



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN

## International Student Program

Revelstoke | Golden | Invermere | Kimberley | Cranbrook | Fernie | Sparwood



# HOST PARENT HANDBOOK



## RMISP KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

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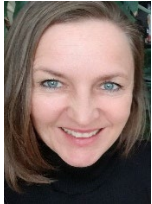
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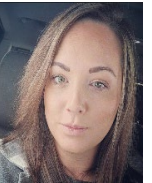
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# SOCIAL SERVICES

## CONTACT INFORMATION



*REPORT BULLYING BC is an anonymous and confidential online reporting tool for students. **Report bullying!** Visit [www.erasebullying.ca](http://www.erasebullying.ca) for more information.*



*The **BC Helpline for Children** (1-800-663-9122) may be called to report when a child or youth under 19 years of age is being abused or neglected. There is a legal duty to report your concern to a child welfare worker.*

*The **Helpline for Children** (310-1234) for children or youth to call if they need to talk to someone. No area code is needed and they can call any time (day or night) and do not have to give a name.*



*The **Kids Help Phone** (1-800-668-6868) provides counselling and mental health support.*

*The **Kelty Mental Health Resource Center** (<http://kelymentalhealth.ca>) provides resources regarding mental health issues, substance use, medications and healthy living.*

***Here to help – Mental health** (<https://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/>) information provides information and tips on taking care of your mental health.*



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## WELCOME TO THE PROGRAM

### Welcome to the Rocky Mountain International Student Program (RMISP)!

**Thank you** for opening your home, family, and heart to an international student (or two) this year. Without your participation as a host family, none of the benefits international education brings to our communities would be possible. We look forward to working with you to make your homestay experience as positive and productive as possible. Our goal is to make this a positive and enjoyable cultural experience for both the international student and you as a family!

This **Host Parent Handbook** is designed to give you the information and advice you need to thrive in our program. We hope you enjoy hosting with RMISP and have a memorable experience with your student(s).

**NEW!** We are also offering online host parent support sessions featuring timely and relevant topics throughout this school year. The schedule is in the appendix of this handbook. We would love for you to join us in these sessions and win participation prizes!

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Thank you very much for welcoming our international students into your homes and into your families. We hope this will be a culturally enriching and rewarding experience for you, your family and your student. We have a great team of staff members in RMISP who are here to help you with any aspect of your hosting experience. Please feel free to contact us at any time. My sincere appreciation goes out to each of you and all that you do for our students. As parents and cultural ambassadors, you play a key role in ensuring that our students have a life-changing and unforgettable experience in Canada. We could not have a successful program without you!

Sincere regards,

Danielle Warren  
Director, International Education  
Rocky Mountain International Student Program

## GETTING READY

It's almost time for your student to arrive! Here are some things to think about and do beforehand:

- ✓ Ensure the **student's room** is ready (e.g. fully furnished, extra blankets available and perhaps a portable heater if the room is in the basement). Thoughtful touches such as some starter toiletries (shampoo/conditioner/soap) and a welcome card and snacks are always very appreciated.
- ✓ Have a **house key/key code** ready for your student on the first day
- ✓ Prepare a wallet-sized **contact list** for your student. Include your home address, as well as home, work and cell numbers. Include emergency numbers.
- ✓ Write or type your **household guidelines** and leave a copy in the student's room. You could include things like curfew, dinner time, household tasks, not having food in the bedroom, or asking permission to invite guests over. Include whatever is important to you. You can also



develop this list on the first day with your student, but putting it in writing is important and will help eliminate communication issues and misunderstandings.

- ✓ Do some **research** on your student's country to give insight into their culture and try to identify cultural differences. See "Cultural Differences" on page 15 for more information.
- ✓ Once your Homestay Coordinator indicates when your student will arrive, **connect** with your student via email/video calls or WhatsApp. This could help everyone learn a little more about each other's personalities, likes and dislikes, and expectations. And this will undoubtedly help make your first in-person meeting more natural and less awkward!

## STUDENT ARRIVAL

The day has finally come: your student arrives today! If this is your first time hosting, you're likely going to be as nervous as you are excited. If you have hosted before, it's still exciting! Regardless of how long your student is scheduled to be in Canada, the first few days can be crucial to the success of the placement. Set yourself and your student(s) up for success with the following strategies and actions:

- **Be available!** Greet your student at the airport and warmly welcome them. This is an expectation of hosting, and a crucial part of the welcome process.
- Being unavailable to your student upon arrival (e.g. away on holidays) will require placing the student in a temporary homestay. This can result in the student making a stronger initial connection with the temporary family and can make it difficult for the student to transition to their permanent home with you. It also can negatively impact the student's feelings of being part of your family for students.
- Give your student a comprehensive **tour of your home**. Be as direct and clear as you can about:
  - bathroom (e.g. shower curtains, what can be flushed down the toilet, bathroom schedule, etc.)
  - laundry facilities (let the student know if they will do the laundry or if you will. If they will, show them how to work the washer and dryer. If you will, show them where to put dirty laundry)
  - appliances (e.g. toaster, microwave, stove, etc.)
  - door locks, alarms, any cameras in the home
  - recycling practices
  - bedrooms (e.g. you can talk about privacy and knocking before entering)
  - common rooms (e.g. how to work the TV, sound system, etc.)
  - snacks and food that it is okay for them to eat anytime, and those that are reserved for meals, etc. Creating a snack basket of healthy foods they enjoy can make this conversation easier.
- Discuss **household guidelines** as soon as possible. See sample guidelines in the Appendix. Having an open and honest conversation will avoid confusion and miscommunication later. You may need to re-evaluate the guidelines over time to take into account the student's maturity, your family's needs, etc. As mentioned before, it might help to write/type out the guidelines for your student.
- Discuss your family's **schedule and routine**. You could include meal times, times you wake up and go to bed, and scheduled evening activities. Ask your student about their schedule and routine at home. Post a **calendar** in a visible place that includes both the family's and student's schedule.
- Promptly inform your student if there are any indoor or outdoor cameras or home monitoring devices in your home. These are not permitted in any bedrooms/bathrooms.

- Discuss how your student will **get around town**. Many students come from large cities where public transportation is readily available or it's too dangerous to walk to their destination. Talk about different means of getting around our small, safe towns (e.g. walking, biking, when you are available to drive, etc.). If your student will take the **school bus** to school, show him/her the bus stop and let him/her know the pick up/drop off times (see "Transportation" on page 9).
- Talk to your student about **food preferences and allergies**. It is a good idea to take your student grocery shopping with you so they can help choose foods. Show your student what they can make for breakfast, lunch and snacks. It could be helpful to make lunches the night before.
- Discuss **computer usage** and inform your student of your WiFi password. Please discuss time limits with electronics. Because of the time difference, some students stay up late to connect with their friends and families. For these students, suggest connecting with their family and friends on weekends, and let them know that they need to get to bed early on school nights.
- Ask your student if they need help setting up a **bank account**. Most students use debit/credit cards and don't need to open up a bank account.
- Ensure you have your student's phone number for their cell phone in Canada and discuss preferred methods of communication.

Finally and most importantly, be patient with yourself and your student! Be mindful of jetlag and be prepared to take things slowly as you get to know one another and get used to being part of the same family.

## INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR HOSTING

### COMMUNICATION

- Establish **open and honest communication** from the beginning. Try to address issues as they come up. Difficulties arise when a problem is left to grow.
- Realize that there are different communication styles. Some people may not be comfortable expressing feelings or talking about personal things – especially when you first meet.
- Typical Canadian communication is to make a suggestion or an indirect request – however many students come from cultures where they are spoken to very directly, and reminded often to do something, especially by their parents. Be as direct (but kind) as possible!
- Ask your students at the beginning of your time together how their parents talk with them, and ask them to do things such as chores, or household requests etc. This can help open up the conversation about communication styles before they become an issue.
- Although it might not feel natural at first, communicating directly, setting expectations and using clear language will help your student understand your expectations in your home.

### FITTING INTO THE FAMILY

- One of the most important things a host family can do for their student is to talk to them and include them as part of the family. Your student should feel welcome to join the family even if you are just watching television, playing games or just "hanging out".
- Most students and their natural parents have an expectation that families in Canada eat some meals together.
- In the first few weeks especially, it is important to spend more time together. Show your student(s) their community and area, and explicitly invite them to do things with you. Later on as they develop friendships with other students this will likely naturally subside somewhat.
- Do not assume that just because your student stays in their room that they are not interested in spending time with you! Quite often students are hoping to be asked to spend time with the family

but struggle to communicate this. Being a teen in a different culture away from parents and friends and speaking another language is stressful – please be caring and empathetic!

- Although most families and students hope that a strong bond will develop between them, it doesn't always happen. Sometimes it just doesn't work.

### **IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT**

Homestay Coordinators work hard to match students with the right family and most of the time the placements are very successful. If things don't seem perfect right away, remember that it takes time to settle in and adjust to the new relationship.

- Sometimes a host family and their student may feel uncomfortable with each other. If that should happen in your situation, please let the Homestay Coordinator know.
- The first step in dealing with such difficulties is for RMISP staff to talk with you and your student separately and then together to try to identify the problems and come up with appropriate and agreeable solutions. The goal of this mediation is to find harmony, improve communication, and mend the relationship.
- If that truly isn't possible, the Homestay Coordinator will do their best to find a new home for the student, but please be advised that it is not always immediate.
- Unless it is truly a serious emergency/concern, students will not be moved out of a home immediately or without going through the program's mediation process.

### **WHO PAYS FOR WHAT**

- Host families are responsible for covering expenses such as nutritious meals, snacks, and beverages; gas and utilities.
- Students are responsible to cover certain expenses such as toiletries, medication, cell phone, extra-curricular activities such as Outdoor Ed, sports teams, choir/band, field trips, winter clothing, ski resort passes, ski/snowboard gear, and "junk food" (such as pop, candy, etc.).
- If host families invite their student(s) out to a restaurant, movie, or event such as a hockey game, host families are expected to cover that expense. If the activity includes a big-ticket item (e.g. Lady Gaga concert, NHL game, etc.), students should be informed that if they wish to be included, they will need to pay for their own ticket.
- If your family goes on a trip, it is reasonable to expect the student to pay for their own airfare and hotel room (if student gets a private hotel room). Meals and shared accommodation do need to be covered by the host family.
- Do not lend your student cash, nor put things on your credit card for them.
- Think very carefully about lending your student bicycles, sports equipment or personal items. They may not come back to you in the same condition or as you expect, so this is not recommended.

