

Avon Maitland – Student Handbook



PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

1. Communication and Relationship Building

- Speak to your homestay family about expectations and ask if there is anything they specifically want you to bring.
- You will be informed before arrival as to who will be picking you up at the airport; it may be your host, or a driver from our program. Make sure you are clear about where you will be meeting your host or driver after arriving at the airport.
- Carry your host's cell phone number or the transportation provider's phone number - this is important for all arrivals.

2. People you should know:

Your Homestay Coordinator is the first person to go to for information and help with:

- Support in navigating challenges or concerns within your Homestay
- Guidance following behaviour expectations and the International Student Agreement
- Safety concerns in the community and while at your homestay.
- Health and wellness concerns

School Advisors/Guidance Counselors are the first person to go to for information and for help with questions about:

- School routines, school supplies, lockers, and locks
- Course selection and timetable adjustments

- Academic challenges, report card inquiries
- Guidance following behaviour expectations at school
- Safety concerns while at school
- Student comfort: support when feeling sad, frustrated, confused
- Student Activities like: School athletics, clubs, field trips, and volunteering...
- Graduation requirements and university pre-requisites

3. Important Documents

Ensure that you have a copy of all documents required for entry into Canada, show you are going to be studying with the Avon Maitland District School Board, your assigned homestay family and that you have transportation prepared to take you from the airport to your homestay. A list of important documents can be found on the next page.

ARRIVAL IN CANADA

When you arrive in Canada, you will be met by an officer from the [Canada Border Service Agency \(CBAS\)](#) at a point of entry, such as an airport.

Be sure to have all the required documents prior to leaving your country and carry them with you, do not pack them in your suitcase. These documents include:

- Passport,
- "Immigration Canada Letter of Introduction for a Study Permit,' or eTA, or Visitors Visa,
- Avon Maitland District School Board Official Letter of Acceptance
- Custodian Declaration
- Homestay Profile
- Using ArriveCAN is not required.
- Wearing masks on planes, trains, and ferries is not required, however, it's highly recommended.

*Note: We recommend that you make a photocopy of all these important documents in case they become lost or are stolen. You may want to leave one copy at home with family members and pack another copy in your suitcase. Remember to keep the original documents with you in your carry-on bag for arrival at Canadian Immigration.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION TO YOUR HOMESTAY

The airport pick-up information will be shared with you/your agent mid-August when we have collected all the flights information. Upon arrival at the final destination airport, you should:

- Text your driver and host family/homestay coordinator. If you do not find your driver/AMDSB Staff when you arrive at the Exit & Greeting area, wait there for at least 15 minutes. A phone number of the driver/AMDSB Staff will be sent to your educational agent prior to your arrival in Canada. If there is no answer at this phone number, please contact the emergency number via WhatsApp at (+1) 226-998-2236 (Minh Le) or (+1) 519-441-1250 (Shaun Morton)
- Wear a fresh mask (recommended)
- Pick up baggage while maintaining physical distancing
- Exit the baggage area and go to the location you have previously arranged to meet your driver or host family.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INSURANCE – GUARD.ME

AMDSB has partnered with GuardMe to provide a comprehensive insurance plan for our students. The coverage under this policy is valid for the duration of your enrollment at our schools. The insurance policy will be automatically activated on your scheduled arrival date. Kindly provide AMDSB with a copy of your official flight ticket to ensure that your coverage is comprehensive and appropriately validated.

GuardMe [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

mobileDOCTOR by guard.me allows you to connect with Canadian doctors on Maple, a telemedicine company, as a part of your health benefits. Maple provides access to doctors, Canada wide, on your phone, tablet or computer anytime, anywhere. Seeing a doctor on Maple is safe and reliable, and can help prevent the need to go to a walk-in clinic or Emergency Room. Click [HERE](#) to register. Registration may only be completed upon receiving your policy number from your homestay coordinator when you arrive at the homestay.

Highlights: The Insurance Coverage

- Up to \$5,000 for non-emergent care
- Prescription limit doubled
- Out-patient psych benefit raised 10X to \$10,000
- In-patient psych benefit raised 6X to \$60,000
- Built-in Substance Abuse benefit up to \$25,000
- Consultations for ADD/ADHD and Acne
- Access to social worker now included
- Paramedical limits doubled, no referrals
- Built-in coverage for Adventurous Activities

Emergency Assistance Number: 1-888-756-8428 or

Email: Customercare@guard.me

HOMESTAY Q&A

Q: How are homestays selected?

A: We believe that homestay is the most important part of your stay in Canada. The International Education Manager and the Homestay Coordinators, who are responsible for the homestay program, will work hard to find you a suitable host family. We have many excellent host families to choose from and we will try to find the family that best suits your requirements.

Q: How do I ensure that I get the type of family that I am looking for?

A: We do our best to match each student with the “right” family. To help us do this, we ask you to provide us with as much information as possible about yourself and what you are expecting from a host family. Are you looking for a big family with many children who will give you lots of attention or are you looking for a more private experience? Do you like to play sports? Do you like pets? What are your hobbies? Answering these questions can really help us find the best possible family for you.

When applying for our schools and our homestay program please feel free to tell us as much as possible about yourself!

Q: I am afraid of dogs/cats. What if my family has a dog/cat?

A: If we know in advance that you do not like dogs/cats – you will not be placed in a home with dogs/cats. Also, before you arrive, we encourage you to connect with your host parents and if you are told of any pets that are in the home; you can notify us then and we will find you another home.

Q: Are any checks conducted to ensure my safety?

A: Yes. The Homestay Coordinators meet with the families before they are accepted. A criminal record check by the local Police is a requirement as well as a home inspection. The Homestay Coordinator also meets with the students during the year to make sure they are happy and feeling safe and comfortable in their home. AMDSB is also a community in which we all look out for one another—every student should feel safe here.

