

# STUDENT ARRIVAL GUIDE



**GOLDEN HILLS  
INTERNATIONAL  
WELCOMES YOU!**

**435A Highway #1,  
Strathmore, Alberta T1P1J4  
403-934-5121**

**<https://www.ghsd-international.com/>**

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# Contact Information

**Golden Hills International after-hours emergency number:  
(587)-333-3345**

**Carmen Spitzer (Principal & Student Custodian)**

**Office Landline: (403) 934-5121 Ext.2138**

**Mobile: (403) 823-0607**

**Email: [carmen.spitzer@ghsd75.ca](mailto:carmen.spitzer@ghsd75.ca)**

**Alena Miller & Casey Hartman**

**(Drumheller & Three Hills Accommodations Coordinators)**

**Mobile: (403) 361-0821**

**Email: [accommodations@ghsd75.ca](mailto:accommodations@ghsd75.ca)**

**Masami Ishikawa (Strathmore Accommodations Coordinator)**

**Office Landline: (403) 934-5121 Ext.2041**

**Mobile: (403) 901-3323**

**Email: [acomodations@ghsd75.ca](mailto:acomodations@ghsd75.ca)**

**Jodi Vanderlaan (Admissions Coordinator)**

**Office Landline: (403) 934-5121 Ext.2050**

**Mobile: (403) 901-3152**

**Email: [admissions@ghsd75.ca](mailto:admissions@ghsd75.ca)**

**Ashley Hanna (Communications Coordinator & Student Custodian)**

**Office Landline: (403) 934-5121 Ext.2049**

**Mobile: (403) 901-5784**

**Email: [communications@ghsd75.ca](mailto:communications@ghsd75.ca)**

**Geanette McNair (Office Admin)**

**Office Landline: (403) 934-5121 Ext.2054**

**Email: [geanette.mcnair@ghsd75.ca](mailto:geanette.mcnair@ghsd75.ca)**

# Travel Information

## Things to know:

**We will do everything that we can to make your arrival as smooth as possible!!**

**You can make your customs and immigrations declaration using Advance Declaration in the ArriveCan app, if you wish to do so, but it is not necessary. More information regarding can be found on the website link below:**

**<https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/services/arrivecan.html>**



## Important Information:

- Please send the students flight informations as soon as possible so the accomodations coordinators can schedule pick-ups accordingly. please send all flight details to: [acomodations@ghsd75.ca](mailto:acomodations@ghsd75.ca)**
- Agents and or families will recieve an email about two weeks prior to departure from the accomodation coordinators and this email will provide you with information about the driver and their contact information so the students are aware on who will be picking them up.**

# Bank & Phone Information

## Bank Account Information:

It is **MANDATORY** that all students set-up a Canadian bank account upon their arrival.

Why is it important to have a Canadian bank account?

- It is free for students to set up a Canadian bank account!
- If a student receives school or community awards, or if they receive an insurance cheque from Alberta health services, these need to be deposited into a Canadian bank account. Golden Hills International will not cash cheques endorsed to students.

## Phone Information:

It is very important that dormitory supervisors and/or homestay families have a way to contact students during their time in Canada with us.

- PhoneBox offers cell phone services for international students. They have new plans set that students can make a call to 30 different countries for 1000 minutes for free. Plans are powered by TELUS and each plan has a data block, so that we can prevent any additional fees such as data overage. Visit the **Phone Box Guide** for more information.
- Whats App is another communication option. It is free, easy to use, and allows for international communication with no fees. Please visit **WhatsApp Guide** for more information.



# Packing Tips

## Carry-On:

- **IMPORTANT-** Please make sure you include the following in your carry-on bags:
  - **Passport**
  - **Study Permit**
  - **Approval letter from the Canadian Visa Office**
  - **Custodianship documents**
  - **GHI emergency contact number from page 3**
  - **Cellphone (usable in Canada)**
  - **Change of clothing in case of lost luggage**

## Luggage:

- **When packing your suitcase, please remember that we have 4 seasons in Canada. Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer! You will be arriving when Fall is about to begin, and the weather will start to change and will get colder. Warm clothing is important as our Winter can reach colds of -30 degrees celsius. Please note that you are responsible to be able to carry your own luggage so be aware of the weight and that students are allowed to **ONLY** bring 2 pieces of luggage (plus their carry-on). If students have more than 2 pieces please ship further items to:**



**435A Highway #1, Strathmore, Alberta, Canada, T1P 1J4**



# Dates to Remember

## Important Dates:

**Arrival Dates for PCA Students: Friday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Arrival Dates for New Students: August 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Arrival Dates for Returning Students: August 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

## **Important School Dates:**

- **First day of School: September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**
- **Orientation: September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- **Winter Break: December 20<sup>th</sup> 2025-January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026(no school)**
- **End of First Semester: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **Departure Date(s) First Semester: January 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (or after last final exam)**
- **Arrival Date(s) Second Semester: January 31<sup>st</sup>-February 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**
- **First day of Second Semester: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**
- **Orientation of Second Semester: TBA**
- **Reading Week: February 14<sup>th</sup> - February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (no school)**
- **Spring Break: April 3<sup>rd</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (no school)**
- **End of Second Semester: June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (or after last final exam)**

## **End of Accommodation:**

- **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 is the last day of student accommodation. This means that students must be out of the dormitory & homestays for Summer break on this date.**

**We are looking forward to meeting new faces and seeing familiar ones again!**