



UPLANDS CAMPUS

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March 20, 2020

Dear International Community;

I am emailing today to provide some general updates related to learning and also the homestay program. This email is going to all students, host families, study-abroad partners and parents of students that do not have a study abroad agent.

We will get through this together - I have sincerely appreciated the efforts of our host families, study abroad partners, parents and most importantly students over the last week. Let's Plank the Curve!

Students and Learning

1. **Will students be provided with online learning opportunities while in-class learning is suspended?**

The BC Ministry of Education has indicated that school districts should develop plans to support ongoing learning. Our District is developing plans for the continuation of services and programming. Once these plans are completed, we will communicate with students, parents, and partners. International students leaving for their home country this week are still our students for the remainder of the current school year and beyond. All international students will be included and contacted regardless of where they are residing.

2. **Will Grade 12 International students be at risk of not graduating?**

All students who are currently in a position to graduate will successfully graduate from the Greater Victoria School District.

3. **Will I have to complete my current grade again due to the suspension of in-class instruction?**

Every International student will receive a final mark based on their current academic standing. Students in a positive academic standing will advance to the next grade.

5. **My current mark is low and I was looking to improve my marks. Will this suspension impact my marks?**

Please discuss this with your International Student Advisor and the International Student Program after Spring Break finishes on March 30, 2020.

6. **Will this impact college and university applications?**

We do not believe there will be an impact, however, it's best that you check with the colleges or universities where you have been accepted or have applied to.

7. **Will schools remain closed for the rest of the school year?**

We do not know when schools will re-open. Please contact Uplands Campus, the home of Victoria International Education, at 250-592-6871 or ilt@sd61.bc.ca for support.

Homestay Questions

1. **If I return to my home country before March 31, do I have to pay any additional homestay fees for April?**

International Students who are leaving on or before March 31st will not have to pay any additional fees for the month of April. Students who are part of the Victoria International Education Homestay Program will receive a refund for the months of April, May and June if their departure occurs on or before March 31, 2020

2. **I want to stay here but I also want to see my friends. Can I get together with my friends?**

- For international students to stay in the Victoria International Education Homestay Program, they must abide by the expectations of our program, the host family, and our government.
- We are not permitting international students to travel outside of the Greater Victoria Region without their Homestay family.
- International students are only allowed to meet 1-2 friends at a time with their host family's approval
- The use of public transportation and sleep overs are also not allowed.

3. **The Province of British Columbia has required that everyone should remain at home and practice social distancing when leaving the home. How do I practice social distancing?**

- Avoid using public transport (buses, etc.)
- You can meet with 1-2 friends outside (with permission of your Homestay family)
- Keep about two meters (six feet) from one another when outside your home
- Limit activities outside your home
- Use virtual options to connect with others (FaceTime, Snapchat, etc.)
- Keep your hands at your side when possible
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cough into your elbow or sleeve
- No social activities in large gatherings

Sincerely,



Jeff Davis, PhD
Director
International Education
Greater Victoria School District No. 61