



UPLANDS CAMPUS

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March 31, 2020

Dear International Community;

We are wishing for your health and safety as we continue the global struggle against COVID-19. Spring Break has concluded in Victoria and although in-class instruction is suspended, our amazing educators are working on continuity of learning plans for all students. We are excited for the possibilities these learning plans will bring!

I have added updated information related to the questions below. Please read and if you have further questions, please reach out to our leadership team at ilt@sd61.bc.ca.

Student Learning and Student Support

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. The Greater Victoria School District No. 61 is developing plans for the continuation of services and programming. Once these plans are completed, we will communicate with students, parents, and partners. We will provide our International Community an update on these plans April 8, 2020. International students leaving who have departed for their home country 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.

4. 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 the team at Uplands Campus

ilt@sd61.bc.ca after April 8, 2020 as we are now working on continuity of learning plans for students.

5. **Will the pandemic impact college and university applications?**

We do not believe there will be an impact. Please confirm directly with the colleges or universities where you have been accepted or have applied to.

6. **Will in-class instruction remain suspended for the rest of the school year?**

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

7. **Please recommend some online learning resources while we wait for the continuity of learning plans.**

The Greater Victoria School District No. 61 has compiled some learning resources entitled: *family support during home learning* <https://learn.sd61.bc.ca/>. These are not learning plans, but resources for students as families as we develop continuity of learning plans.

8. **Are international students still able to renew study permits?**

Yes, according to Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), it is business as usual and they can apply for study permit extensions within Canada at this time.

9. **Are international students able to re-enter Canada?**

Yes, according to IRCC, if they have a valid study permit issued before March 18, they will be able to enter Canada.

10. **What mental health supports are available to international students in Victoria?**

Cascadia Counselling services (registered clinical counsellors), Guard.me mobile doctor (Guard.me is an insurance provider for international students), and International Student Program staff.

Sincerely,



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