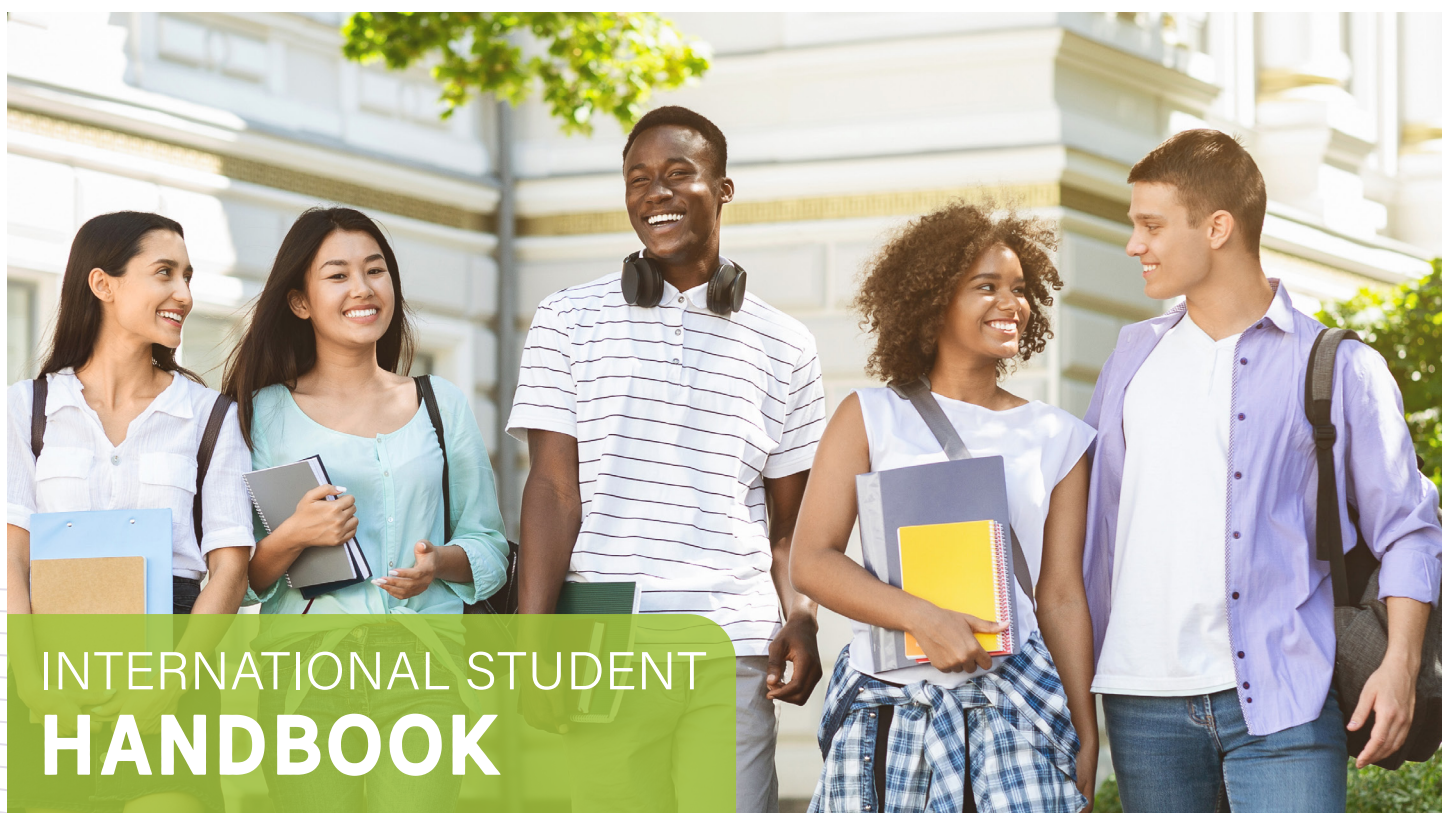




INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
HANDBOOK



WELCOME	2
SURREY SCHOOLS MAP.....	3
IMPORTANT PEOPLE	4
CITY TRANSIT	4
HOMESTAY	5
METRO VANCOUVER	5
CULTURAL ADAPTATION	6
PERSONAL SAFETY.....	6
TIPS FOR SUCCESS.....	7
MEDICAL INSURANCE	7