### **CHORES**

- During orientation, students are informed that Canadian children/teens are expected to do chores on a regular basis. They can be expected to do reasonable and regular chores such as washing dishes, tidying their room, doing their laundry, taking out the garbage or shoveling the walkway when it snows.
- Most international students come from families who have house cleaners, so these students may need more instruction on how to do the chores you assign. They may also need reminders; for example, sticky notes with reminders placed strategically around the home can help!



- Just as with other teenagers, expecting your student to independently recognize things that need to be done around the house can result in unmet expectations and frustration. Communicate clearly what you would like done, and within what timeline.

### **SLEEPOVERS AND EMERGENCY/TEMPORARY COVERAGE CARE**

- Students may sleep over at friends' homes within the local community with the permission of their host parents for a maximum of two nights. Sleepovers of more than two nights' duration require Homestay Coordinator approval. **Please call the parents of the sleepover home in advance to confirm arrangements and ensure a responsible adult aged 25+ will be present.**
- Students of different genders may not sleep over at one another's homes under any circumstance. If you are hosting a student who is/identifies as LGBTQI2S+ and is looking for clarity, please consult your Homestay Coordinator to discuss options privately.
- Students may never be left in your home alone overnight regardless of age or any other factors. If you must be away and need emergency/temporary care for your student, your Homestay Coordinator must be informed in advance, and will assist with setting it up. All overnight caregivers, no matter the duration of care, must have submitted a clear vulnerable sector criminal record check to the program in advance. The flat nightly rate (see the Host Family Contract) will be deducted from your monthly reimbursement to compensate the family providing coverage for you.

### **ENGLISH-ONLY POLICY**

- Students are expected to speak English when in the presence of host family members and their guests; if they do not, please remind them! Similarly, host family members are expected to speak English in the presence of their student at all times.

### **CURFEWS**

- As a general rule, students in Grades 10 – 12 (15 years and older) should be home by 10:00 PM on weeknights and 12:00 AM on weekends unless an earlier curfew is requested by the natural parents. Students in Grades 7 – 9 (12 – 14 years old) should be home by 8:00 PM on weeknights and 10:00 PM on weekends unless an earlier curfew is requested by the natural parents.
- Host parents may at their discretion approve a later curfew for a specific event or activity provided it is being chaperoned by a responsible adult.

### **STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS**

- International students are permitted to enter into romantic relationships with other students, but they are not permitted to do so with non-students (e.g. a 20-year-old ski resort employee) or engage in **any** sexual relationships or sexual activities while in the program.
- Students in dating and/or casual romantic relationships are not allowed to visit each other's homes unless a parent is present.
- Students must inform their Homestay Coordinator about their relationship.
- Students must follow the boundaries set by their host family for expected behaviour in the home (e.g. open bedroom door policy, required to remain in public areas of the home, etc.).
- Students must follow the school's non-PDA policy (Public Display of Affection) (includes RMISP trips).
- Canada has age-of-consent laws that are relevant to international students. It is important to know the age of your student and what the legal age of the person they are in a relationship with can be. See the 'Dating and Relationships' graphic in the Appendix for more information.
- Students who do not abide by these program rules will be immediately dismissed from the program.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Host parents are responsible for making a reasonable number of trips to drive their students; this is especially important for families who live out-of-town, rurally or in areas without public transportation. We ask that as caring hosts you consider student safety, weather conditions, distance and reasonableness of requests for rides.
- If you aren't able to give your student a ride when they call at the last minute, talk to your student about planning ahead to get a ride the evening before or earlier in the day.
- Students are not allowed to drive or undertake the process of qualifying to drive. Students are not allowed to purchase or rent a vehicle. This includes cars, motorbikes, dirt bikes, ATVs, or snowmobiles. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- Students are not permitted to hitchhike under any circumstances.
- Students are not allowed to drive with someone who has an 'L' license unless that person is a member of their host family.
- If the driver has an 'N' license, no adult supervisor is required but only 1 non- family passenger is allowed (international host siblings do not count as family members) unless the driver is accompanied by a supervisor aged 25 or older.
- There are restrictions as to how far a student is allowed to go with an N driver. Your Homestay Coordinator will provide this information.



## ATTENDANCE AND SCHOOL WORK

- Please set expectations for your student about getting up in the morning with an alarm and going to bed at a reasonable time at night. If a student is sick or will be away, the host parent must contact the school or the student will have an 'Unexcused Absence' on their report card.
- If attendance and/or arriving to school late is becoming problematic for the student, the host parents must inform the Homestay Coordinator so that the coordinator can discuss this issue with the student and notify their agent/natural family. Program Coordinators will be checking student attendance once a month.
- Check in regularly with your student to ensure they are doing their homework and ask if they are having trouble with any courses. If your student is having issues, contact your Homestay Coordinator so that issues can be dealt with promptly.
- Many students come from cultures where children and teens are not expected to be as independent as in Canada. Additionally, the BC educational system is very different from other parts of the world. Particularly in the beginning, it is important as a Host Parent to check in with students to see how they are managing with executive functioning: completing assignments, handing in projects, scheduling enough time for homework, and asking teachers for help.



International students will have weekly meetings with their Homestay Coordinator and will complete surveys about school life, social life and homestay experience. These regular meetings and surveys help us to determine if things are going well or if extra support is needed.

## TRAVEL

Our region of British Columbia is an amazing place to live and being part of your family is a special opportunity for your international student to see and experience it. Travel with your international student is encouraged and supported by RMISP. To facilitate trips with your student, you need to be aware of the following:

NO need to inform your Homestay Coordinator for:

- **Day trips** with the host family that are within 500 km of your community and in Canada.

INFORM your Homestay Coordinator when:

- A trip with your host family exceeds 500 km in distance within Canada and/or involves overnight stays.

PROGRAM AND/OR NATURAL PARENT PERMISSION FOR:

- Unaccompanied trips (student travelling alone) or trips taken with someone other than a host parent or a program/school staff member. Rules and restrictions will apply on whom students may travel with.
- International trips, including trips to the US. Please notify your Homestay Coordinator a minimum of a week in advance. Natural parent permission and supporting documentation will be required. Trips involving travel to/through the USA may require you to register online with the Department of Homeland Security before travelling. This process can take up to 72 hours. More information:



<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

\*\*International students traveling to the USA will be issued an I-94 Arrival/Departure record (cost is US\$ 6). An I-94 can be valid for three or six months depending on the student's nationality and US visa issued in the home country. For more information, here's the link:

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94> **NOTE: In addition to requiring an I-94, some students (e.g. Mexico, China) also require a US travel visa. This must be processed in advance and cannot be obtained at the border.**

When notifying your Homestay Coordinator of any upcoming trip, you must give a **minimum of 5 business days**. You can provide the following information to them via email, contact them directly, or complete the Trip Request Form on the following link: <https://www.rminternational.ca/current-students> . Include:

- Full name
- Destination as well as the address and phone number of the accommodation
- Name, number, and email of chaperone
- Mode of transportation and flight numbers if applicable
- Departure and return dates
- Reason for trip (e.g. hockey tournament for host family sibling)
- Trip details (itinerary: e.g. watch hockey games, visit museum, go ziplining, etc.)

Prior to departing for any trip requiring an overnight stay and/or other additional arrangements/costs, please discuss the trip with your student to ensure there are no misunderstandings. **Important:** Remind your student to take their medical insurance cards on all trips, both domestic and international.

\*\*\* Any plans or requests for mid-year student travel for the winter break or spring break and/or transportation to airports etc. must be directed to your Homestay Coordinator. These plans require program and natural parent permission, coordination, additional costs/fees and will be arranged by the educational agent and RMISP staff. You will be contacted to determine if you are able to assist with transportation to the airport, if the student is flying.

## HIGH-RISK ACTIVITIES

### Appropriate equipment:

International students must wear the appropriate equipment for all activities. This includes but is not limited to life jackets for canoeing and other boating and helmets for skiing, ice skating, skateboarding, and cycling. **Note: wearing a bicycle helmet is the law in B.C. and students can be fined for not wearing one.**

### Waivers:

As part of the application process, your student's natural parents would have completed a high-risk waiver form, which may (or may not) allow them to engage in certain high-risk activities with host parents or other responsible adult age 25 or older.

Natural parents will need to sign an additional waiver if a company is providing the activity (e.g. trampoline park operator) or if RMISP staff feel that the activity is very high risk. Please ensure that your student communicates with their natural parents when participating in an approved high-risk activity. Talk to your Homestay Coordinator about these activities as far in advance as possible. Host parents are **NOT** legal guardians, so you cannot legally sign these waivers.

### High-risk activities that do and don't require ADDITIONAL natural parent consent:

High-risk activities requiring additional natural parent consent	Activities NOT requiring additional natural parent consent
Backpacking (back-country hiking/camping)	Easy mountain biking within communities
Waterskiing / wakeboarding / tubing / kneeboarding / seadooring (all with lifejacket)	Camping
Indoor / outdoor rock climbing	Daytime, front-country hiking
Cliff jumping	Swimming
Motorized dirt biking/quadding (ATVs)/ snowmobiling (students cannot drive motorized vehicles of any kind)	Kayaking (if on flat/still water with lifejacket) Canoeing (with lifejacket)
Horseback riding	Skateboarding/longboarding
Hunting (students are not allowed to fire a gun and can only go with adults who hold a valid hunting license)	Ice skating/hockey
Target shooting only at designated range	In-bounds skiing/snowboarding – parents have already signed the RMISP Ski and Snowboard Contract
White water rafting (with life jacket)	
Trampoline park / ziplining / high-ropes park	
Downhill mountain biking at ski resorts/difficult areas	

### Hiking Guidelines:

1. Students are not permitted to go hiking alone or on overnight hiking trips without host parents.
2. Students are permitted to go on easy to moderate day hikes up to 12 km round trip (6 km one way) with host parents or responsible adult (25 years and older) who must be well known to the program or host parent (no strangers or adults the student just met). Host parents cannot sign off on 'random adults' taking students anywhere. Host parents must get the cell phone number, full name and address of the person taking a student on a hike/trip.

