-6939 Website: <a href="http://www.vancouver.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/">www.vancouver.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/</a> Email: n/a</p>	<p><b>United States</b> #107 – 280 Nelson Street Vancouver, BC V6B 2E2 Tel: 604-685-4311 Fax: 604-685-7175 Website: <a href="http://canada.usembassy.gov/consulates/vancouver.html">canada.usembassy.gov/consulates/vancouver.html</a> Email: <a href="mailto:vancouverNIV@state.gov">vancouverNIV@state.gov</a></p>

**Malaysia**

Terasan Centre  
 1805-1111 West Georgia Street, 925 West Georgia  
 Street  
 Vancouver, BC V6E 4M3  
 Tel: 604-685-9550 Fax: 604-685-9520  
 Website: [www.kln.gov.my/web/can\\_vancouver/home](http://www.kln.gov.my/web/can_vancouver/home)  
 Email: [malvncver@kln.gov.my](mailto:malvncver@kln.gov.my)

## Important Message to Parents

You will play an important role in supporting your child's studies in Peace River North, even if you are residing overseas. The following information is to help parents understand the Canadian education system and their role as a partner in their child's education.

### Education Program

In Canada, we believe in developing well-rounded individuals. That is why our education system does not solely focus on traditional academic subjects, such as math and sciences, but also includes subjects within the arts, sports and technology. These subjects not only develop your child's intellect but help him/her explore a variety of interests and talents.

### Learning Environment

Teachers in Canada believe that students must participate in the learning process. Therefore, a typical Canadian classroom does not usually have a teacher lecturing at the front and students sitting quietly in their desks. Rather, normally you will see students working on their own or in groups as the teacher facilitates their learning. For an outsider, it may seem that the students are "playing around." But this is definitely not the case. Rather, students are actively engaging in his/her learning as well as developing skills to work independently or as part of a team - better preparing students for university.

In addition, Canadian schools, especially Peace River North, encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities after regular school hours. Students can join a number of activities that will further augment their intellectual, social and physical development. In learning English, we find that students who join clubs or teams acquire the language more rapidly than if they were to take numerous hours of after-school tutoring.

**Academic Performance:** International students face added challenges due to their being immersed in a new environment, culture and language. Initially, their grades in Canada may be lower in comparison to school grades from their home country. This is normal due to the added challenges international student face. Please encourage your child and let them know you understand the challenges they face and how proud you are of the work they are doing. Encourage them to try their best and to ask for help from their International Student Liaison, counselor and teachers. Give them time to acclimatize to their new environment as well as develop the language skills needed to fully excel.

We have noticed that students do not always inform their parents or custodians of any school or personal struggles, as they do not want to disappoint or worry their family. Please encourage your child to talk to you about their school and personal life. These students feel enormous amounts of pressure. Please encourage our child to do their very best and to work hard but also to enjoy their time here and to seek help when needed.

**Keep in touch with your child and host parent(s):** Even though a parent resides overseas, you still play an important role in ensuring your child is being properly cared for and supervised during their studies in Peace River North. We ask that you:

- regularly contact your child to ensure that they are thriving within their learning and home environment.
- immediately contact the International Education Office for assistance if you have any concerns about your child's well-being or academic progress.

## Pre-Departure Checklist

- Confirmed accommodation arrangements.
- Obtained a passport and made sure that it is valid for at least six months beyond my return date.
- Obtained a Study Permit to study in Canada (if studying for more than 6 months).
- Obtained a multi-entry visa (if required).
- Obtained the appropriate visa if planning a trip as a visitor to the United States.
- Purchased airline ticket.
- Documents to keep on you (not in your checked luggage). You will need these documents to present at your first Canadian Port of call to present to IRCC.
  - LOA
  - Custodian Document
  - Homestay Placement Information
  - Passport
- Have noted home, International Education Office, and school contact information.
- Photocopied all information (passport/birth certificate), leaving a second copy at home.
- Obtained a small amount of Canadian currency for use upon arrival and in the unlikely case of an emergency.
- Arranged appropriate transfer of funds (i.e. traveler cheques, etc)
- Learned about my appointed school, Peace River North and the surrounding area. Learned about Canadian culture.
- Will pack this handbook along with the orientation information in luggage to bring to Canada for reference.
- Have read this handbook very carefully.