5%
Maximum
International
Population



**WARMEST
& MILDEST**
5°C winter to
25°C in summer



25+
Countries
Represented

WORLD CLASS AMENITIES

 20 Community Centres	 15 Turf Sport Fields
 200 Parks	 25 Multi-Court Tennis Centres
 5 Ice Rinks	 10 Golf Courses
 6 Indoor Aquatic Centres	 2 Hospitals with Pediatric ERs
	 8 Outdoor Pools



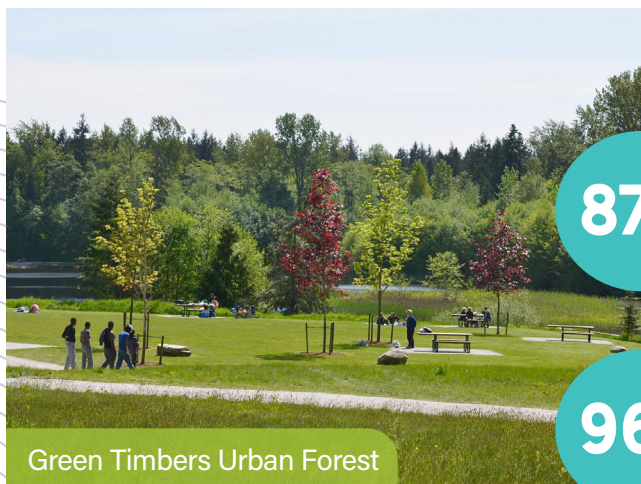
Welcome to

SURREY SCHOOLS

The Best of City and Nature



Clayton Heights



Green Timbers Urban Forest

Located on Canada's spectacular west coast in the middle of Metropolitan Vancouver, Surrey Schools is the fastest growing and most innovative school district in the province of British Columbia.

The District consists of schools in two cities: Surrey and White Rock. Surrey offers over 200 parks and six distinct and diverse town centres. The city of White Rock is a beautiful ocean side community with miles of beaches, waterfront shops and top-rated restaurants.

Both communities offer a great range of artistic, cultural and athletic activities, from brand new world-class sports facilities to city festivals and top performance venues. With one of the largest shopping malls in the country, convenient transportation options and restaurants offering food from around the world, students have everything they need to enjoy their life in Canada.

87%

Recent international student graduates were accepted to one or more Canadian universities

96%

Recent international student graduates would recommend studying in Surrey to a friend or family member

