the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese

1.1.1

This is intended to be a working document outlining the goals, procedures and expectations of the Immaculata Regional High School and St. Joseph Elementary Homestay Program.

Immaculata Regional High School/St. Joseph Elementary International Students Homestay Program

2026 - 2027

International Students

An Introduction for Host Families

the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese

Thank you for your interest in the Homestay Program for the both St. Joseph Elementary and Immaculata Regional High School. Host families are a very important part of the International Student Program. Families provide not just room and board; they are the most important support for the students to succeed in Canada.

Host families develop and maintain a relationship with the International Student which includes encouraging healthy habits and relationships. Homestay parents become the most important partners in the settlement, acculturation and learning processes, as the acquisition of the colloquial language. They nurture appropriate study habits in the student. Even if the student is only with a family for a short-stay program, he/she should be an active member of the homestay family life. Remember, ***the main role of the host family is to provide a safe, comfortable home environment within which the student feels at home, supported, encouraged and embraced to participate in family life, learning Canadian lifestyle and acquiring language through this interaction.***

In order to be considered as a host family, all permanent household members over the age of 19 must have a criminal record check. Please contact our office to give you instructions for this step. If you already have a recent criminal record check as a volunteer in one of our schools of the Diocese, you may submit a copy of this for our records as per diocesan policy.

We attempt to inform all successful host family applicants of a student placement at least one month prior to the student's arrival. However, this is not always possible due to the length of the student's application process.

Please complete the attached application form. Feel free to give us as much information as you can. This will ease the process of matching you up with a student, and having a good experience.

Starting September 2026, the homestay family hosting an international student(s) will receive compensation of $ 1,350.00 per student living in the home. There are a maximum of two students allowed to stay in a home. The host family with temporary international student(s) will receive a rate of $ 45 CAD per night.

All completed documents are to be sent to the school with attention to the International Students Program Coordinator.

Host Family Application Process

the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese

In order to be considered as a Host Family for our International Program at St. Joseph Elementary or IRHS, you are required to:

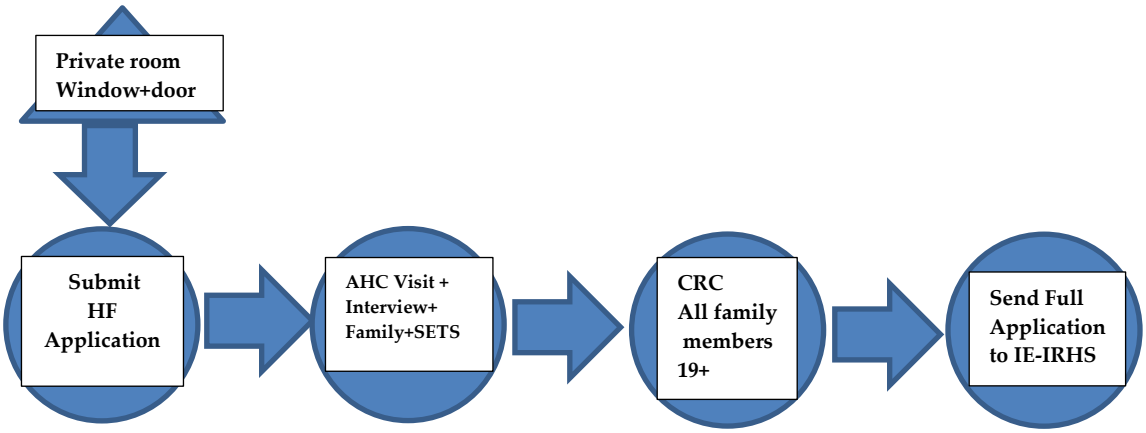
- Provide a private room with window and an easily locked door, three healthy meals a day and snacks, a healthy family environment; and time to check in with your student(s).
- Applicant submits Host Family Application Package.
- Homestay/International Students Program Coordinator interviews family in person and ensures the completion of the Safe Environment Training session, take pictures of your home, and family; and collects copy of home and car insurance (2 million liability).
- Each member of the host family over 19 years of age submits to a Criminal Record Check and Safe Environment Office forms and training as required.

