



# British Columbia Christian Academy

1019 Fernwood Ave, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 3Y5  
Tel: (604) 941-8426 Fax: (604) 945-6455  
Website: [www.bcchristianacademy.ca](http://www.bcchristianacademy.ca)

## KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL HOMESTAY EXPERIENCE!

British Columbia Christian Academy's International Student host parents will find the following advice helpful. We want to make the experience a positive, successful one for students and the host parents. It is recommended that incoming students and their parents consider this information, as well as the host families.

- It is expected that students become part of the family. This means that students will be home for meals. Students will take part in family activities and celebrations and it is hoped that they will volunteer to help in the home.
- It is expected that students talk with host families on a daily basis. People living in the same house should greet each other and discuss the activities of the day.
- It is expected that students actively seek to participate in the Canadian experience and try new things. Students should not spend all their time with friends from their home country.
- It is assumed that students are extremely interested in learning the English language so they should not insist on speaking their own language. It is expected that students watch English T.V. and videos and read English books.
- The host family should expect students to be committed to being successful in school. Students are expected to attend classes, to be on time for school and to work hard to complete their homework (Long-term International Student Program). Most students in high school will be doing 2-3 hours of homework per night with additional work on the weekends.
- It is assumed that students will arrive with some ability in basic English so that basic communication can start.
- Students are expected to learn the house rules and procedures and to follow these. Some customs are different, but families should expect students to try the "Canadian style", not act as if they were still in their home country. In particular, students are expected to obey curfews for returning home in the evening.
- Students usually enjoy teaching their homestay families a few words in their own language. This can be a fun time for family interaction. Also, it is enjoyable to allow the student to teach you how to cook a traditional dish from their home country.

A homestay family's support is an important resource for International students. While it is possible that a homestay placement may not work out for an individual student sometimes, most host families are very supportive and helpful. Our homestay parents are excellent and we thank you for your commitment and Christian love that you show these students.

Please see the reverse for a summary of the key points of the Student / Host Family Homestay Agreement.

## A Summary of the Student / Host Family Homestay Agreement

*Please retain for future reference*

### **General**

1. The Host family will provide basic furniture, which includes a bed, closet, desk or study table, chair, and good lighting in a separate room designated for the student.
2. The Host family will provide a clean and safe environment within the home. The student will be responsible for the cleanliness of his/her own room only.
3. The Host family will provide three healthy meals a day. An evening meal will be prepared for the student. The evening meal can be left for the student if he/she comes home late from school or if the Host family is not home.
4. A key to the house should be provided to the student (Long-term International Student Program).
5. The Host family will not require the student to baby-sit or do housework other than from keeping his/her room and bathroom clean.
6. The Host family will make an effort to show the student some local places of interest and include the student in the family's activities for the duration of the student's stay.
7. The Host family will bring the student every Sunday to attend church.
8. The Host family cannot host two students of the opposite sex. Two students speaking the same language may only be hosted when they are Short-term ESL students.
9. In the event the Host family is away from home during the student's stay, the Host family will make arrangements for someone to perform the obligations under this agreement during their absence. The homestay coordinator must be notified prior to their absence.
10. The Host family will arrange for transportation to and from B.C. Christian Academy for the student. As well, the Host family will check the student's homework to ensure that it is completed each day (Long-term students).
11. Adult members of the Host Family living at home, must undergo a Criminal Record Check. **The Host Family agrees not to host students from any other school or organization while hosting BCCA students.**
12. The Host family will contact the homestay coordinator immediately if difficulties arise and work with the coordinator towards resolving any issues which may arise.

### **Cancellation**

1. If the Host Family wishes to terminate the homestay before the agreed time, it should be on reasonable grounds and must allow B.C. Christian Academy sufficient time to find a new home for the Student (up to one month for Long-term International Students, and up to 2 weeks for Short-term ESL Students).
2. If the Student terminates the homestay before the agreed time, he/she must give the Host Family advanced notice (one month for Long-term International Students, and 2 weeks for Short-term ESL Students). If less than the required notice is given, the Host Family will be compensated by the Student for the remaining portion of the notice period unless the Homestay Coordinator deems the Host Family to have been in breach of the agreement. Any payment that has been made to the Host Family beyond the notice period must be refunded to the Student.
3. If the Host Family does not meet the requirement or criteria of the Homestay Program or breaches any of the terms and conditions contained in this agreement, the Homestay Coordinator will have the right to immediately terminate participation in the program.
4. If the Student does not meet the requirement or criteria of the Homestay Program or breaches any of the terms and conditions contained in this agreement, the Homestay Coordinator will have the right to immediately terminate participation in the program.

### **Liability**

The Host family will not be held responsible for loss of property or physical harm to the student except in a case where the family has broken the law. The Host family will maintain comprehensive liability insurance on their property for the duration of this contract and will provide the homestay coordinator with proof of such insurance upon request.