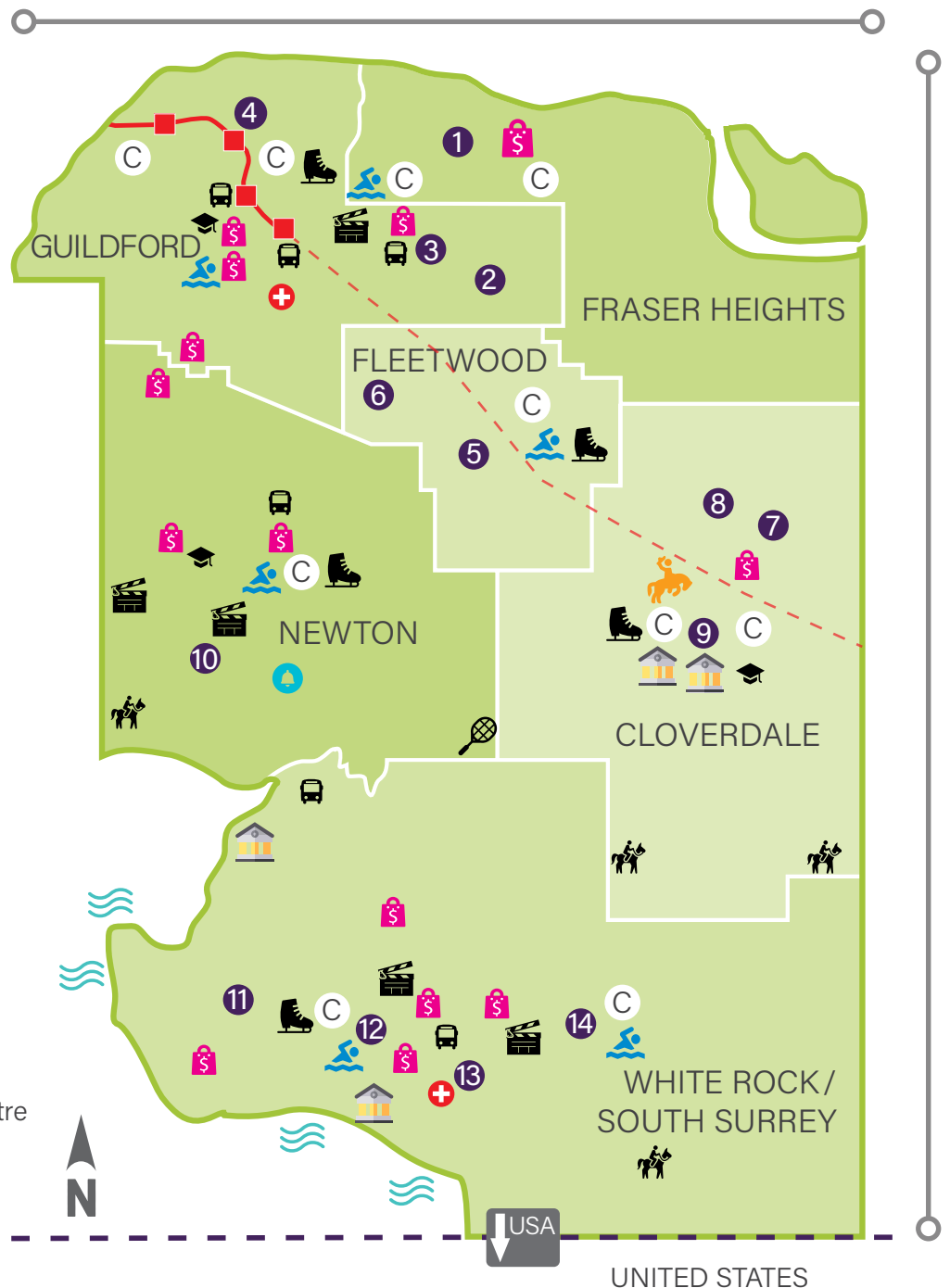
POPULAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

35 minutes travel time by car

- 1 Fraser Heights (FH)
- 2 North Surrey (NS)
- 3 Johnston Heights (JH)
- 4 Guildford Park (GP)
- 5 Fleetwood Park (FP)
- 6 Enver Creek (EC)
- 7 Clayton Heights (CH)
- 8 Salish (SA)
- 9 Lord Tweedsmuir (LT)
- 10 Panorama Ridge (PR)
- 11 Elgin Park (EP)
- 12 Semiahmoo (SM)
- 13 Earl Marriott (EM)
- 14 Grandview Heights (GH)

LANDMARKS

-  University
-  Shopping Centre
-  Hospital
-  SkyTrain
-  SkyTrain Expansion
-  Bus Loop / Exchange
-  Bell Performing Arts Centre
-  Indoor Tennis Centre
-  Indoor Aquatic Centre
-  Movie Theatre
-  Beach / Watersports Area
-  Horseback Riding
-  Community Centre
-  Ice Rink
-  Museum
-  Rodeo & Fairgrounds