3. Students are permitted to go on easy to moderate trails up to 7 km with friends, but they must give their host parents a safety plan for approval **in advance** no matter the distance or duration. The safety plan must include the following details:
  1. Date and time of departure and arrival
  2. Location of the trail and difficulty rating
  3. The name of the person/people accompanying you
  4. Forecast of the weather
  5. Cell phone service
  6. Appropriate footwear and clothing
  7. List of what you're bringing – food/water, emergency supplies, plan for emergency/injury, bear spray can only be carried/used by an adult
4. Any difficult hike must have natural parent approval also in advance and meet all the above criteria.
5. No hikes will be approved in deep backcountry, with snow on the ground; in avalanche risk areas; or areas with significant bear warnings/population. Hard/difficult hikes will only be approved if host parent/adult has significant trail and navigational experience.

Fitness levels, time of year, weather conditions and elevation can change the rating level of any trail for a user. This should be kept in mind.

## STUDENT HEALTH AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

### STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

*Upon arrival, find out if your student has any new health concerns*

Find out if your student has developed any new physical or mental health concerns or dietary restrictions since completing the initial program application. If so, please advise your Homestay Coordinator immediately.

*What to do if your student is injured or sick?*

If your student is injured/sick or you are worried about your student's physical, mental, or emotional well-being, inform your Homestay Coordinator right away.

Host Families are expected to assist their students with emergency trips to the doctor/dentist/medical professionals, and to take them to local appointments as needed. Please contact your Homestay Coordinator for clarification or questions.

#### **Important note:**

\* All visits to the hospital or doctor's office, **must be reported to your Homestay Coordinator.**

### MEDICAL INSURANCE

All RMISP students receive medical coverage through **Study Insured™**.

**studyinsured™**

More information about the Comprehensive+ Plan and the

StudyInsured™ processes for getting medical care and submitting a claim can be found

here: [STUDYINSURED](https://www.studyinsured.com) . Through StudyInsured™, all students will have access to Virtual Health Care where they can access a licensed doctor over video chat, and also the Stay Health at School program which offers 24/7 mental health support.

**Important Notes:** Pre-existing conditions and certain high risk activities are NOT covered by private



medical insurance. Additionally, serious illness and injuries (hospitalization, surgery of any kind, MRI/CT scans, emergency care outside Canada) MUST be reported to StudyInsured™ Assistance within 48 hours, otherwise eligible benefits may not be fully paid. Contact your Homestay Coordinator right away and they or your host family will help assist you.

Massage, physiotherapy, chiropractor and other para-medical service benefits will only be paid if there is an official doctor referral in advance of any visit.

Students who are eligible for BC's Medical Service Plan (MSP) will be enrolled by RMISP staff. More information on MSP coverage can be found here: [MSP](#)

#### **YOUR STUDENT'S MEDICAL CARD:**

- Students will receive a Study Insured medical card via email, and a print out from their Homestay Coordinator. If they are eligible for MSP, they will also receive a BC Services Card three months after arrival to Canada.
- **STUDENTS MUST ALWAYS SHOW THEIR CARD(S) AND PASSPORT FOR IDENTIFICATION WHEN THEY GO TO THE CLINIC or HOSPITAL SO THAT THE MEDICAL STAFF CAN BILL DIRECTLY TO INSURANCE,** otherwise they will need to pay the bill with their own money and submit a claim later (which can be very expensive). Students who have a study permit must also show a copy.

#### **HOMESICKNESS AND CULTURE SHOCK**



Learning about homesickness and culture shock can help your student to cope with these potential challenges when moving to a new country. The following information may help you to understand what your student is going through and what you can do to help.

**HOMESICKNESS** is the stress caused by separating from home, family and friends. Moving to a new culture with unfamiliar people, language and different customs can make students feel like they don't belong, and in more serious cases, can lead to anxiety or depression. Not everyone will experience significant negative effects of homesickness.

*Possible symptoms:* staying in their room, loss of appetite; sleepiness; stomach issues; headaches; persistent negative thoughts about new environment; feeling anxious and lonely; difficulty concentrating; feeling overwhelmed or easily frustrated; depressive symptoms such as being self-critical, spending less time with friends, or putting less effort into school

**CULTURE SHOCK** is the stress caused by adapting to a new culture and environment. Moving to a different country can have many challenges for students; for example: new school and teaching methods; living away from home; new food, climate, and language; new friends and support systems.

There are 4 stages of culture shock that affect everyone differently. Everyone who is adapting to a new culture will experience some level of culture shock:

1. **Honeymoon stage:** Shortly after students arrive in Canada, everything is new and different, but it's also wonderful and interesting! This stage can last anywhere from a week to a month or more.



2. **Distress stage:** Cultural differences that students found interesting earlier in their stay can become taxing. They may feel confused, isolated, and/or overwhelmed during this stage. This stage can be exhausting, particularly if learning English is proving a challenge as well.



3. **Transition stage:** This is the stage where life gradually starts to get better and routine sets in. Students may still experience some difficulties at this stage, but they can handle them more.



4. **Integration stage:** Students now feel confident and relaxed in the community, at school, and at home. They've gained a strong sense of belonging and feel at home in their new environment.



**Current research** shows that homesickness and culture shock are most intense when students first arrive. For many students, homesickness goes away in a few weeks. Culture shock, however, may continue for months or longer. It can be re-triggered at holidays or if a family member is unwell.



Good news - there are strategies for dealing with homesickness and culture shock!

## STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH HOMESICKNESS AND CULTURE SHOCK

You can support and assist your student as they acclimates to life in Canada and with your family. Here are some tips:

- Talk to your student about how they feel – listen and ask questions. Remind him/her that it's normal to feel homesickness and culture shock. Talk about the stages and ways they can deal with it. If you feel your student needs extra help, call your Homestay Coordinator. School counsellors are also available for those students who require more counseling. Our staff will also communicate with the educational agent back in the home country so they are aware and can provide support from that side.
- Encourage your student to spend time with you, outside of their bedroom. Having meals together or doing activities together as a family can help students adapt.
- Encourage your student to get involved at school or in the community and to stay active. This can be a great way to make new friends, to introduce the student to the new environment, and to increase physical/mental health. You can show them how to access communities centres, courses and activities that are available for teens in your community.
- Speak slowly, clearly and without using slang. Sometimes writing things down can be helpful. You may have to repeat things several times. In some cultures it is impolite to admit you don't understand what a person is saying, so to ensure your student understood what you said, ask your student to repeat what you just said.
- Talk to your student about their culture and perhaps play a game or cook a meal together from their country.

**Here are some helpful tips you can share with your student:**

- Be open minded. Don't judge and try not to compare. Canada is different from your home country. That's one of the reasons you chose it for your study-abroad experience! Challenge yourself to learn about different ways of doing things; don't dismiss them as wrong or inferior.
- Get involved. Participate in school clubs and/or sports teams and, if possible, become active in the community.
- Practice gratitude and self care. Reflect daily on the interesting things you have learned, and what you are grateful for both at home and in Canada. Spend some time each day doing something that helps you relax, enjoy, and find happiness.
- Be patient. Give yourself time to adapt to your new surroundings and to make new friends. Don't put pressure on yourself; it takes time to adjust.
- Stay healthy. Eat foods that are good for you and make you feel good. Get enough sleep at night. Consider taking a vitamin supplement. Don't wait too long to visit a clinic if you are feeling ill.
- Keep active! Feeling good physically will help you to feel good mentally. Make physical activity part of your daily routine and/or your school timetable.
- Relax. Make sure your day includes time set aside for mental rest. Studying, speaking English, and navigating the day-to-day realities of a new country and culture require a lot of energy. Spend some "down time" each day listening to music, spending time in nature, or reading a book in your first language.
- Manage your connections to home and screen time. Keeping in touch with family and friends is vital and can be of valuable support during your overseas stay. Too much contact, however, can be counterproductive. Keep in touch but not at the expense of making new friends, participating in activities, and/or keeping up with your studies.
- Ask for help. You are not alone in RMISP. If you are feeling sad, lonely, or frustrated, talk to your host family, Homestay Coordinator or a staff member at your host school.



Most important of all: remember why you came to Canada! It is supposed to be different and challenging. If Canada were the same as your home country, there would be no reason to live and learn in British Columbia!

## **CULTURAL DIFFERENCES**

Students come from different countries that have different perspectives on what a family is and looks like, politeness/respect, personal space, table manners, health, cleanliness, how to use the bathroom, greeting people, communicating with people, getting rides around town, household chores, and when and what they eat.

Research the customs from your student's country and talk about these differences with your student. Ask them what they notice is different in Canada, and help them to recognize that this is their perception

now, but could change as they spend more time here, and adapt to the culture. Do your best and encourage your student to talk about differences neutrally and without judgment. Things are not “better” or “worse” but just different.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

RMISP requires that host parents review and support the enforcement of the International Student Program Legal Agreement. Breaches of the agreement must be immediately reported to the Homestay Coordinator. The Agreement can be found [online](#) and in the Appendix. The reason these rules exist is for student safety. The Program acts as a “custodian” for over 150 students. Because we are not the natural parents, we require a higher threshold for what we consider to be safe activities for all students.

**Note:** while it can feel like a betrayal to report your student, rest assured that it is in the student’s best interest and that RMISP staff will be both fair and understanding. The program works with students, host parents, natural parents, and agents to mediate between parties to help students learn from their mistakes as much as possible.

Students must follow all of the rules contained in the International Student Legal Agreement, Student Handbook, their school’s code of conduct, School District 6, and the laws of Canada and BC. While RMISP does offer students opportunities for growth and learning in its discipline process, violations of certain rules will automatically result in the student being dismissed from the Program (examples include but are not limited to: sexual activities/relationships, any underage drinking, use of drugs and/or tobacco/vaping products, shoplifting, reckless/unsafe behavior towards themselves or others, and repeated offences).