  All completed documents are to be sent by email or mail to:

International Education Program - Assistant Homestay Coordinator at irhs.hm@cisnd.ca;

Or mail to:

School Name: **International Program - Immaculata Regional High School**
School Address: **1493 KLO Road**
City & Postal Code: **Kelowna, BC, V1W 3N8**



the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese

Homestay Family Expectations

Our homestay families are one of the most important components of the international program at Immaculata Regional High School. We partner with families which are able to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our international students. Hosting international students is a wonderful opportunity to develop a friendship with someone of a different culture, and to learn more about the world. This friendship might grow of an understanding and acceptance of two different cultures that the student and family introduce to each other, as this is a two way life-learning practice; as well as giving a child a home, who is away from its own home with no family around. **The word *HOMESTAY* is a home away from home experience.**

Please, initial next to each expectation of the host family:

- ❑ To provide a safe, secure, welcoming home environment.
- ❑ To provide a separate bedroom (according to by law municipality requirements) with a window, door easy to lock, a bed, night-table, closet, dresser and desk (if possible).
- ❑ To provide a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner daily for the student unless other arrangements have been made for the day.
- ❑ To check student on healthy lifestyle (diet, hygiene habits, exercise, etc).
- ❑ To provide an English-speaking environment in the household.
- ❑ To provide clear house rules and expectations upon student's arrival.
- ❑ To provide for student's laundry (provide laundry facilities for student to do their own laundry, and demonstrate how to do it.
- ❑ To orient the student around the house, neighborhood, city, and the surroundings of the school.
- ❑ To be aware of the student's whereabouts and is reachable at all time

- ❑ **To involve the student in all family activities; including family and Canadian traditions, celebrations, and events.**
- ❑ **To encourage the student to learn about Canadian culture/traditions, lifestyle and family life.**
- ❑ **To encourage the student to participate in after school and community activities, and weekly Mass on Sundays.**
- ❑ **To take an interest in the student's progress at school; checking homework, and exam schedules.**
- ❑ **To attend Parents/Teachers interview, preferably.**
- ❑ **To report student's absences, illness or family visits to the school.**
- ❑ **To take the student to see a Health Practitioner (General Practitioner, Dentist, Physiotherapist, Counsellor) as needed.**
- ❑ To help the student fulfill their integration hour requirements of 30 hours per school year.
- ❑ To support the student in their job shadowing hour requirement of 30 hours between Grades 10,11 & 12 if the student intends to graduate from Immaculata.
- ❑ To respect the rights, privacy and culture of the student.
- ❑ To demonstrate appropriate behaviour toward the student at all times.
- ❑ To report our program regarding travel plans of the family and student.
- ❑ To be able and available to receive homestay visits by the Assistant Homestay Coordinator on a rotational basis throughout the school year.
- ❑ To maintain ongoing communication with the International Program, regarding well-being, health, family interaction of the student; or any other concerns that might arise.
- ❑ To provide safe transportation to and from school each school day (car, walking, bus pass, cycling).
- ❑ To have a minimum of $2 million liability on your house and car insurance on the vehicles used to transport the student. And submit a copy to the school.

- ❑ To drive student to and from school, and activities (if needed) until his/her routines can incorporate public transportation (cost to homestay parent).
- ❑ To pick up the student from the airport (Kelowna).
- ❑ To take the student to the airport once his/her stay is finished.
- ❑ To make appropriate arrangements with reliable people if you are unable to pick up/ and/or deliver the student to the airport.
- ❑ Should your home situation change during the time a student is living with you (i.e. new baby, move to new house, renovations in the house, getting a pet; additional international student), we ask that you notify the International Students Program Coordinator. This information will be kept confidential.
- ❑ To attend homestay orientation once a year; which would help the host family to familiarize with our homestay and program's expectations and updates, to meet other homestay families; and to become acquainted with the philosophy and programs at the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese.

