



## Homestay Family Expectations

Our homestay families are a critical element of the success of the international program at Immaculata. We partner with families who can provide a safe and welcoming environment for our students. We do our best to match homestay families with students whose interests and requests align. Hosting international students is a wonderful opportunity to develop a friendship with someone of a totally different culture. The friendship grows from an understanding and acceptance of two different cultures that the student and family introduce to each other.

Our expectations of host families are the following:

- To provide a safe, secure, welcoming home environment for the student, making the student feel like a member of the family
- To provide a separate bedroom for the student which includes a window, bed, closet, dresser and desk (if possible)
- To review household rules and expectations
- To provide a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner daily for the student unless other arrangements have been made for the day
- To provide an English-speaking environment in the household
- To provide for student's laundry (provide laundry facilities for student to do their own laundry)
- To orient the student to the city, to your neighbourhood and to the neighbourhood of the school
- To be aware of the location of your student at all times and have means by which to contact the student at all times
- To involve the student in all family activities whenever possible (including attending weekly mass if you go)
- To encourage the student to learn about Canadian culture, lifestyle and family life
- To take an interest in the student's progress at school and support their learning where necessary
- To help the student fulfill their volunteer 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 provide safe transportation to and from school each school day (car, walking, bus, cycling)
- To have a minimum of \$2 million insurance on the vehicles used to transport the student
- To check with your home insurance provider to ensure that your coverage is sufficient
- To submit criminal record checks and undergo the Safe Environment training for all members of the household over 18 years old

- To stay in contact with the AHC regarding the health and well-being of the student as well as travel outside of the Okanagan Valley
- To make arrangements for the student if the homestay family is going to be away (see below for more details)
- To be available for homestay visits by the AHC on a rotational basis throughout the school year
- To pick up the student from the airport (Kelowna)
- To take the student to the airport once their stay is finished
- To make other arrangements if you are unable to pick up/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, additional international student), we ask that you notify the AHC. This information will be kept confidential.
- When feasible, the recruiting agent, the school, and/or the International Students Program Coordinator will host an orientation session for homestay parents. This will help to familiarize the homestay parents with cultural expectations, to meet other homestay families, and to become acquainted with the philosophy and programs at the Catholic Independent Schools of Nelson Diocese.