Helpful TIP

To get around Surrey or to other communities in Metropolitan Vancouver, the TransLink bus & SkyTrain network is safe, frequent and offers discounted fares for students. [TransLink.ca](https://www.translink.ca)

IMPORTANT People

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Angela Olson

Senior Manager (Europe, Korea, China)
olson_angela@surreyschools.ca

Tymon Hsieh

Manager (Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, Hong Kong,
Central and S. America, China)
hsieh_t@surreyschools.ca

ACADEMICS/STUDENT SUPPORT

Matt Clarke

International Education Teacher
clarke_matthew@surreyschools.ca

OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM

Twila Patterson

Senior District Office Clerk (Applications and Payments-
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Sandra Bibby

Senior District Office Clerk (Applications and Payments -
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Alona Alphonso

District Office Clerk (Medical Insurance and Study Permits)
alphonso_a@surreyschools.ca

Ruby Hungerschafer

District Office Clerk (New Agent Inquiries,
Commissions, Reception)
hungerschafer_r@surreyschools.ca



SURREY SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE

District Education Centre

14033 92 Ave.
Surrey, BC, Canada,
V3V 0B7

Phone: + 604 595 6168
internationale@surreyschools.ca
www.studyinsurrey.ca



Getting Around With CITY TRANSIT

The highlight of Metropolitan Vancouver's rapid transit network, SkyTrain offers riders fast, frequent, high-capacity service. The goal of the SkyTrain and transit is to get Surrey residents where they need to go quickly, safely, and affordably.

With an anticipated opening date of 2028, the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain expansion will connect three different SkyTrain lines – Millennium, Expo, and Canada, resulting in over 100 kilometres of track. For more information on the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain project visit surreylangleyskytrain.gov.bc.ca

Check the TransLink Where to Buy page for a full list of retail locations and vending machines to buy your Compass Card.



HOMESTAY & Community

South Surrey Neighbourhood

Welcome to your new Canadian home!

You will have a private room all to yourself, complete with a comfortable bed, a desk for studying, a closet for your clothes, and a window to let in the daylight. Your host family will make sure you stay well-fed with three meals every day. In Canada, mornings are usually pretty casual, so you can help yourself to a quick, cold breakfast like cereal, fruit, or yogurt. For lunch, most students like to pack their own meals to take to school, usually whipping up a quick sandwich or heating up some leftovers from the night before. Dinner is a warm, home-cooked meal where everyone sits down together to share food, chat, and catch up on how your day went.

Communication

You can always text or call them to stay in touch, but chatting face-to-face is always the best way to connect. Just remember to always ask for their permission before you make plans to go out with friends or invite anyone over to the house.

Curfew

Talk with your host family to agree on what time you need to be home at night. Every family has different rules, so your curfew might not be the same as your friend's curfew. If you have any questions about these rules, you can always ask your host family or your homestay coordinator.

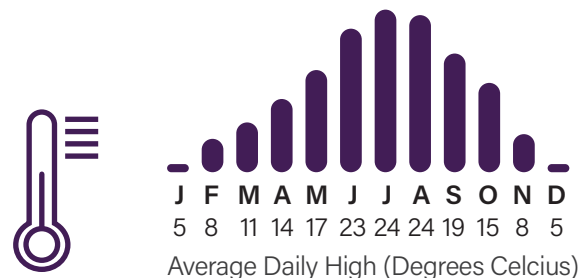


METRO Vancouver



WHAT TO WEAR

Pack warm clothes and a waterproof coat for the local weather. You will need heavy sweaters and a winter jacket during the colder months, and lighter shirts when spring arrives. If you forget anything, you can easily buy it at a nearby shopping mall or grab it during a weekend trip to downtown Vancouver!



WEATHER

Fall (September–mid-December): Temperatures range from 19°C to 5°C. September is warm and sunny before transitioning to darker, rainier weather.

