

Study in
Beautiful
British Columbia



International Education Program
Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton British Columbia, Canada

Sea to Sky
SD48

Welcome

Welcome to all our International students to School District No.48 (Sea to Sky). We are honoured to be learning on the Traditional Territory of the Skwx-wú7mesh Úxwumixw and St'át'yemc Nations. Sea to Sky encompasses Squamish, the outdoor recreation capital of Canada; Whistler, host of the 2010 Winter Olympics; and Pemberton, known for its beauty, outdoor lifestyle and healthy food. The International Student Program is a very special program for our District. It brings together students from all over the world to connect in friendship and in appreciation of different cultures and languages. We care about our international students and want to ensure all students have a rewarding and enriching experience, and make many fond memories. We hope you take advantage of your time here to not only be successful in your studies but also to participate in our community. Sharing your culture and values with the local community members is just as important as learning about Canadian culture and values. Congratulations on taking the step to pursue your studies here in our District.

Lisa McCullough

District Superintendent



“

“There are so many things you can discover, not just in Canada but also in yourself. You might need to step out of your comfort zone a few times but it gives you more strength in being confident.”

Moritz Strobel,
Germany

With the Experience of Decades of Service

The mission of the Sea to Sky SD48 International Education Program is to offer opportunities that may lead international students to graduate with a British Columbia Dogwood Diploma and gain entrance to university.

With this academic goal, we believe in the necessity to offer opportunities to participate in the social and healthy, active lifestyle environments of our communities.

We are committed to promoting our local First Nations cultures in an inclusive environment where all students from all countries may become strong citizens of our world community.

We are committed to teaching about our District Strategic Plan which is the foundation on which all learning in our district is based for International students and local students. Emphasis is on student-centred learning through proven pathways to learning.

We have opportunities for one semester/one year/multiple years abroad. Whether it is a cultural and language experience you are seeking or a full academic experience, we offer it.



Scan the QR code to find out more about at Sea to Sky SD48 International Education

Top Reasons to Choose Sea to Sky, BC



Getting a B.C. education creates options. Students with a B.C. graduation diploma find it easier to get into top universities or post-secondary institutions.

International students of all ages choose to study in British Columbia for a number of reasons! The B.C. advantage includes:

Top quality, wide-ranging education opportunities at all levels
(The Conference Board of Canada ranked B.C. as the country's best education system in 2014)

Moderate climate and safe surroundings

Geographic location, as BC's one and only Sea to Sky Corridor
Healthy, active lifestyle with abundant and varied year round outdoor activities
Diverse physical geography, communities, and cultural programs.

Why Study in Sea To Sky Schools?



- ✓ **High academic standards semester system (Secondary Schools)**
- ✓ **Low proportion of international students to Canadians**
- ✓ **Caring and supportive homestays**
- ✓ **Enthusiastic teachers**
- ✓ **Moderate climate with four distinct seasons**
- ✓ **Recreation facilities second to none**
Whistler/Blackcomb is North America's leading ski destination
- ✓ **Academy programs - Sports schools, hockey and mountain bike outdoor Leadership/Education offered at all secondary schools**
- ✓ **French immersion in all three communities**

The Sea to Sky Corridor

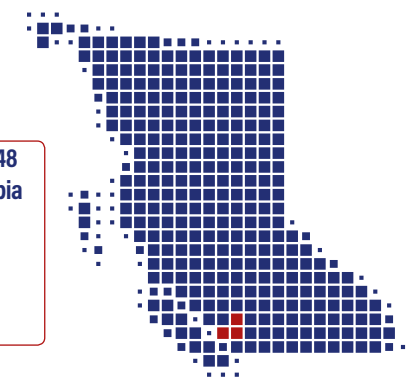
Squamish-Whistler-Pemberton

Living in a pollution-free environment with wonderful recreational opportunities allows our students to maintain a healthy lifestyle while studying and working hard towards their future goals.

In School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky) there are three different types of communities, all within a short drive from Vancouver. We work diligently to match the student to the right community for his/her/their needs.

