



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY & FEBRUARY • 2026



A few of our THSS students from Brazil and their gingerbread houses. Thank you Brandee for hosting!

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

Jan. 24-25 - Semester 1 Student Departures

Jan. 27 - Non-Instructional Day
(No Classes)

Jan. 31-Feb. 1 - Semester 2 Student Arrivals

Feb. 2 - New Secondary Student
Orientation at Riverside Centre
- First Day of Classes for New
Elementary Students

Feb. 3 - School Orientation & First Day of
Classes for New Secondary Students
- [Field trip](#) bookings open at 5pm

Feb. 4 - Field Trip Registration Opens

Feb. 13 - Non-Instructional Day
(No Classes)
- Whistler 1 Day Ski Tour
(Optional Field Trip)

Feb. 16 - BC Family Day
(No Classes)

Mar. 16-19 - Rocky Mountains 4 Day Tour
(Optional Field Trip)

Mar. 27 - Victoria 1 Day Sightseeing Tour
(Optional Field Trip)

Mar. 16-27 - Spring Break
(Schools Closed)



FEBRUARY ORIENTATION

District Orientation for new secondary students will be held on February 2nd. Students should be dropped off at **Riverside**

Centre for 8am. Please review the agenda emailed to you on November 11 for details.

Please remind students that their school photo will be taken that day, and that they should dress appropriately for the weather as they will spend the afternoon in Vancouver with some walking involved (layers are recommended). Host families should plan to pick up their student at 6:30pm from **Thomas Haney Secondary**.

Students will meet with their Liaison teachers at their respective schools at 8:30am on February 3rd and will receive their class schedule on this day.

BACK TO ROUTINE

After a relaxing break, teens often need help re-establishing structure. Simple steps like setting consistent bedtimes, planning healthy meals, and creating a quiet spot for homework can make a big difference as they transition back to school. Talking through their schedule and goals together helps ease stress and build confidence. Your guidance and support go a long way in helping them feel settled and ready for a successful term!

FLIGHTS

Please be sure to respond to our office's email confirming your student's arrival or departure flight details. It is helpful for us and students to know who will be meeting your student at the airport, or dropping them off. If you receive flight information from your student that differs than that shared by our office, please contact us promptly so we can confirm the correct flight with their agent/parent. Transportation to/from the airport should be arranged well ahead during this busy time of year.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



CULTURE & COMMUNICATION

Hosting an international student is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow together. Every culture has its own traditions, values, and ways of communicating, and these differences can sometimes feel unfamiliar at first. By approaching these moments with curiosity and respect, you create a safe space where your student feels accepted and valued. Simple gestures like asking about their customs, sharing your own traditions, and celebrating diversity help build trust and make your home a place where they truly belong. Remember that relationships do take time to develop and each student is different in how they acclimate to their new surroundings. Open and honest communication is key; checking in regularly and listening without judgment helps strengthen your relationship and ensures your student feels supported.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Students are expected to attend all classes and finish the year off strong. **This includes attending TA and open blocks at Thomas Haney.** Students must speak with their liaison and teachers to complete all work missed when absent.

If students are unavoidably late or absent, the following procedures apply:

- Students who arrive to school late are required to sign in at the office.
- Students who leave the school during the school day must sign out at the office. Confirmation (note or phone call) from a host parent granting permission is required.
- If illness causes a student to miss school, **the host parent needs to excuse the absence by notifying the school** (email/portal/phone call) by 8:30am. Our office can not log school absences.
- Students who participate in extra-curricular events should notify the school before the event of their absence.

Excessive unexcused absences and/or late arrivals will result in school-based intervention. If absences persist, students may be placed on a Performance Contract.

EMERGENCY LINE

Our 24 hour emergency phone number should be saved as a contact in your phone for ease of access: **604-345-9802**.

Please remember to **call** in the event you have a more serious issue that arises with your student outside of regular business hours. Note that Homestay Coordinators do not check their work phone or messages outside of their office hours. Thank you as always for your attentive care of our students - their safety and well-being while away from their parents is of utmost importance to us.



CURFEW

It is up to host parents to set reasonable curfews to ensure for the safety and well-being of students. Curfews should be activity dependent, and host parents should always know where their student/s is. Please ensure your student has a safe travel plan. It is natural for youth to push boundaries; however, please consider the age of your student and keep in mind there should be a balance between peer and host family connection/time. Staying out later a few nights per week is reasonable - staying out every night is not. We suggest the following as a starting point:

Ages 15-16: 9pm / weekends 11pm

Ages 17-18: 10pm / weekends 12am

You are welcome to discuss further with your homestay coordinator if you have questions or concerns.



Victoria Field Trip, November 2025

PARENT PORTAL

Host parents are connected to the parent portal automatically to stay informed about upcoming school events. For school field trips (*different than the optional trips offered to international students by DC Adventures*) you will need to confirm your student would like to attend by hitting "submit" via the portal.

This will trigger a notification to our department to authorize the trip as the legal custodian. The form is then returned to the host parent, confirming it's time for the student to pay (if applicable). Your email in the portal must match what we have on file and in MyEd. If your email address has changed, please contact your homestay coordinator with an update. To access your parent portal account, click [here](#).

STUDENT WELLNESS

The mental and physical wellness of students is always a priority. The shorter days and colder weather of winter can sometimes lead to feelings of low energy or mood changes in teens, making it important to watch for signs of stress and encourage healthy routines.

Students can access free professional counselling and mental health assistance by phone at 1-833-646-1524. Calls are confidential and will not be shared with our program, schools, parents, or the insurance company.

You can access our online [Health & Wellness Guidelines and resources here](#) to help support your student(s) through the challenges of acculturation stress, homesickness, and other mental health concerns.

If there are any significant concerns regarding the health and well-being of students, homestay parents should contact their homestay coordinator so they are aware of the situation and can assist as needed.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

International students are insured through StudyInsured. More information about their coverage and helpful print-outs can be found online [here](#).

Students can book online medical consultations through the StudyInsured Maple Platform - [here is a helpful how-to video](#). **For any medical needs that may arise, such as clinic or hospital visits, your first call should always be to their toll-free 24/7 medical help line: 1-866-883-9787.**

Full year students are registered for MSP after a 90 day wait period. An MSP number and BC Services Card will be provided to the student. It is very important that the student and/or host family do NOT change the mailing address for MSP; it should remain our office address for billing purposes.

All students are eligible for vaccines (including flu & COVID vaccines). Students should always discuss vaccinations with their natural parents first.

Hospital visits: If your student requires x-rays, scans, or tests of any kind please have them request their medical records before leaving the hospital to simplify and speed up the insurance claim process.



Students geared up for skiing at the December 2025 Whistler field trip.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