Winter (mid-December–mid-March): Temperatures hover around 10°C to 0°C with rare freezing days and only 2–3 snowy days. Rain requires appropriate wet-weather gear.

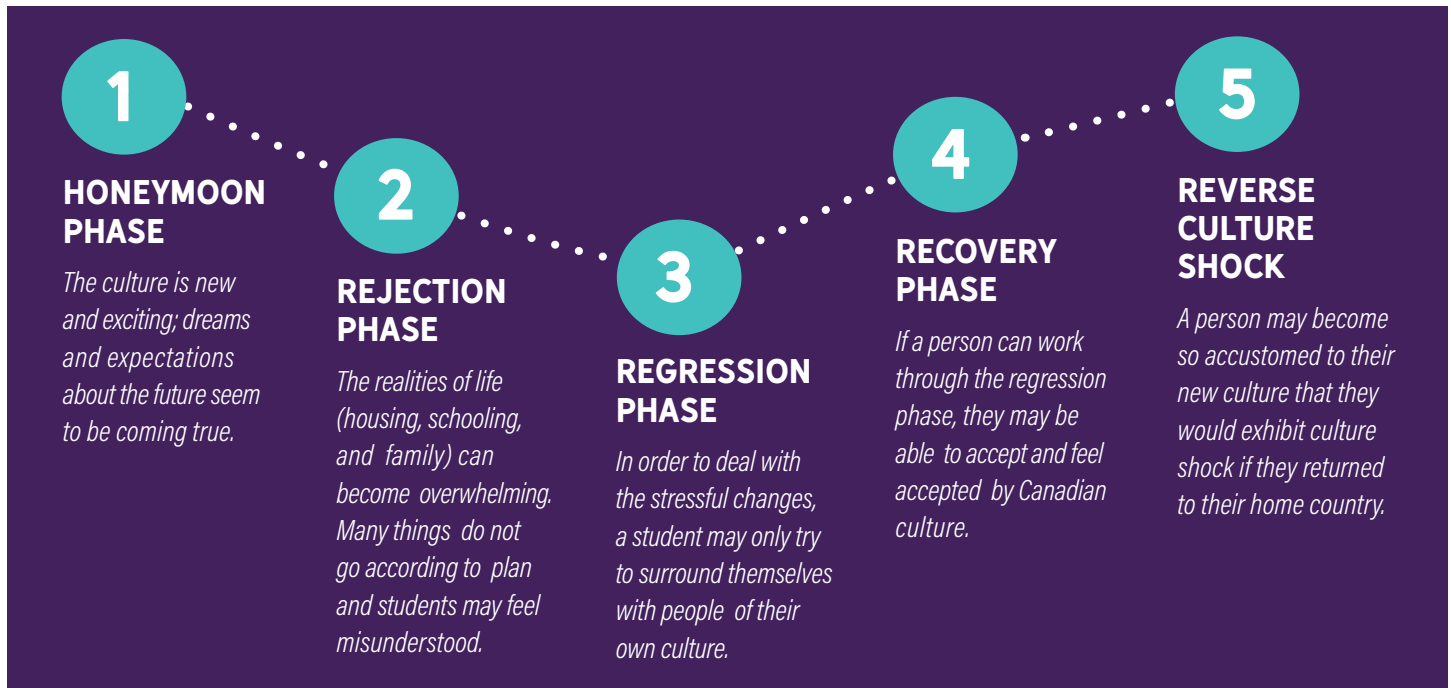
Spring (mid-March–mid-June): Temperatures range from 10°C to 20°C. It starts rainy and gradually clears up toward June.

Summer (mid-June–August): Temperatures usually range between 13°C and 25°C. It is the warmest, sunniest, and driest season.