**Important:** The Rocky Mountain International Student Program reserves the right to move students without notice if a Homestay Coordinator or the Director of International Education believes the student’s safety and/or security is at risk. Students may also be moved (on short notice or otherwise) in cases of family emergencies and other extenuating circumstances as deemed necessary by a Homestay Coordinator or the Director of International Education. Temporary placements may be required until more permanent situations can be arranged. In such cases, Host Families will no longer be compensated for hosting that student once they have left the home.

## PROGRAM COMMUNICATION

We would like to know how you are doing and if you have any suggestions for us! RMISP values your feedback and it is our goal to keep communications with our families open, positive and supportive.

- Host families are requested to complete an online survey about their hosting experience twice throughout the school year. This is a great way to determine if things are going well or if extra support is needed.
- If you have any questions or issues at any time throughout the year, you can contact your Homestay Coordinator, Program Coordinator, or the Director of International Education by email or phone. Please make phone calls during standard office hours. If it is an emergency, then call at any time!
- No news is good news! If you have any questions, concerns or issues – PLEASE reach out to our staff. We cannot assist you unless we are aware of the challenges and frustrations you are facing.
- Keep up to date with RMISP on Facebook and Instagram. Join the Rocky Mountain International Student Program group or one of the sub-groups for your community’s homestay program (if available).

## RMISP ACTIVITIES

RMISP's Included Program Activity Schedule was created to introduce students to new cultural and recreational experiences like skiing, curling and canoeing etc. Every month, RMISP provides an activity at no extra charge. These activities are a great way for students to explore what our region has to offer. Some of the activities are overnight excursions, which include trips to bigger cities in Canada.

Dates are confirmed as activity and event bookings are made. For a general, month-by-month guide, see the Included Program Activities Schedule in the Appendix. Please also refer to the Important Dates Guide for a high-level view of deadlines for the current school year. Your Homestay Coordinator will update you as well.

***Thank you*** for hosting with RMISP! We look forward to working with you to make your homestay experience as positive and productive as possible.

If you still have questions after reading this handbook, please talk to your Homestay Coordinator or any of our staff.



# APPENDIX

Sample House Guidelines

Dating and Relationships – Age of Consent Information

Host Family Support/Virtual Discussion Sessions

A Guide to Feeding International Students

Travel Permission Information Sheet

Important Dates and Designated Airports

Included Program Activities

Homestay Family Contract

International Student Legal Agreement

Ski and Snowboard Contract



# SAMPLE House Guidelines

## House Information

Address:

Home Phone:

Host Mom's Cell:

Host Dad's Cell:

Wifi Network: Password:

Front door lock code:

Garage door lock code:

## House Maintenance, Good Habits and Great Practice

1. Making Plans
  - If you are not going to be home for dinner, tell us in the morning, if possible.
  - Let us know what your plans are after school or on weekends (where you are going, when you will be home). When plans change, call or text us.
  - If you will need a ride, please let us know as soon as possible.
2. Clean up after yourself – especially in shared spaces such as the bathroom, kitchen, living room. Rinse your dishes and put them into the dishwasher after you use them.
3. If something breaks, please let us know as soon as possible.
4. Turn off lights when you leave a room. Lock the door when you leave the house.
5. Friends are welcome when a host parent is home.
  - Let us know in advance, if possible.
  - Ask your guests to follow the house guidelines.
  - When in your bedroom, doors must stay open.
6. Food
  - Keep food in the kitchen/dining room. Do not eat or store food in your bedroom.
  - Water in bedrooms is OK.
  - Leave a note when you finish something (for example, milk, bread, snacks).
  - Make your own breakfast, snacks and lunches.
  - Clean out your lunch bag when you get home from school.

## 7. Dinner

- Please try to eat dinner with us daily.
- We usually eat around 6:00pm.
- If you are around, help set the table with dishes, glasses, silverware.
- Stay at the table until everyone is finished. No phones at the table.
- After dinner, everyone helps with clean up:
  - i. Clear the table
  - ii. Wash table, stove, countertops
  - iii. Put leftover food away
  - iv. Rinse plates and load the dishwasher
  - v. Wash, dry and put away pots and pans

## 8. Laundry

- Try to do full loads of laundry (the machines should not run with only 2-3 pieces of clothing). If you don't have a full load, ask to add your clothes to our laundry.
- When washer and dryer cycles are done, please remove clothes right away.

## 9. Chores

- Your bathroom - clean **every other week** (alternate with host brother)
  - i. Wash the sink
  - ii. Wash the tub and shower
  - iii. Scrub the toilet
  - iv. Wash the floor
  - v. Change the towels
- Bedroom
  - i. Keep wet towels and clothes off the floor (**daily**)
  - ii. Take out garbage (as needed)
  - iii. Wash your sheets and pillowcases (at least every two weeks)
  - iv. Vacuum the floor (at least every two weeks)
  - v. Dust the furniture (as needed)
- As needed, please help with shoveling snow, unloading groceries from the car, etc.

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN CANADA

The experience of a lifetime

## DATING AND RELATIONSHIPS IN CANADA



### Who can international students date?

The “age of consent” in Canada is 16 years. International students aged 14 or older may date other high-school or middle-school students who are within 5 years of their own age and who are enrolled in school. Students aged 12 or 13 may date someone up to 2 years older. **IMPORTANT:** the Criminal Code definition of sex includes all forms of sexual touching ranging from kissing to intercourse.

#### STUDENT’S AGE: BOY/GIRLFRIEND CAN BE:

19 years old	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
18 years old	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
17 years old	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
16 years old	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
15 years old	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
14 years old	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
13 years old	12, 13, 14, 15
12 years old	12, 13, 14

#### EXAMPLES:

Her birthdate: June 1, 2011  
His birthdate: October 1, 2009  
Age difference: 1 year, 8 months  
Status: **OKAY**

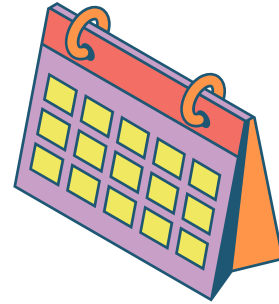
Her birthdate: June 1, 2011  
His birthdate: May 1, 2009  
Age difference: 2 years, 1 month  
Status: **ILLEGAL**

Why are some numbers **red**? Because two years = exactly 730 days! It may be okay for a Grade 10 boy born in October to date a Grade 8 girl born in June, but it is not okay for a Grade 10 boy born in May.

# CONFUSED?

Talk to your Homestay Coordinator!

# Host Parent Discussions



**2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

**SEP  
19**

**WELCOMING, PARENTING  
AND CONNECTING WITH  
YOUR STUDENT**

**NOV  
06**

**IS THE HONEYMOON  
PHASE OVER? TIPS FOR  
THE SHOULDER SEASON**

**FEB  
04**

**GO-TO MEALS AND  
CONNECTING CULTURES  
WITH FOOD**

**APR  
09**

**AVOIDING HOST PARENT  
BURNOUT AND FINISHING  
THE YEAR STRONG**



All sessions take place online in the evening. Invitations with time and link will be sent out before each event.



# WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

*A guide to feeding international students and establishing food boundaries*

Providing healthy, affordable and satisfying meals for international students can be one of the biggest challenges of hosting. These suggestions may help!



## Involving your student

- When they arrive, bring students shopping and discuss food options and preferences.
- Discuss family rules and expectations around food (e.g. eating meals together, limits on junk food, try a bite of everything).
- Explain your reasons for limiting certain foods (family preferences/allergies, cost, convenience, sustainability, health, etc.).
- Check in with students throughout their stay to see if preferences have changed.



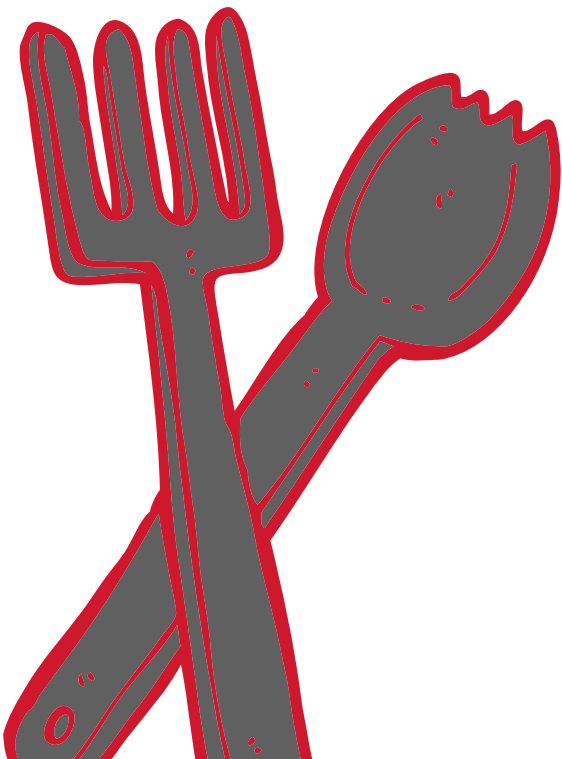
## Establishing food boundaries

- Designate shelves in the fridge and pantry for food that students have free access to, separate from ingredients you are saving for meals. This helps students find things to snack on and to prepare their own breakfasts and lunches. Alternately, designate one shelf that is "off limits" and allow students to help themselves to everything else.
- Serve food plated rather than family style to manage portion size.
- Notify your students when you have plans for leftovers (e.g. son needs to eat after basketball practice, saving for tomorrow).



## Accommodating picky eaters

- Remind students that homestay meals are an opportunity to grow and try new things.
- Offer something "familiar" to go along with meals they don't love - rice, bread, apple slices... (*something you know they like*).
- Invite students to help with the meal planning and/or meal preparation so they feel a sense of ownership.
- Do your best, but don't expect to change lifelong bad habits overnight (if at all).



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**  
International Student Program

# TIPS TO STRETCH YOUR FOOD BUDGET



Increase volume of side dishes (rice, mashed potatoes, pasta) when serving with meat



Homemade soups are a filling and healthy option for dinner or an after-school snack



Buy fruits and vegetables that are in season



Choose generic instead of name-brand foods



Buy muffins and bread on sale and freeze for later use



Serve water with dinner and keep juice for breakfast only



Once students have adjusted to Canadian meal times, close your kitchen at 9 PM - they don't need to prepare late-night meals

Find recipes and snack ideas at the Canada Food Guide website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/food-guide-teens.html>

## EXPECTATIONS FOR ...

## STUDENTS

## HOST PARENTS

### SHOPPING

Students should inform host parents when they use the last of something or when they have a special request for food.

