



## SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

Dear Families,

The Qualicum International Student Program has been a District Program for 25 years. This year, our program accepted students for the 2020-21 school year but due to border closures, students were unable to enter Canada for September. Many of our students deferred from September to February with the hopes of borders re-opening, allowing them to study abroad.

In October, the Federal Government opened the border to International Students who were able to obtain an official Study Permit and deemed essential travellers. These students have been able to enter Canada under very strict guidelines and can only enter with a valid study permit.

Upon entry at the border, the Canadian Border Services, carefully check to make sure that the student has followed all the appropriate protocols. Students must download the ArriveCAN app where the student must report daily health checks as well as have a solid quarantine plan in place.

The international programs across Canada have created strict Travel Protocols that have been scrutinized and approved by the Public Health Authority and the Ministry of Education.

During the 14-day quarantine, students remain mostly in their bedrooms and, if they enter any common space in the home, students must wear a mask. Our Homestay Coordinator has a zoom meeting with the students Monday to Friday and students must complete a daily health check, which is monitored by our office.

All of our current students have successfully completed their quarantine and our host parents have appreciated the support and guidelines established by the ISP office in consultation with the Provincial Health Office.

At this point, SD69 is looking for Homestay families for International students from around the world.

We are in specific need of Homestay families for Ballenas and Kwalikum Secondary students starting January 15, 2021.

Grades 10 to 12, long-term stays, Homestay honorarium of \$900/month is provided.

Basic expectations of a Homestay family:

- Provide a clean, safe, nurturing, supportive home environment.
- Provide a private furnished bedroom (must have egress window).
- Provide 3 meals/day plus snacks.
- Provide help with transportation (for extra-curricular activities).
- Provide additional support as needed during these COVID times.

For more information about how to apply please contact Ronda Bell, Principal, International Student Program Office, at [rbell@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:rbell@sd69.bc.ca)

You can also visit the Qualicum International Student Program's website at [www.schoolincanada.ca](http://www.schoolincanada.ca) to learn more about hosting in our district.