



# Sooke Schools

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

*Many Nations.  One Remarkable Experience*

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March 16, 2020

Dear International Parents and Agents,

We are receiving inquiries from around the world related to the current situation regarding COVID-19. Many parents are wondering if they can or should bring their children back home in the midst of this pandemic. Our response as a school district is that if parents and students wish to return to their home country, we will support that decision.

The Canadian Prime Minister announced today that Canada would be closing its borders to non-Canadians, that Canadians abroad are urged to return home, and that those currently in Canada should stay home as much as possible. It is important that parents abroad are monitoring their own government advisories regarding international travel, to inform their decision-making.

The Ministry of Education in British Columbia has not yet made an announcement regarding school closures, but the Public Health Officer has made an announcement today that they will be reviewing the potential for school closures beyond spring break. We will keep you updated if and when that communication comes.

If schools will be closed, our school district will be working to determine what educational programming might be able to be delivered through online platforms. It would be our hope that students who have chosen to return to their home countries would be able to access this material and thus complete their educational program for this semester – but it is still too early to be able to say exactly what this would look like.

If students choose to return home prior to June 30, the following refund policy would apply:

- Refund of any unused homestay fees for future months (ie. if a student departs prior to March 31, they would receive a refund for April, May, and June)
- All other fees are non-refundable at this point in time

This is an incredibly difficult time for families around the world. Our team is working hard to support our students, homestay families, natural parents and overseas partners as we all navigate this uncharted territory together.

Thank you for your understanding in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

*Laura Schwertfeger*

Laura Schwertfeger  
District Principal