Host parents do not need to make emergency shopping trips. Replace finished items or special requests on your next planned shopping trip.

### SNACKS

Students may purchase their own junk food, if junk food is not a part of the family's normal shopping.

Host parents should try to accommodate reasonable requests (a bag of chips, a box of granola bars, etc).

### MEAL PREP

Students can make their own breakfasts and pack their own lunches in order to reduce food waste.

Encourage students to get involved in meal prep to increase their interest and to find out what foods they like and dislike.

### SPECIAL DIETS

Students are expected to disclose any special dietary requirements prior to their arrival in Canada.

If your student requires a special diet that is difficult to accommodate, inform your homestay coordinator.

### DINING OUT

When students dine out often with friends, it can be disruptive to meal planning. Students must respect host parents' rules around eating with the family/missing meals.

When dining out as a family, host parents pay for student meals. Set limits before ordering (e.g. choose an appetizer or an entree, not both).

### TRAVEL

Students pay for their own meals when on a school or program trip. Host parents are not required to provide money for these meals.

Host parents must pay for meals while on a family trip. It's okay to ask students to pay for their own airfare or hotel room, but not meals.



8676 Highway 95A  
Kimberley, BC V1A 3M3 Canada  
t: 250 427-2245  
e: [info@rminternational.ca](mailto:info@rminternational.ca)  
[rminternational.ca](http://rminternational.ca)

## TRAVEL PERMISSION INFO SHEET

Give your Homestay Coordinator the following information at least one week in advance of your trip.

Use of this form is not mandatory. You can fill in this form or type the information into an email.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chaperone Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to chaperone: \_\_\_\_\_

Chaperone phone (mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

Chaperone email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mode of transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight numbers if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for trip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Trip details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will you be missing school? Yes | No (circle)

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

### RMISP 2024-25 IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

May 31	Payment deadline for September arrivals
<b>Semester 1</b>	
August 30-September 1	Mandatory arrival dates
September 3	School orientation / welcome activities
September 4	First day of school for RMISP students
September 7	Program orientation
November 15	Deadline to submit extension requests for second semester <i>(extension approvals will be confirmed after mid-semester report cards / no later than November 30)</i>
November 30	Payment deadline for January arrivals
December 23 – January 3	Winter Break <i>*may vary by community</i>
January 6	First day of classes after Winter Break
January 24	End of first semester
January 25 – 26	Mandatory mid – year departures
<b>Semester 2</b>	
January 25 –26	Mandatory semester 2 arrivals
January 27	First day of second semester / orientation day for new students
March 17-28	Spring Break <i>*may vary by community</i>
May 15	June departure flight information due. <i>* all students must depart by June 29, 2024</i>
June 26	Last day of school
June 27-29	Mandatory departure dates

### DESIGNATED BC AIRPORTS

Cranbrook, Fernie, Sparwood, Kimberley, Invermere, Golden	Canadian Rockies International Airport (YXC – Cranbrook) or Calgary***
Revelstoke	Kelowna International Airport (YLW – Kelowna)

*Airport transfer at start/end of program to/from the designated BC airport is included in fees. Transport at any other time such as Winter Break or Spring Break etc. to/from a BC airport will incur an additional fee of \$150 each way.*

*With the exception of the Calgary Airport Shuttle offered on the specific dates/times listed below, no airport transfer by staff or host families to/from Calgary (YYC) is permitted for any community or any purpose due to legal/insurance reasons. Students are not permitted to arrange private transfers or travel alone.*

**\*\*\*OPTIONAL Calgary Airport Shuttle Dates – only available on the following dates/times, must be pre-booked with RMISP staff, and \$150 additional fee for each way paid in advance**

Friday, August 30, 2024 (Arrivals before 17:00)

Saturday, January 25, 2025 (Departures after 15:00 / Arrivals before 17:00)

Friday, June 27, 2025 (Departures after 15:00)





# Included Program Activities

## Semester One

### September Welcome Activity

River rafting, scenic river float or canoeing



### October Overnight Trip

Overnight trip to Calgary and Banff/Lake Louise



### November Curling Activity

Learn to curl! Instruction, gear and snacks provided

### December Ski & Snowboard Day

Hit the slopes for a day of skiing or snowboarding  
Includes lesson, rental, lift ticket

### January Winter Sport Activity

Cross-country skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing or other local activity

## Semester Two

### February Ski & Snowboard Day

Skiing or snowboarding at a nearby resort  
Includes lesson, rental, lift ticket



### March Hot Springs Trip

Enjoy a swim at nearby hot springs

### April Overnight Trip

Visit a national park or historic site and city highlights

### May Adventure Activity

A day of fun at Golden Skybridge, home to Canada's highest suspension bridges

### June Farewell Events

End-of-year celebrations in every community



## Optional Spring Break Trip

Five-day, four-night BC tour, including three days of sightseeing in Vancouver. Additional fee applies.

Activities and trips may vary and are subject to change due to weather/road conditions or other circumstances beyond our control.

2024-25





8676 Highway 95A  
Kimberley, BC V1A 3M3 Canada  
t: 250 427-2245  
e: info@rminternational.ca  
rminternational.ca

## HOMESTAY FAMILY CONTRACT – 2024-25

This annual contract is an agreement made solely between School District No.6 (Rocky Mountain) and the Host Family. It must be completed in full and signed **by each Host Parent**. Please return completed contract with all requested supporting documents to [rminternational@sd6.bc.ca](mailto:rminternational@sd6.bc.ca) or your RMISP Homestay Coordinator.

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Landline: \_\_\_\_\_

HOST PARENT #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
Full legal name as it appears on your driver's license/passport

D.O.B: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Workplace: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Month Year

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

HOST PARENT #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
Full legal name as it appears on your driver's license/passport

D.O.B: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Workplace: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Month Year

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional individuals living in the home, regular visitors, or guests of more than 2 weeks (all require Criminal Record Checks-including Vulnerable Sector if age 18+):

Full Name	Relationship (Children, adult children, significant other, friends, relatives, tenants, other)	Birthdate	Details on if living in the home, away at school or visiting regularly etc.

Host Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #1 Parent #2



## ANNUAL RMISP HOMESTAY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) All Rocky Mountain International Student Program (RMISP) Host Parents must carefully read, personally complete, and submit this contract and all required supplemental documentation to RMISP. Host Parents must submit all documentation by set deadlines and well prior to the student's arrival to Canada or they will not be permitted to host. If documentation expires mid-year and is not renewed upon request and in a timely manner, Host Pay will not be remitted until the situation is resolved.
- 2) Host Parents agree to promptly inform RMISP of any changes to their home, family composition, pets, employment status, or other aspects of their personal life as originally detailed in your initial application.
- 3) Host Parents must agree to review the British Columbia K-12 International Student Homestay Guidelines, Host Parent Handbook and the International Student Program Legal Agreement and Student Handbook. A copy of all guidelines is available on the RMISP website and will be provided at the mandatory annual homestay orientation. Host Parent(s) agree to inform RMISP in cases where hosting cannot be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines.
- 4) Host Parents agree that the premises will be open to inspection on demand within 24 hours' notice or, in the case of emergency, immediately. Host Parents (one or both) must accept periodic in-home visits (at least one per year) and attend scheduled meetings with the Homestay Coordinator to evaluate the ongoing success of the placement and to address any issues that may have arisen.
- 5) All Host Parents are required to attend the annual Host Family orientation which includes the BC Provincial Guidelines for Child Abuse Reporting Protocol.

## RMISP HOMESTAY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following terms and conditions must be acknowledged and accepted by the Host Parents:

- 1) Host Parents agree to fully and unreservedly support the terms and conditions of the International Student Program Legal Agreement, RMISP rules, procedures and disciplinary processes. Host Parents must immediately report any student transgressions to program staff. In cases of issues or miscommunication with students and families, the RMISP process is to meet (virtual, phone call or face to face) both independently and together with the student and Host Family. Host Families are expected to participate with the RMISP mediation process to try and alleviate any issues, and moving students to other homes is regarded as a last resort.
- 2) The Director of International Education is the student's legal custodian in Canada. Host Parents acknowledge that they are not the natural parent(s), custodian nor employees of School District 6 (Rocky Mountain) when acting in their role as Host Parents. Custodianship cannot be transferred from RMISP to a Host Parent or other individual.
- 3) RMISP reserves the right to move a student without advance notice for any reason including but not limited to ongoing and irresolvable issues between the student and their Host Family and/or to ensure the health, safety and security of the student or members of the Host Family. Host Parents must give their international student(s) and the Homestay Coordinator one full month's notice if they wish to cease hosting without cause. Host Parents understand that if an international student requires a host family change and/or a student is dismissed or moved for any reason, the Host Family will no longer continue to receive compensation for hosting.
- 4) Host Parents agree to provide criminal record checks to School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) for all individuals 18 years of age and older who are regularly living and/or visiting in the home and will immediately report to their Homestay Coordinator if any individual in the home (adult or child) is arrested or charged with a criminal offence. If any part of the family home is rented to tenants, they must also submit a clear vulnerable sector criminal record check. A CRC is required for all adults (18+) a minimum of every five years.
- 5) Host Parents confirm that no one living in or regularly visiting the home (friends, extended family members, etc.) is party to a restraining order and that to the best of their knowledge no one living in or potentially visiting the home has a criminal record, mental illness, addiction, history of abusive behavior (physical, sexual, verbal, psychological), or other issue/concern that might put an international student living in the home at risk.