Sea to Sky SD48
British Columbia

Pemberton
Whistler
Squamish



SD48 School Locations



"I have done a lot of hikes and have visited all the lakes around Whistler, which are just amazing. I often went ice skating in winter and I attended yoga classes at the gym, where I met a lot of people who are now my friends"

**Eugenia Rosa,
Italy**



SD48. Squamish

Squamish is home of the Chief, a magnificent natural climbing rock. This town of 20,000 is located at the tip of Howe Sound, approximately 40 minutes from West Vancouver along the spectacular Sea to Sky highway. Squamish is known as The Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada with world class rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, trail-running, river rafting, kite boarding, and windsurfing as some of its activities. The community is active with soccer, hockey,

skating, yoga, martial arts, golf, sailing and paddle sports. Horseback Riding is readily available in the Squamish Valley for those who love equestrian sports. Many members of the local community compete at an international level in many of these sports. Music, visual and performing arts are an integral part of the culture. There are 6 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 secondary school and Sea to Sky Learning Connections in Squamish.



Photo: Dave Humphreys

SD48. Whistler

Whistler, host of the 2010 Winter Olympics, is a 45 minute drive north of Squamish. This community is regarded as a world class ski and snowboard area. The Olympic Sliding Centre is on site. Whistler Olympic Park in the Callaghan Valley and Lost Lake offer spectacular winter cross country opportunities in skiing, biathlon and snowshoeing. In summer the mountains, lakes and surrounding areas are alive with people canoeing, sailing, rafting, free riding, downhill mountain biking,

hiking, fishing, golfing and camping. With a local population of around 13,000, there is a strong arts community with the Audain Art Museum, Maury Young Place and the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre. Numbers grow on weekends and on holidays up to 25,000 with tourists. Whistler Secondary Alumni and present students compete at an international and Olympic level in many sports. Whistler has 2 elementary schools and 1 middle/secondary school.



SD48. Pemberton

Pemberton, with a population of 5,000, lies 20 minutes north of Whistler. With it's majestic setting nestled at the foot of Mount Currie, Pemberton is renowned for spectacular scenery, a variety of recreational activities and lush farmland with locally produced organic meats and vegetables. Foodies flock to Pemberton! The surrounding area offers cross-country skiing, hiking, snowmobiling and biking in spectacular settings. Horseback riding is also popular in this area where lessons

can be taken in English or American style, dressage or even horseback archery!

Nearly one third of the school population is involved in the Pemberton dragon boat program and the community contributes three more teams! The active paddling club offers canoeing, kayaking and outriggering. Members of the clubs often represent Canada at an international level. Pemberton has 1 elementary school and 1 middle/secondary school.



Photo: Mike Gamble

Our Schools

We offer British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum, a curriculum that is now sought after by different countries in the world.

Our teachers all have University degrees and are certified by the British Columbia College of Teachers.

Our schools are dedicated to preparing students for entry into post-secondary studies. With technology to enhance learning, we have science labs; and art, drama, media

study and music rooms. Our gymnasiums are equipped for a multitude of sports.

Courses of study in all secondary schools include Mathematics, English, Social Studies, all of the Sciences, Computer Studies, Fine Arts, Business Studies, and Physical Education. Vocational facilities including an automotive shop, metalwork and woodwork shops associated with a local college can be found at our secondary schools.

10
Elementary
Schools
(K - 6)

1
Middle School
(7 - 9)

3
Secondary
Schools
(10 - 12)

1
Learning
Connections



Howe Sound Secondary

LOCATION: A 5 minute walk from downtown Squamish

GRADES: 10 - 12

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 650

SPECIALTIES:

Strong academic program, French Immersion, Leadership classes, Athletic Leadership class, Culinary Arts, Carpentry, Automotive, Outdoor Education, Drama, Musical Theatre, Band and Choir. First Nations Studies and Art Program. Academies include: Mountain Bike Academy and Hockey Academy.

CLUBS:

School sports include soccer, track and field, football, cheerleading, cross-country, basketball, volleyball, mountain biking, skiing, golf, and intramural activities. Clubs include Rock Climbing, Hiking, Social Responsibility Team, Physics Olympics Teams, Student Council, Debate Team, Badminton.

Secondary
Schools
(10 - 12)



Don Ross Middle

LOCATION: Brackendale, 5 km from downtown Squamish

GRADES: 7 - 9

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 575

SPECIALTIES:

Strong academic program, French Immersion, Fine & Performing Arts, Band, Technology Arts - Metal and Wood, Clothing & Textile, Computer Technology, Outdoor Education, First Nations Studies and Art Program. This middle school has a Soccer Academy.

CLUBS:

School sports include soccer, track and field, cross-country, basketball, volleyball, mountain biking, golf and Intramurals. Clubs include Interact, Drama, Rock Climbing.