International Student Program

Host Family Application Form

the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese

Date: _____

Home Visit Date: _____

Apply for school year: _____

Applicant's Name _____ Employer _____

Spouse's Name _____ Employer _____

Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number: Home _____ Work _____ Mobile _____

Best to be contacted during the day time:_____

Email address: _____

Please provide the following information:

1. List the people who live in your home:

Name	Date of Birth MM/DD/YY	Relationship	Occupation	Language

2. Please, check your preference for hosting a student:

❑ Female	❑ Male	❑ No Preference
❑ High School	❑Middle School	❑ No Preference
❑ Long term	❑ Short term	❑ No Preference
❑ Semester One	❑ Semester Two	❑ No Preference
❑ One student	❑ Two students	

3. Have you ever had an international student stay in your home? If yes, which nationality? How long and when did he/she stay? Which organization?

_____

_____

_____

4. Why are you interested in hosting an international student?

_____

_____

_____

5. Briefly describe your home, (number of bedrooms, bathrooms, social areas, levels, etc.)

Level(s) _____ # of Bedrooms _____

# of Bathrooms _____ Social Areas _____

Type of Home:

_____	Single detached	_____	Duplex
_____	Apartment	_____	Other (please explain)

6. How long have you been living in your home? _____

7. Describe the room where the student will sleep:

   Location _____ Size _____

   Furnishings _____

8. Describe any special features you have in your house (piano, drums, pool, gym, trampoline, etc): _____

9. Do you have pets? If yes, please list. _____

10. Do any members of your household smoke? ❑ yes ❑ no, Specify: _____

11. Does any family member have any dietary restrictions:

    ❑ Vegetarian ❑ Vegan ❑ Wheat intolerance ❑ Diabetes ❑ Others: _____

12. What are your family's rules about the use of the telephone, computer, television and internet?

    _____
    _____
    _____

13. What are your family's hobbies and interests?

    _____
    _____
    _____

14. Does any member of the family speak any other language? Which language?

    _____
    _____
    _____

15. Please write anything specific that you feel is important for the student to know about your household (family rules, diet, family schedule, etc.):

    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____

16. What is the work/ study schedule of family members?

17. Please list two references (non-relatives) that we can contact:

Name	Contact Information	Occupation	Relationship

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL
(As per CISND policy)

All completed documents are to be sent to (scanned and emailed):

International Education Program - Assistant Homestay Coordinator at irhs.hm@cisnd.ca

Or mail to:

School Name: **International Program - Immaculata Regional High School**
School Address: **1493 KLO Road**
City & Postal Code: **Kelowna, BC, V1W 3N8**

Acknowledgements:

Please, initial each of the following statements as acknowledgement:

_____ We are to make the commitment of offering a homestay until the end of the agreed upon term.

_____ Students have input in their homestay situation, and sometimes want a change for personal reasons. Although we do our best to counsel the students, and we would never promote this request; these circumstances might happen without a forecast.

International Student Program
Host Family Agreement

the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese

IN THE MATTER OF the agreement of accepting the responsibility as a host family for

Student's Name _____

I/WE _____
(Name of host family)

Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

- ❑ Have read, and agreed to the Expectations for Host Families
- ❑ Have discussed these expectations with the Director of International Education/Assistant Homestay Coordinator during an interview
- ❑ Have submitted a copy of a Criminal Record Check form(s) and Safe Environment Forms and completed Safe Environment training
- ❑ Will submit other forms as requested (i.e. Student Travel Document for out-of-town host family travel; Authorization for pick-up of student)
- ❑ Will keep the International Students Program Coordinator informed of any pertinent issues related to the well-being of the international student (i.e. homesickness, illness, etc.)
- ❑ Will be able and available to be visited once or twice during the course of the school year by the program staff.

_____ _____
Host parent signature Date

_____ _____
Host parent signature Date

_____ _____