



Guidelines for the Homestay Family

The following information is to be used as a guideline to ensure that both the host family and student have a positive and culturally enriching experience:

Purpose of the Homestay Program:

- To create an “English Experience” for the student.
- To arrange a “Cultural Exchange” for the student and host family.

Prior to the Student’s Arrival:

Although it is natural for a host family to research into the student’s cultural background, it is important that the family welcome the student without any judgment or preconceived expectations. Each student’s personality in our program ranges from being outgoing and social to shy and introverted, therefore it is essential that the host parent avoid any cultural stereotyping.

Homestay Family Expectations:

1. Homestay families should provide the student with suitable accommodation that is inclusive and encourages the student to be welcomed as an active member of the family. Students will be expected to participate in household routines which may include assisting with household chores.
2. Homestay families are required to provide:
 - ▪ transportation for student daily pick up and drop off to school, as well as for special occasions, such as field trips, during the visit.
 - ▪ a properly lit private bedroom with a bed, bedding, closet and desk or study table.
 - ▪ three nourishing meals per day and appropriate snacks.
 - ▪ access to towels, laundry soap and other general household items
3. Upon arrival, homestay families should:
 - ▪ Give the visiting student your name, home address and phone number on a card that will fit in the wallet
 - ▪ Supply exact bus route information to and from school and to and from special events just in case
 - ▪ Explain how to use the phone
 - ▪ Confirm schedules each day
 - ▪ Speak English to the student as much as possible. Make a point of engaging the student in conversation
4. All students require a Canadian cell phone. It is important that homestay families assist students in finding a cell phone with an appropriate plan and bank account. It is important that homestay families assist students in finding a cell phone with an appropriate plan as well as opening a student account at the bank close by the house. Regarding to the cell phone fee, students are responsible for purchasing their cell phone with their funds and must pay for all long distance phone calls.





WESTFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL

5. In order to establish effective communication, homestay families should clearly explain household rules regarding:
 - Showers/bathing
 - Laundry
 - Table manners and Canadian manners in general
 - Behavior and appropriate curfew times
 - Road safety (wearing a helmet is mandatory when riding a bike, skateboard etc.)
6. The use of drugs and alcohol is prohibited and may result in the student returning home. Smoking is also discouraged since it is illegal in Canada for anyone under the age of 19 to purchase tobacco products.
7. If a student becomes ill, take them to the hospital. All students are required to have medical coverage. A copy of the student's medical insurance will be provided to homestay families.
8. To assist in a positive and safe cultural experience, homestay families need to provide guidelines for appropriate social interactions with their Canadian peers and monitor healthy lifestyle choices made by the student (i.e. eating, exercising, no smoking etc.)
9. **Overnight Guidelines:**
 1. In the event that the homestay family will be away for the night, it is the host family's responsibility that alternative accommodations are provided for the student and that Westfield homestay coordinator is informed. Westfield homestay coordinator must be informed before alternative accommodation is approved. Students under the age of 16 are not permitted to be left unsupervised for the duration of the night.
 2. Students who wish to stay overnight outside of the home must seek approval by the homestay family and the adult at the residence that the student will be staying at. Homestay parents are required to obtain the name, address and telephone number of the residence that the student will be staying at.
10. Students are expected to complete homework assignments and homestay families are encouraged to assist students when available.
11. Students are expected to attend school daily unless they are too ill. If the student is unable to attend school, the homestay family will notify the school receptionist.
12. Romantic relationships are strongly discouraged by Westfield Education. Issues may arise for homestay families and the international student's parents may not approve of their child being focused on a relationship rather than the purpose of their visit (graduation and learning English).
13. Living in a foreign country may cause international students to display an array of emotions. This is perfectly normal and homestay families should expect:
 - ▪ Shyness (Note that foreign students may be very shy, and outward affection we often show each other such as hugging is generally embarrassing to them - just be patient and be aware of this.)
 - ▪ Some difficulty in communicating
 - ▪ Homesickness (it may come in various forms- tears, isolation, overtly happy etc.)
14. If the student demonstrate any forms of homesickness, it is important that the homestay family:
 - Communicate clearly in speaking and writing when necessary





WESTFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Reassure the student that they are safe and supported
- Use homestay coordinator from school in emergencies

15. Room and Fee:

- ▪ The school will pay the fee to the host family for each full month during the school year.
- ▪ The school will pay the host on the first day of each month for that month.
- ▪ The above stated Fee payment is intended to cover all the students' room, food, heating, water, etc.
- ▪ The student will be responsible for his/her own spending money and to pay for long distance telephone calls, clothing, "special" toiletries (ie. salon shampoo), etc. In the event of a family holiday, students may be expected to assist in a portion of their cost.

16. Booking Flights: Before a student can book a flight home, the homestay coordinator must first ensure that students have the appropriate visa so that they are granted re-entry into Canada. Please remind students not to book any flights unless authorized by Westfield Education.

17. If the homestay family is having any issues or conflict with the international student, they are encouraged to discuss this with Westfield homestay coordinator. Westfield homestay coordinator will attempt to mediate the situation and if a resolution cannot be found, the homestay coordinator will assist in finding the international student with a new homestay family. It is expected that both the homestay family and student attempt to resolve any issues before making a decision to transfer homes.

- I understand the guidelines for becoming a homestay parent and agree to the above terms.

Name _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date _____



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