Middle School
(7 - 9)



Learning Connections

LOCATION: Squamish

GRADES: 8 - 12 Student - Centred Learning.

Learning
Connections



Whistler Secondary

LOCATION: A 5 minute drive from Whistler Village
GRADES: 8 - 12 **NUMBER OF STUDENTS:** 425

SPECIALTIES:
Strong academic program, French Immersion, Visual Arts, Theatre and Social Justice. Academies offered include: Hockey Academy, Soccer Academy and Outdoor Leadership Education. Whistler Secondary has a history of hosting athletes who train and compete at high levels.

CLUBS:
Outdoor Leadership, Flex-Ed Program, Sports school. School sports include basketball, rugby, volleyball, soccer, tennis, golf, mountain biking, track and field, dragon boat racing and intramurals. Clubs include Big Brothers Big Sisters, Media Development, Leadership, Yearbook, Chess, Climbing Cheerleading/ Dance Squad.

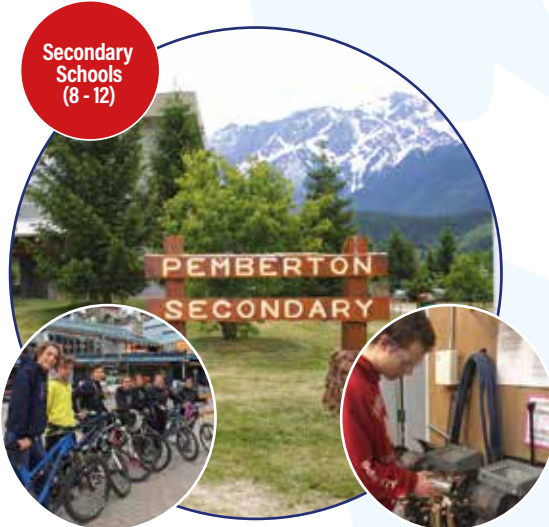


Pemberton Secondary

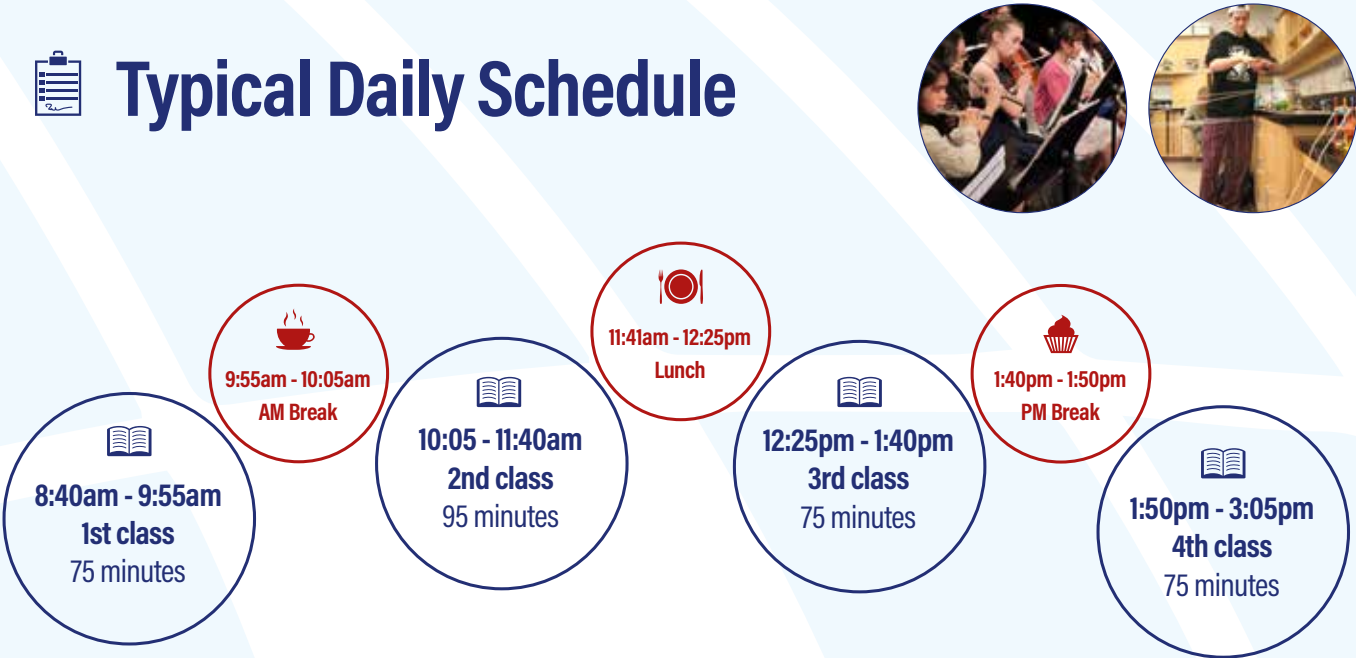
LOCATION: In the heart of Pemberton
GRADES: 8 - 12 **NUMBER OF STUDENTS:** 300