CULTURAL Adaptation

Moving to a new country is a very exciting adventure. You will see and do many brand-new things. However, it is normal to sometimes miss your home, feel homesick, and experience a mix of happy and sad days. Whenever you feel down or lonely, please remember that you are not alone. You can always talk to your host family, your homestay coordinator, or the teachers and staff at your school for help and support.

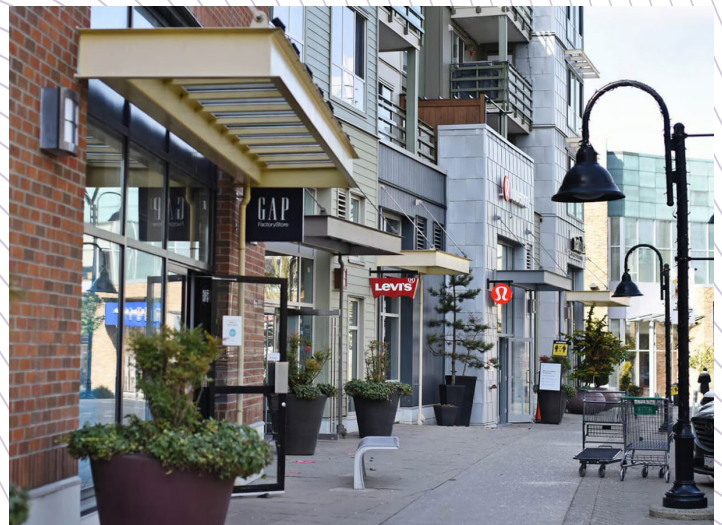
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADJUSTMENT TIMELINE



B.C. is generally a very safe place to live. Still, it is important to stay aware of your surroundings and follow these basic safety tips:

- Never open the door to strangers
- Lock doors and windows when you are home at night or away
- Tell your host family where you are going and when you will be home
- Travel with a friend when possible
- Plan your route before leaving home
- Keep valuables, such as your passport, credit cards, and wallet, in a safe place
- Save emergency numbers and your host family and school contacts in your phone

PERSONAL Safety



TIPS FOR SUCCESS



CELL PHONES in School

If you want to get a cell phone in Canada, you have plenty of options. The biggest wireless providers are **ROGERS**, **TELUS**, **BELL**, and **FIDO**. It is best to choose a prepaid plan rather than a monthly contract, as your host parents cannot sign contracts for you. You can also look into specialized companies like **PHONEBOX**, which focus specifically on offering flexible phone options for international students.

THE SURREY SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES POLICY

specifies that personal devices (including cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches) are only to be used during instructional time for educational purposes when explicitly directed by the classroom teacher.

\$ BANKING

The major banks in the Surrey area include:

Bank of Montreal (BMO)
Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD)
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)

Each bank has its own rules for opening an account, but you will usually need to show your passport and your study permit. Your host family can help you contact the banks to find out exactly what you need to bring. Please remember that your homestay parents cannot sign any bank documents for you.

911 What to do in an EMERGENCY

For any emergency, simply contact emergency services to immediately reach the **FIRE DEPARTMENT**, **POLICE**, or an **AMBULANCE**. When you call, an emergency operator will quickly connect you to the exact help you need.

International Education after hours emergency number varies by Homestay Company.



TIPS FOR STUDYING in Surrey

ATTENDANCE

Arrive on time. If you are late or absent, have your custodian notify the school ahead of time, and catch up on missed work with your teacher the next day.

ASSIGNMENTS

Turn in all work on the exact due date. Talk to your teacher early if you need extra time or need to make up a missed test or quiz.

DAILY SETUP

Keep your notes and handouts neat and organized. Expect classes to feel a bit more relaxed than at home, and remember you will need a computer for your middle or high school studies.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

All international students in our school district have medical insurance arranged by our department. Your coverage depends on how long you will be studying with us.

5 MONTHS OR LESS:

Comprehensive private insurance through StudyInsured.

6 MONTHS OR LONGER:

B.C. government MSP coverage.

For more information about your insurance coverage, please visit our website:

