

For immediate release

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Comox Valley families needed to host international students this fall

COMOX VALLEY, B.C. – The Comox Valley is once again preparing to welcome a vibrant group of international students for the 2025-2026 school year and local families are being asked to open their homes to students from around the world. The Comox Valley Schools International Student Program is currently seeking host families for high school students arriving in September 2025.

These students, coming from countries such as Japan, Germany, Brazil, and South Korea, bring with them a wealth of cultural diversity, global perspectives, and an eagerness to experience life on Vancouver Island.

Hosting an international student is more than just providing a place to stay, it's about creating a home away from home. Host families are essential to the success of these students, offering not only a safe and supportive environment, but also a chance to be immersed in Canadian life. In return, families have the unique opportunity of learning about another culture firsthand.

"It's been an incredibly enriching experience for our whole family," said Michelle, a Courtenay resident who has hosted several students over the years. "We've learned about new traditions, shared Canadian holidays, and made lifelong friendships. Our kids have also gained a better understanding of the world beyond our community"

Students typically attend one of the local high schools and stay with their host families for a semester or the full academic year. Hosts receive a generous monthly stipend to help cover costs, as well as continuing support and guidance from the international program's homestay coordinators.

Families of all types are welcome whether they have young children, teens, or are empty nesters. What matters most is the willingness to share daily routines, offer guidance, and treat your guest as a member of the family.

"Hosting helps build bridges between cultures," said Youn Hee Edmonds, Homestay Supervisor with Comox Valley Schools. "It's a chance to make a real difference in a young person's life, while also giving your own family a chance to grow and learn in unexpected ways."

Anyone interested in hosting is encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as the program is still looking to place about 30 students for the fall. Please contact Youn Hee Edmonds at Younhee.edmonds@sd71.bc.ca or call our office at 250-703-2904 for more information.

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Media Contact

Craig Sorochan

Manager of Communications

Comox Valley Schools (School District 71)

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