SPECIALTIES:
Strong Academic program, French Immersion, First Nations Studies, Art, Outdoor Education, Metal Art, Carving, Woodwork. The Ski Board Bike Academy and Grade 10 Outdoor Leadership are offered here.

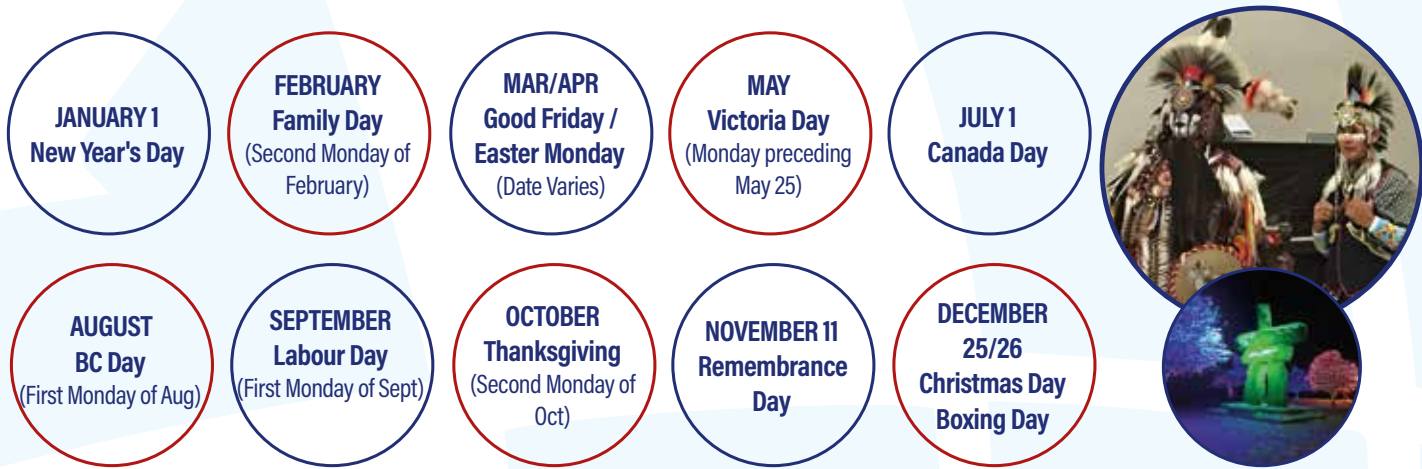
CLUBS:
School sports include basketball, volleyball, soccer, mountain biking, cross country running, dragon boat racing and intramurals. Clubs include Music, Leadership, Car, Book and Art.



Typical Daily Schedule



Canadian Holidays and Important Dates:





Our International Program

The International Program in Sea to Sky, School District #48 was founded in 1996 and has grown over the years. Students study and learn alongside Canadian students. The program celebrates cultural differences and similarities a period. This allows students to build international connections through social interaction and academic challenges.

It is possible to graduate in our International

Program, with some advance planning. We usually recommend a minimum of two years with us to graduate. International students are integrated into classes with the local students. All schools offer ELL support for those students who need to develop their English skills. There are many opportunities for students to become involved in a variety of club and sporting activities throughout the school year.



Our International Students

The International Program is structured with students aged 13 to 18 years in mind. This includes grades 8 - 12. Younger students may be admitted with the approval of the District Superintendent, or if they are living with their natural parents in Sea to Sky. Students come from over 35 countries to live and study in our program.

We select our international students carefully. They make a valuable contribution to our schools and our communities.



Our International Team

The International Program Department is located in the School Board Office in Squamish. Our Recruiter/Marketer/Advisor consults throughout the application process, and liaises with the Education agent throughout the months leading up to arrival. Our team is available to assist students in all aspects of their experience in the program. The Clerical Assistant processes all applications and assists with all the administration of the program. The Program Manager is in charge of the program and is Custodian of the students while they are in Canada. Our Homestay Coordinators help students with all aspects of homestay life while in Canada. Our Vice Principal of Academic Liaison assists with academic advising and all aspects of adjusting to the new learning environment in a friendly, supportive way.