Host Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #1 Parent #2



- 6) Host Parents cannot host other children/teenagers/adults who are non-family members while hosting a Rocky Mountain International Program student. Examples include, but are not limited to hockey billets, foster children, college students, and people from other programs (international or otherwise).
- 7) Host Parents must disclose if they operate a vacation rental or any short-term rental business in any part of the home. There must be fully separate access to ensure there is no contact with students.
- 8) Host Parents must disclose if there are indoor or outdoor cameras/home monitoring devices in the home.
- 9) Host Parents must carry full personal liability insurance of not less than \$2,000,000 and must inform their homeowner/renter's insurance company that they will be hosting one or more international students. This should not increase rates but must be disclosed.
- 10) Host Parents agree to assume all liability for loss or damage to their home caused by their student(s) and hereby release RMISP and its employees and agents from all liability arising out of their participation in the program, including but not limited to property damage or loss, or the debts, conducts and/or actions of the students assigned to the home.
- 11) Host Parents confirm that Host Family vehicle(s) used for student transport are in good operating condition and that proper winter tires will be used as recommended by ICBC and/or required by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (October 1 – April 30 annually).
- 12) Host Families acknowledge that student application packages are private, confidential and the property of RMISP and/or the study abroad agency responsible for placing the student in the Rocky Mountain International Student Program. They must not be copied, redistributed or shared with anyone outside the household. Upon completion or termination of a student placement, paper and digital copies of student application packages must be destroyed and/or deleted.
- 13) The mandatory student arrival days are August 30-September 1, 2024 for first semester, and January 25-26, 2025 for second semester. Mandatory student departure dates are January 25-26, 2025 for first semester and June 27-29, 2025 for second semester/end of year. Host Families are not permitted to offer to welcome students early or host them past the mandatory program departure dates under any circumstances.
- 14) Host Families are compensated \$1000.00 per month for the 2024-25 school year. Payment is reimbursement for hosting expenses incurred, are calculated at the end of every month and remitted approximately one week after the end of the month. No additional reimbursement will be remitted for any student arriving on August 30-31, 2024 or new semester two students arriving January 25-31, 2025. All students pay monthly homestay fees and thus host families are compensated monthly.
- 15) Host Families who host new students that arrive prior to the mandatory arrival dates in August will be compensated \$50/night for those specific nights.

<b>HOST FAMILY OBLIGATIONS</b>
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- 1) Host Parents must provide three nutritious meals per day plus intermittent snacks and beverages seven days a week.
- 2) Host Parents must be present at the airport to pick up and drop off their students on arrival and departure as part of participation in the program and to provide a warm welcome to their student(s). Families who are unwilling or unable to pick up/drop off their students at the airport during regular arrival/departure periods may be subject to a deduction from their Host Pay that month. In recognition of return trips exceeding 300 km, RMISP will provide host families a flat rate of \$125 for reimbursement of travel expenses.
- 3) Host Parents must make every effort to take their students to medical appointments, including but not limited to the hospital in emergencies, doctors, dental, specialists or other appointments as needed. Host families must share this information immediately and any resulting diagnosis/information with the Homestay Coordinator.
- 4) Such as with their own children, Host Parents are expected to do a *reasonable* amount of driving to take their students to/from activities and social events, particularly if living out of town or in areas where public transportation is limited.
- 5) Host Parents must not lend money to students nor use their credit cards to pay for student purchases.

Host Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent #1       Parent #2

- 6) Host Parents must make every effort to include their student(s) in Host Family activities to maximize the homestay experience, including major holidays, vacations and family events. Emergency coverage should only be requested in serious crisis/emergency situations. If Host Parents require emergency coverage for their student(s), a flat nightly rate of \$40.00 will be deducted from their monthly reimbursement to compensate the family providing coverage. This is deducted per night from the monthly Host Family payment. Families are asked to avoid making optional or lengthy travel/holiday plans without their students and that interfere with their specific hosting commitment. With permission from their Host Parent(s), students may also sleepover on weekends with friends hosted by RMISP-approved host families. This is preferable to emergency coverage, if possible. Stays of longer than two nights must be approved by RMISP. The nightly emergency coverage rate is neither provided nor deducted for sleepovers.
- 7) Host Parents must not leave their students home alone overnight and RMISP must pre-approve any plans for alternate Temporary Caregivers to come into the home. All Temporary Caregivers must have a clear vulnerable sector criminal record check and Driver's Abstract (if driving student) on file with RMISP prior to students being left in their care. All Temporary Caregivers must review all RMISP Host Family and student documents and sign a Temporary Caregiver contract.
- 8) Host Parents may travel freely within 500 km of their municipality with their student(s) for day trips if they remain in Canada. Host Families wishing to travel beyond this distance or to take overnight trips must inform their Homestay Coordinator prior to planning and any booking. It is RMISP's responsibility to obtain written permission from their student's natural parents in their home country – Host Parents are not permitted to make independent arrangements without advising RMISP. Host Parents must not allow their student(s) to travel beyond the local area without them unless they have permission from RMISP or as part of a school trip.
- 9) Students are expected to accompany Host Families on short, local trips on weekends or breaks from school. This is part of the homestay experience, and typically Host Families pay the costs associated with these events.
- 10) Some Host Family holidays, travel, or extracurricular activities may involve significant additional costs and the student may reasonably be expected to contribute toward these costs if they choose to participate (for example, a trip requiring airfare). These trips are optional. Host Families must seek pre-approval from RMISP when inviting their student(s) on trips. If the student chooses not to participate in a Host Family holiday, alternative homestay arrangements during the Host Family's absence must be arranged and/or approved by RMISP. The nightly rate for emergency coverage will be deducted from their monthly reimbursement to compensate the family providing emergency coverage.
- 11) Host Parents are not permitted to volunteer to pick up nor drop off students at the Calgary (YYC) airport nor take them to biometric or medical appointments in Alberta, due to issues with coverage for medical and vehicle insurance outside BC.
- 12) In the event of a pandemic or local/provincial/national emergency, all members of the Host Family are expected to adhere to current federal, provincial, school district, and RMISP guidelines and regulations.

<b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAY RIGHTS</b>
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Students in the Rocky Mountain International Student Program have the right to a welcoming, caring and culturally sensitive homestay environment where they are shown respect, consideration and tolerance. Students should be able to expect:

- a) to be included in the Host Family unit and considered one of the family for meals, activities, trips, holidays and daily life
- b) for Host Families to welcome them to the family, home, community and provide orientation and assistance as needed
- c) to have Host Family rules, curfews, household routines and behavioural expectations clearly outlined
- d) to be shown how to use household appliances and how to clean areas of the home
- e) to participate in a reasonable amount of family chores and household upkeep
- f) to only regularly hear English spoken and communicate in English in the main home areas
- g) a private bedroom with a closet, night table, lamp and bed

Host Parent initials: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #1                      Parent #2

- h) shared access to a full bathroom
- i) access to a washer and dryer to clean their clothes
- j) to feel safe and secure in their home
- k) three nutritious meals per day plus intermittent snacks and beverages
- l) a key to the home and/or an access code for the door lock or alarm
- m) free Internet connectivity in their home (and reasonable access to it)
- n) to not be exposed to behavior (including speech, expressive conduct, electronic communication) that intimidates or exposes the student to physical harm, ridicule, hatred or contempt, defamation, bullying, harassment and/or cyber-bullying by anyone (Host Family members or visitors) in the home
- o) to not be exposed to conduct (including expressive conduct) that impacts the rights of others or may be seen as discriminatory as set out in the B.C. Human Rights Code by anyone (Host Family members or visitors) in the home
- p) to not be subjected to second-hand tobacco or cannabis smoke or vapour inside the home

*Additional student obligations, program rules and expectations for student behavior in homestay can be found in the International Student Program Legal Agreement and Student Handbook. These documents are available online and distributed during student and Host Family orientations.*

**LIABILITY EXCLUSIONS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Host Parents understand and accept that School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) cannot 100% guarantee the placement of a student for any specific duration of time, and that Host Family compensation is not considered pay or salary, but compensation for expenses related to hosting students. Neither can the District nor RMISP staff guarantee the quality of the relationship between the student and the Host Family or any other relationship.

Host Parents assume any and all risks related to their participation in this program and agree to release and hold harmless the Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain), its officers, directors, employees, and agents from any and all claims for any injury, loss or damage, including injury, loss or damage caused by their negligent or intentional acts.

Host Parents acknowledge that the most current version of the RMISP Student and Host Parent Handbooks are available online at [rminternational.ca](http://rminternational.ca) and those will be referred to in cases of dispute. Host Parents agree that any dispute arising under the interpretation, application or performance of this contract or in any way arising out of their participation in the School District’s International Programs will be resolved in a British Columbia Court and they agree that they will not bring proceedings in any other court or jurisdiction but that of British Columbia.

**SIGNING OF CONTRACT**

I agree to respect and abide by all terms of this contract and those outlined in the Host Parent Handbook, the British Columbia K-12 International Student Homestay Guidelines and all policies and procedures of the RMISP and School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain). I understand that student expectations, trips and activities, and policies and procedures may be subject to change through the year, and that I will be notified by RMISP.

Host Parent #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)
Signature
Date

Host Parent #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)
Signature
Date

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM LEGAL AGREEMENT 2024-25

*This document creates a legally binding agreement for participation in the Rocky Mountain International Student Program*

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Family name(s) Given name(s)

### INTRODUCTION

The Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) (the "School District"), provides a dynamic academic and activity program to students studying in the Rocky Mountain International Student Program and affiliated School Districts No. 5, 19, and 91. This Agreement sets out the terms on which a student is accepted into the Rocky Mountain International Student Program and the obligations of those students and their families. Every international student and their parent(s) must read and agree to the following terms and conditions to be eligible to participate in the Rocky Mountain International Student Program (hereafter referred to as "the Program" or "RMISP").

### GENERAL CONDITIONS

#### When this Agreement is binding:

This Agreement is not binding upon the School District until the student applying for admission is accepted by the School District, an Official Letter of Acceptance has been issued, fees have been paid, and the agreement is signed by the student and their natural parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

#### Placement:

While the School District takes into consideration requests for placement at a particular school, the final decision on any school placement or registration in any particular course is determined solely by the School District, taking into account space availability and homestay placement for the student based on the assessment by RMISP staff.

#### What I am agreeing to:

1. I agree that as a condition of participating in the School District's RMISP, my child:
  - a. must comply with all of the laws of Canada and British Columbia;
  - b. must comply with the School and School District rules, Policies, host school's Student Code of Conduct, and all rules contained in the RMISP application and Student Handbook;
  - c. must comply with the terms of this International Student Program Legal Agreement ;
  - d. must not purchase, use, or be in possession of alcohol, cannabis, illegal drugs, tobacco, or vaping products. Possession, use, or distribution of these products will result in immediate dismissal from the Program;
  - e. must not use or be in possession of any weapons;
  - f. must not drive a motor vehicle or obtain a driver's license while enrolled in RMISP;

- g. must attend all registered classes on time, unless unable due to illness or injury, and must have absences officially excused by host family or RMISP staff;
- h. must complete homework, projects, assignments, and tests as assigned and not plagiarize any work;
- i. must pay all applicable class fees or extracurricular fees. If my child has already left the Program, any fees, missing/unreturned books, textbooks, or calculators will be invoiced to my child accordingly;
- j. must not undergo any type of body modification procedure including, but not limited to tattooing, piercing, and/or branding;
- k. must comply with the published Program arrival and departure dates. Making alternate/private arrangements with their host family or others, or staying past mandatory program-end dates is not permitted;
- l. must not miss school time for trips with friends or non-parental family members. Students may travel during school time only with their host parents or natural parents. All travel plans must be communicated well in advance and are subject to RMISP staff and natural parent approval;
- m. must not participate in any high-risk activities without Program approval and written consent from natural parent(s);
- n. must at all times, disclose their whereabouts to their host family and/or RMISP staff;
- o. must activate and maintain a Canadian mobile phone account with a local number while in the Program;
- p. must maintain an up-to-date Canadian Study Permit if the Program requires it and medical insurance through RMISP;
- q. must arrive with an intermediate or higher conversational English level, an age-appropriate level of reading and writing in English, and be able to understand teacher instructions;
- r. must adhere to current federal, provincial, school district, and RMISP guidelines and regulations in the event of a pandemic or local emergency.

<b>PARENTAL REPRESENTATIONS</b>
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**As parent(s) of the above named student, I represent to the School District that:**

- 1. my child has no history of engaging in criminal behaviour or sexual misconduct;
- 2. my child has no known history of any social, emotional, behavioral, physical, mental health-related issues (including but not limited to depression, anxiety, eating disorder, suicidal ideation, etc.) or pre-existing conditions that could affect their successful participation in school or a homestay family;
- 3. my child is able to succeed academically without additional support for any diagnosed or undiagnosed learning challenges;
- 4. I know of no reason why my child cannot successfully participate in the RMISP.

**How this Agreement can be ended:**

- 5. I agree that the School District and RMISP may end this Agreement at any time, without notice and without refunding any Program fees paid, and may dismiss my child from the Program if:
  - a. any information in my child's application for admission is untrue; including any undisclosed illness, medical or mental health conditions or undisclosed educational needs;
  - b. my child breaches any of the obligations set out in paragraph 1; or

- c. my child is unwilling or unable to perform to a reasonable academic standard and age-appropriate behavioral standards in school and/or homestay.

Minimum Academic Standards:

- Passing grades in all subjects (C grade or better)
- Participation in all classes; no unexcused absences
- Positive attitude and work habits in all classes (“S” or better)

6. I understand that any failure of my child to comply with all of the above will result in them being served Letters of Expectation, being placed on probation, suspension or dismissal as determined appropriate and necessary by Director of International Education, RMISP staff, and School District. The Program reserves the right to dismiss any student whose health (physical, mental, or emotional) and/or behaviour, as determined by the administration of the host school and/or Program staff, compromises the safety or security of themselves or those around them.

## REFUND POLICY

In the event that my child cannot participate in the RMISP, decides not to attend, or is asked to leave the Program for any reason, I agree that the following terms will apply:

### **Study Permit Denials, Withdrawals, False or Non-Disclosed Information**

- 1. Full refund of fees paid** (less application and homestay placement fees), if the Study Permit is not approved by Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The letter of rejection from IRCC must be provided along with the RMISP refund request form.
- 2. Two-thirds (2/3) of fees paid** (less application and homestay placement fees) if student withdraws prior to the commencement of the Program (the ‘Program’ is defined as the dates specified on the Official Letter of Acceptance). A complete RMISP refund request form must be received before the Program commences.
- 3. One-half (1/2) of the fees paid**, (less application and homestay placement fees) if the student withdraws after Program commencement but within the first 30 days (the ‘program’ is defined as the dates specified on the Official Letter of Acceptance). A complete RMISP refund request form must be received no more than one week after the end of the first calendar month.
- 4. No refund of fees paid if:**
  - a. the student withdraws after the first 30 days of the Program (dates as specified on the Official Letter of Acceptance);
  - b. the student is found to be in violation of the law, policy, or regulation as determined by the Government of Canada, police, RMISP, and/or school administrators (violations may include but are not limited to chronic absenteeism, suspension from school, consumption of alcohol and drugs, significant behavioral issues, and/or failing to abide by the terms and conditions of the International Student Program Legal Agreement;
  - c. there is false information provided or non-disclosure on the application regarding a student’s perceived learning and/or physical disability, undisclosed learning needs, behavioral concerns, mental health conditions, medical history, and/or criminal history.
- 5. All refunds and/or overpayments are subject to a \$250 administrative fee.**

## INFORMATION COLLECTION AND MEDIA RELEASE

I understand that for the purposes of my child's participation in the Program, the School District will collect, use, and disclose personal information about me and my child, including information about my child's health and education as well as contact information for me and my child. I understand that this information will be only collected, used, and disclosed for the purposes of offering and administering the Program as permitted by the British Columbia *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA") and the British Columbia *School Act* and may be confidentially shared with school authorities, medical and social service providers, homestay families, and others as required.

I understand that School District will collect, keep, use, and selectively share photographs, videos, and images of my child for use online or in print including but not limited to brochures, websites, newspapers, and social media. Please check one and initial:

Yes – I agree to the use of my and my child's personal information and photo for purposes consistent with the above.

No – I do not agree with the use of my and my child's personal information or photo for purposes consistent with the above.

## ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESS TO INTERNET

Students may be granted access to the Internet via School District networks. The purpose for student access to these networks is for educational purposes. Students must use Internet access responsibly and appropriately.

School Districts 5, 6, 19 and 91 all have a Student Acceptable Use of Digital Technology practice, policy, or procedure (available at [rminternational.ca](http://rminternational.ca)). I have discussed the responsible use of District technology resources with my child. I understand that in the event my child engages in inappropriate activities, the privilege to access school/District networks and devices may be revoked and other disciplinary action may result. I consent to my child's use of these networks on a personal or District device.

## INCLUDED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Students enrolled in the RMISP will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of included Program activities, events, and trips which require bus transportation and/or overnight stays in hotels/motels. These trips are carefully planned, approved in advance, fully chaperoned, students are prepared with itineraries/directions, and they must sign a behavioral expectations contract before each trip. Safety and necessary equipment for the activity is provided. Activities may include, but are not limited to river rafting/canoeing, hiking, mountain biking, ice skating, skiing/snowboarding, other winter sports and community events.

I understand my child will participate in all RMISP planned activities as deemed reasonable by the Director of International Education and School District, unless I advise RMISP staff that they are unable to do so.

## HIGH-RISK ACTIVITIES

As parent(s) of a student attending the RMISP, I understand that my child may have the opportunity to participate in one or more high-risk activities with ***a responsible adult (age 25 or older)*** while in Canada. These activities could take place multiple times throughout your child's stay in Canada, however, they are not part of the Program's activity schedule.

School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) cannot give its approval for your child to participate in these activities, however, you may consent to your child's participation in these activities by signing below. In so doing, you agree to indemnify and hold harmless the School District, its employees, and its host families. You further



acknowledge that these activities are not recommended, approved, or in any way arranged or supervised by the School District or RMISP.

Please initial beside the high-risk activity that you allow your child to participate in. *Note: Private medical insurance may not cover all expenses related to high-risk activities. Consider the risk, likelihood of injury and whether you are willing to pay out of pocket for your child's medical care.* By initialling, you confirm that you understand and accept that your child's participation in these activities is solely your responsibility and completely at your discretion:

Parent #1 Initials	Parent #2 Initials	High-risk activities requiring natural parent consent	High-risk activities requiring natural parent consent	Parent #1 Initials	Parent #2 Initials
		Back-country skiing/snowboarding with trained professional only	Off-road vehicles (ATV, Quad)		
		Backpacking (back-country hiking/camping)	Waterski, Wakeboard, Kneeboard, Tube, Jet ski		
		Cliff jumping	Indoor rock climbing		
		Dirt biking	Outdoor rock climbing		
		Horseback riding	Snowmobile		
		Hunting ( no gun use)	Target shooting		
		Downhill mountain biking	Trampoline parks		
		Zip line/high-ropes park	White water rafting		

**MEDICAL AUTHORITY**

I, as the parent(s) of the student, do hereby authorize the School District, RMISP staff, and the host parent(s) to consent on behalf of my child to any emergency/necessary medical testing and treatment. I, as parent(s) of the student, agree that if my child has a pre-existing medical condition, I must ensure that any required treatment for the condition is covered by an additional medical insurance policy, and should any medical insurance provider refuse to accept responsibility for any treatment received by my child, I will accept all financial responsibility related to any such treatment.

I agree that I will fly to Canada on short notice and at my own expense if requested by the program (and at its sole discretion) in the event of a significant medical emergency, mental health issue, and/or Program release/dismissal that requires me to accompany my child for the return trip to our home country.

I agree that if my child becomes seriously ill or incapacitated, the School District and Program may take such actions as it considers necessary, including securing medical treatment and transporting my child home at my own personal expense.

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

Parents of students participating in the Rocky Mountain International Student Program must acknowledge and accept the following:

1. I understand that there are risks associated with my child enrolling in the School District and that my child will not be under constant supervision. I understand that medical and health emergencies can occur without warning. I waive and release all claims against the School District for the injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from my child's participation in the Program. I also release the School District and agree to indemnify it, with regard to any financial obligations or liabilities that the School District may incur as a result of claims by others, or that my child may personally incur, or any damage or injury to the person or property of others that my child may cause while participating in the Program and/or dismissal for failure to comply with Program rules.

2. Force Majeure Clause: In the event that the School District is not able to perform its obligations under this Agreement or the delivery of the Program is delayed or interrupted as a result of events outside of the School District's control, including, without limitation, because of strikes, pandemics, disease outbreak, work stoppages, accidents, acts of war or terrorism, civil or military disturbances, nuclear or natural catastrophes or Acts of God, and interruptions, loss or malfunction of utilities, communications, or computer (software and hardware) services, the School District will not be considered in breach of this Agreement by reason of such delays or non-performance and shall not be liable to the student or their parent(s)/guardian(s) for any loss, injury, or expense caused by or arising out of such delays, interruptions, or non-performance. In such circumstances, the School District will provide students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) with prompt notice of the intervening event, and shall use reasonable efforts to resume the educational program as soon as it is legally permissible and the School District, acting reasonably, is practically able to do so. In such circumstances, the School District may, at its discretion, resume the educational program through alternative methods of delivery, including distance, online, or distributed learning. Additionally, RMISP cannot control the weather and/or other extraordinary or unforeseen local or global circumstances or situations which may delay, prevent, or alter the delivery of extracurricular activities, events, or trips and cannot be held responsible or liable for any loss suffered. No refunds will be offered.
3. I understand that my child may wish to participate in high-risk activities, extracurricular activities such as sports teams, school clubs, or field trips including trips to other Canadian provinces or the USA. I give my permission for my child to participate in such extracurricular activities, if the Custodian in their discretion considers such activity appropriate, and agree that I will provide written parental permission for these activities upon request.
4. I understand that additional risk/liability waivers and permission forms may be requested for activities coordinated by school-based Outdoor Education courses, sport teams, community organizations, or private tour companies/service providers who may require natural parental consent for my child to participate in specific activities.

## HOMESTAY PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Students in the School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) homestay program are in the custodial care of the Director, International Education (or other program staff member) and must adhere to the following participation terms and conditions:

1. Students must agree to follow all Homestay Policies and Procedures detailed in the ***International Student Handbook*** and any new guidelines or rules issued by Program administration during their stay in the Program. Students are reminded of rules at orientation and during weekly meetings.
2. Students may be held financially accountable for any damage they cause to the property of their host family including but not limited to their home, household items, recreational equipment, and automobiles. Deliberate damage and vandalism will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
3. Students who wish to change their homestay placement must follow the RMISP process before a move is granted. Unless there is an urgent safety concern, students and host families are expected to meet separately with RMISP staff and then together in a mediated conversation meant to improve communication, cultural understanding, and finding resolution. Students are not granted homestay moves upon request, without reason, or without going through the process.
4. Students must participate in mandatory group and/or individual meetings with the Homestay Coordinator to receive Program information and/or evaluate and support the ongoing success of the homestay placement. Students may also need to be available for in-home visits/meetings if necessary. Students must also complete surveys designed to give Program administration feedback on the student's in-school and homestay experience.

5. The Program reserves the right to move students without notice if a Homestay Coordinator or Program/school administration believes the student's health, safety and/or security is at risk. Students may also be moved (on short notice or otherwise) in cases of emergencies or other extenuating circumstances as deemed necessary by a Homestay Coordinator, the Program, or school administration. Temporary placements may be required and students may be placed in alternate homes until permanent arrangements can be made.
6. Students are responsible for their own debts, conduct, and actions while participating in the Program. Students must not ask host parents for use of their credit cards, to borrow money from, or lend money to host family members.
7. Students are not permitted to make private homestay or travel arrangements, pay host families directly, or negotiate alternate arrival/departure dates or arrival/departure locations. ALL such requests must go through RMISP staff.

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

As an international student participating in the RMISP, I agree to the following:

1. I will obey the conditions of my Canadian Visa and Study Permit and the laws and rules of British Columbia, Canada, the International Student Program Legal Agreement, School District, and the host school Student Code of Conduct.
2. I will not buy, use, or possess alcohol, cannabis, tobacco and vaping products, or illegal drugs. I will never keep any alcohol, cannabis, tobacco and vaping products or illegal drugs in my homestay or my school locker. If I break these laws of Canada, I understand that I will be dismissed from the Program immediately.
3. I will not buy, use, or possess weapons including but not limited to firearms, air guns, knives, or martial arts tools, bear spray, or other dangerous equipment. I will never keep any of these items in my homestay or my school locker.
4. I will choose my friends carefully. I will not attend parties without adult supervision, or any "bush party", nor spend time with anyone who uses alcohol, cannabis, illegal drugs, or weapons. I understand that I may be dismissed from the Program and sent home if RMISP staff determine I am engaging in unsafe behaviors and choose to seek out and/or regularly spend time with people who are not a good influence.
5. I will work hard to complete my schoolwork and be successful at school. I agree to complete all homework, projects, assignments, and attend all scheduled tests.
6. I will maintain a minimum C average in all classes (60-66%) and satisfactory work habits.
7. I will attend all classes every school day, unless I am sick or attending an approved field trip. I understand my host parent (not my agent or natural parent) must call the school to excuse me if I miss any classes. If I choose to skip classes, I will be subject to Letters of Expectation, probation, or dismissal.
8. I will complete my own schoolwork and not submit the work or ideas of another person (friends, other students, the Internet, books, etc.) as my own in any academic assignments in my courses. I understand that copying someone else's work is **plagiarism** and is forbidden. I understand that doing so may lead to receiving 0% on the assignment and a Letter of Expectation or probation.

9. I will not own, rent, or personally drive a motor vehicle, off road vehicle, snowmobile, etc. I will not attempt to obtain a learner's permit and/or driver's license while in Canada.
10. If I wish to arrange any travel outside my local community, I will contact my Homestay Coordinator well in advance of the trip to request permission (minimum of 5 business days).
11. I will respect my host family and obey their rules. I will respect RMISP and School District staff. I will act respectfully while out in the community. I understand that I represent the School District, RMISP, and my home country while in Canada.
12. If I break something that belongs to my host family or damage their house, property, furniture, or personal belongings, I understand I am responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement. I understand that vandalism or intentional damage will lead to my dismissal.
13. I will leave Canada at the end of my study period as per the Program's departure dates. I will not attempt to make any alternate arrangements with my host family or others.
14. I will always respect cultural differences. I understand that discrimination based on nationality, gender, politics, or religion is illegal in Canada.
15. I understand that I must obey all of the above rules and those in the International Student Handbook, or I will be subject to increasing levels of discipline and/or potentially dismissed from the Program.

**Sign and complete the Agreement below:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, [NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN #1]

AND

I, \_\_\_\_\_, [NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN #2]

APPLY FOR THE ADMISSION OF \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT). I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD **ALL** SECTIONS AND TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT. I AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THIS AGREEMENT IN FULL AND THAT THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE BINDING ON ME AND MY CHILD.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODAY'S DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN #2

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODAY'S DATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT) HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD **ALL** SECTIONS AND TERMS OF THIS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL AGREEMENT IN FULL, AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THIS AGREEMENT, AND THAT THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE BINDING ON ME AND MY PARENT(S).

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
TODAY'S DATE

## SKI AND SNOWBOARD CONTRACT

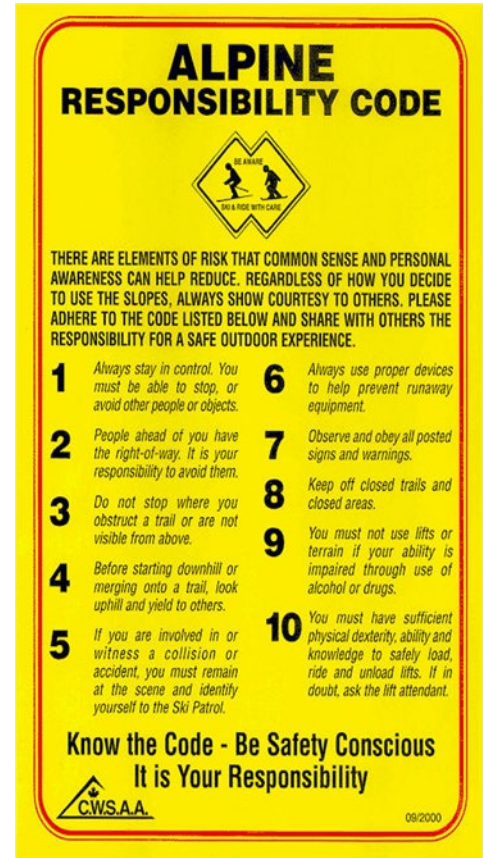
The following terms and conditions must be acknowledged and abided by students and acknowledged and accepted by natural parents in the Rocky Mountain International Student Program (RMISP). The purpose of this document is to require and support safe and responsible skiing/snowboarding by all students.

- 1) I will ski/snowboard safely and conscientiously at all times and follow the Alpine Responsibility Code (see box at right).
- 2) I will not ski/snowboard Out of Bounds or on closed runs (**Important:** ski resorts will revoke passes of students caught skiing/snowboarding Out of Bounds or on closed runs; rescue and injuries incurred in these areas will not be covered by medical insurance).
- 3) I understand that I am not permitted to backcountry or heli-ski while in this program.
- 4) I will not ski/snowboard on runs that exceed my ability level.
- 5) I understand that I cannot ski/snowboard alone and that I must always ski/snowboard with another person or in a small group.
- 6) I will always carry a cell phone with me.
- 7) I will not build or use jumps unsanctioned by the local ski resort.
- 8) I will not flip or "invert" off of any jumps.
- 9) I will wear an approved helmet at all times.

Failure to comply with the above-listed terms and conditions and/or any verbal instructions given by RMISP or resort staff will result in natural parent notification, suspension of ski/snowboard privileges, program probation or dismissal.

### STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I will be safe, responsible, and compliant with this contract and the Alpine Responsibility Code when I ski and/or snowboard.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I understand that my/our child may have the opportunity to ski/snowboard with the program, their host school, their host family, or with their friends. I accept the risks associated with my/our child skiing and/or snowboarding during their stay in Canada as part of RMISP and confirm my acceptance of the terms and conditions articulated above. I further acknowledge that it is my/our responsibility to inform the Director of International Education if my/our child requires learn-to-ski/snowboard lessons as provided by the ski resort in my child's host community. I/we will cover the cost for these lessons payable to the local ski resort.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #1 name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent #2 name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date