OUR SCHOOL:

PRINCIPAL:

Each Principal is in charge of programs at their school and works closely with staff, students, and parents.

VICE-PRINCIPAL:

The Vice-Principal assists the principal of the school in maintaining the orderly operation and discipline.

TEACHERS:

Students have different teachers for different subjects. ELL teachers help students learn English.

COUNSELLORS:

Counsellors assist in planning students' educational programming and their University applications.





"I had such an awesome time here in Squamish. All the people here are so great. I had a wonderful host family and found amazing friends from all over the world. I enjoyed my time here so much with many days skiing in Whistler or going to Vancouver."

Elinor Cleuvers

Homestay

Living with a Canadian family provides international students with a caring and supportive family environment. It gives students a chance, to learn about Canadian culture, customs, and lifestyle. Homestay families are carefully selected and must undergo a Criminal Record Check before being accepted into the program.

Our Homestay Services Coordinator makes sure students are placed with a family that is the best possible match. Students will be sent the homestay profile as soon as a family has been confirmed. Families provide a safe, clean, comfortable home environment, a private bedroom for the student with facilities for studying, three healthy meals (and snacks) each day.

Airport Transfers

Students fly into Vancouver International Airport (YVR). Our car service greets students at the airport and drives them to their host family.

YVR to Squamish: approximately 2 hours
YVR to Whistler: approximately 2hrs 45mins
YVR to Pemberton: approximately 3 hours



Activities

Apart from school club and intramural activities, international students are offered a number of special activities and excursions throughout the school year. Some of the activities are free of charge while others have a nominal fee. Examples of such activities include: sightseeing and shopping in Vancouver, a day trip to Victoria, an NHL hockey game, kayaking, cross-country skiing, at Whistler Olympic Park. Chinese New Year dinner, Fright Night at the PNE in Vancouver, whale watching trips, Eco Tours and a world class Joffre Lakes hike.



Photo: Seger/Trygg Nelson

How to apply

Program requirements for acceptance:

Students are accepted at all levels of English proficiency. An average or above academic record gives students preference for acceptance. All students are evaluated at midterms and the end of each semester. Only those maintaining a good academic performance, attendance record, obeying all program rules and cooperating with homestay families will be invited to extend their academic pursuits in the school district.

To apply, please submit a completed student application form including the following:

- ✓ Letter of recommendation from the current school
- ✓ Letter from the student to the homestay family
- ✓ Letter from the parent to the homestay family
- ✓ Student's transcripts for the current year and past two years
- ✓ Picture page of the student's passport
- ✓ Immunization forms including any additional medical information
- ✓ Picture collage
- ✓ Other relevant documentation
- ✓ Signed Participation Guidelines by the student, natural parents and agent
- ✓ Signed Off-Site Activity Waiver
- ✓ Signed Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims
- ✓ Course Request Form

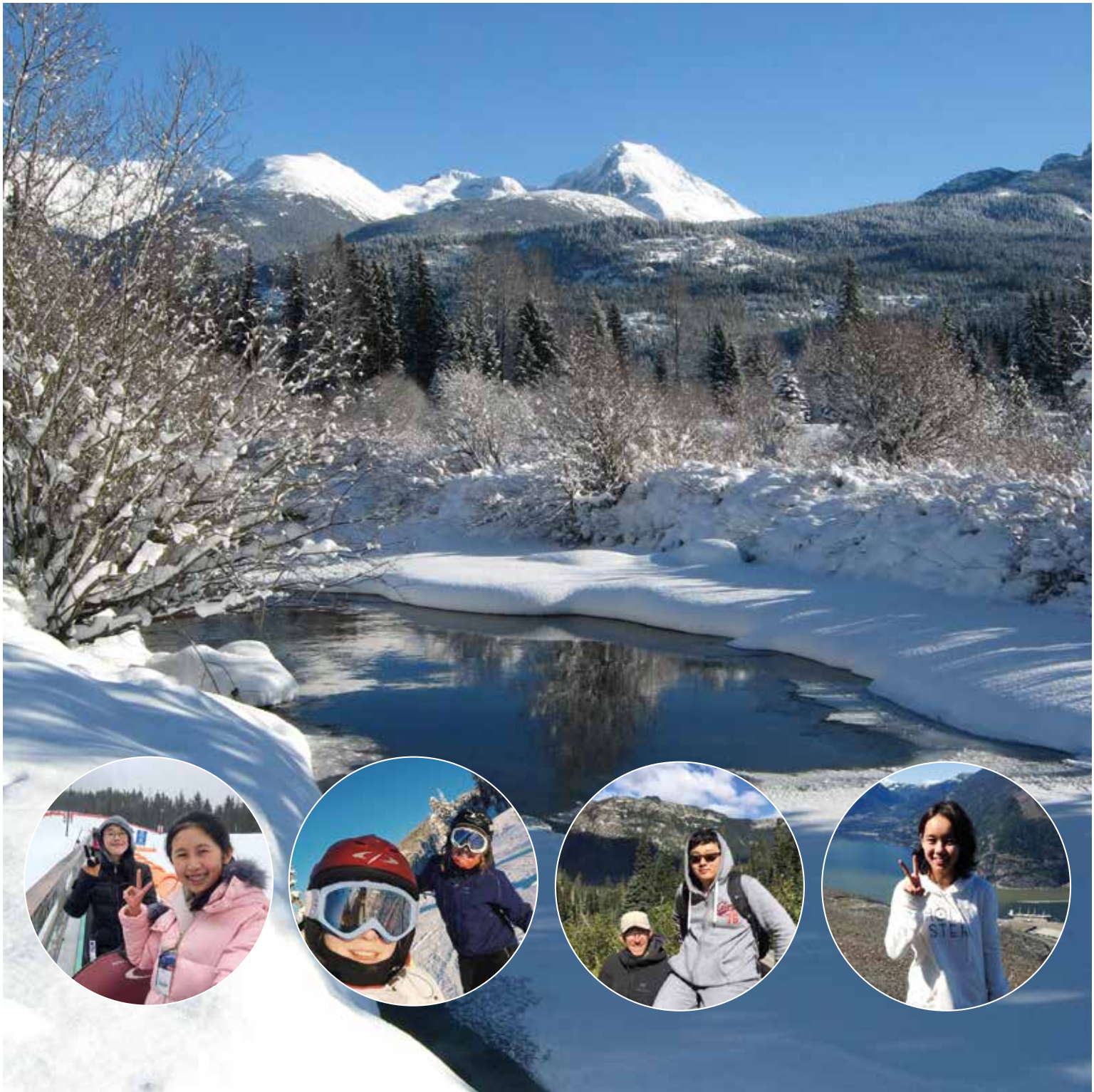
Please contact our office for a list of recommended agents.



Scan the QR code to contact our office

CANADA





Application Procedure

- 1 Submit on-line application and all documents, along with application fees, to the International Program at SD#48 (Sea to Sky).
- 2 If accepted, the student will receive a Letter of Acceptance, custodianship documents (if required), and an invoice for payment.
- 3 All fees (tuition, medical, homestay, airport pickup) must be paid in full before the start of the school year (pay by June for a September start). Fees may be paid by bank or wire transfer, money order, bank draft, or certified cheque.
- 4 After being accepted, the student applies for a Study Permit. Applications are made at the nearest Canadian Embassy or Consulate.
- 5 A host family will be confirmed by our team and the host family profile sent to the student. Students and their natural families are encouraged to contact the host family before arrival.
- 6 With assistance from agent, student books a flight to arrive in time for Orientation Day. SD48 International makes arrangements to meet the student at Vancouver International Airport and takes the student to their new Host Family's home. Student clears Canada Customs and Immigration at the first port of entry into Canada. Here, they present their letter and pick up their Student Visa.
- 7 Student arrives, is welcomed by their host family and begins the program. Orientations are scheduled at each school in the two business days preceding Labour Day Weekend.

Custodianship

The International Manager signs the notarized custodial document required by Immigration Canada and holds custodianship of the student while in our program. There is no fee charged to the student for this document or service. Students do not require additional guardianship services in Canada.

Medical insurance

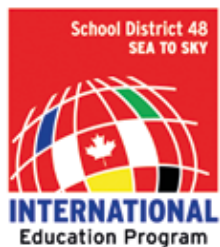
Adequate medical insurance is mandatory for all international students. The SD48 International Department enrolls students in a comprehensive medical insurance plan which includes full medical coverage for students for the duration of their term with the district.

Fees

Contact your Education Agent for assistance with fees. If you do not have an agent, we can recommend one.



Photo:
Seger Nelson



School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)

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