Q: Do I pay my homestay family?

A: No, you will pay for the program and we pay the homestay for you.

Q: Will I have my own room?

A: Yes. You will have a private bedroom.

Q: What does my monthly homestay fee include?

A: Your monthly homestay fee pays for room and board. You will be given a private bedroom with a door. You will be also given meals daily. The homestay also supports you with transportation arrangements to school and activities as well as help with the student's arrival and departure.

Q: What should I expect to have in my room?

A: The bedroom will contain a bed, dresser, closet space, desk and lamp. Again, each house is different, but you can expect to have a room in which you feel comfortable to sleep and study. That means your room will be clean, private and have a bed and small study area.

Q: Will I be expected to do chores?

A: To feel as though you are part of the family, it is suggested that you help out with minor chores. You would only do what other children in the family may do and it should never interfere with your studies. This is different from every homestay and is something that will be discussed upon your arrival. The families only want you to feel comfortable and so would never ask you to do something that you would not want to do. Keeping your room tidy, cleaning your share of the bathroom and washing up after you use the dishes are examples of what is commonly expected of students.

Q: What is Canadian food like?

A: Canada is a multicultural country and that is reflected in the food choices of many of our homes. The food you eat in Canada will most likely be quite different from what you eat in your home country. Every host family is different, but you can probably expect the following:

Breakfast – cereal with milk, toast, juice and coffee or tea are standard. On the weekends, breakfast may be bigger and include eggs, waffles, pancakes, or bacon.

Lunch – most students pack their own lunch for school. Lunch usually includes a sandwich, a drink, some fruit and snacks like cookies.

Dinner — A family will often serve Italian one night, then Mexican, German, British, East Indian or Asian foods on the other nights. Avon Maitland District School Board is located in “the home of pork congress”, so pork is common and always fresh. Beef and

chicken are also popular, and all types of produce are available year round.

Q: What do I do if I don't like the food?

A: Talk to the family or if you are uncomfortable with that suggestion then talk with the homestay coordinator. They are there to help you and will find a way to explain to your homestay that you do not like the food in a way that will not hurt anyone's feelings.

Q: Will the host family drive me to school, to school events, or to visit friends?

A: The host family will help you catch the school bus. They will drive you to places you need to go — such as friend's homes and sporting events. Please understand that your homestay is not a taxi service though and you need to make sure it is convenient for them to drive you — if you give them enough notice it should never be a problem.

Q: If my host family invites me to go with them on a family outing, will I be expected to pay for myself?

A: It pretty much depends on the occasion that you are invited, you are more than welcome to ask the host parents upfront if there is any cost related. If it is to travel somewhere where there is large travel costs involved (such as a trip to New York) then you have to help pay. This would be your choice, and you would never be required to pay for a trip unless you wanted to go.

Q: What happens if I need to see a doctor or dentist?

A: The insurance provider will offer a online application where you can talk to a "[mobile doctor](#)" if you don't feel well, the "virtual doctor" will give you all instructions and prescriptions if needed. Either your homestay coordinator or the host parents can set up an appointment for you or take you to the hospital if it is an emergency. Remember to have your insurance card with you when you visit a clinic or a hospital. If you need to see a dentist – the same applies except that your medical fees do not always cover this cost — you may have to pay for any dental work. It is suggested that you should go for a dental visit before coming to Canada.

Q: Do I need to have medical coverage?

A: All students who participate in our international program are required to have a medical coverage.

Q. Can I expect to have a phone line, internet connection or television connection in my room?

A. Your homestay will provide basic internet access, but not a phone line or television. The costs for these items and a higher speed internet connection are beyond the fee you pay for homestay and if you request them you may have to pay towards it. It is recommended that you should have a phone and a Canadian sim card during your stay for emergency situation.

Q: I think I will be quite nervous about living with a new family. What can I expect to experience as I adjust to the family?

A. The first few weeks of living in a new country with a new family will at times be difficult for some. You may feel homesick and frustrated with your new environment and language. This is natural. Give yourself time to adjust to your new surroundings. You may go through what is called “culture shock”. If this happens it is best if you participate with the host family as much as possible. Also - feel free to talk with the Homestay Coordinator or the school’s counseling staff or peer counselors about what you are going through — they are there to help you.

Q: What tips can you give me to help me make the most of my homestay experience?

A: Communication, consideration and tolerance are the three most important things for a successful homestay experience. After all, cultural differences are just that – differences. Try to interact as much as possible with the family. Show them pictures of your home and family so they can get to know you better and ask them lots of questions. Homestays are always happy to help, and they know they are vital in helping you understand our Canadian culture.

Q: Who are Homestay families?

A: Canada is a multicultural country made up of people from all over the world. There is wide variety among Canadian families, with different jobs, interests and ethnic backgrounds. Some Canadian families consist of a mother, father and children. There are also single parents with or without children, couples with no children, families with pets, and older, retired people who enjoy the company of international students.

Q: Is my host family responsible for all my meals or will I be expected to make my own meals?

A: This is something that you and your host family can discuss at the beginning of your stay as some students do like to do some cooking. The homestays are ready to prepare your breakfasts and dinners for you and to help you make up your lunch for

school. Most students do put their own lunches together and often make their own breakfasts in the mornings as well. It is up to the individual and what they are comfortable with.

Q: What do I do if I am unhappy in my homestay?

A: The first step is to discuss the problem with your family and then the Homestay Coordinator or the Program Manager. You can also bring your concerns to the Guidance Counselor, who is based in the school. All will make sure that your concerns will be addressed immediately. We strongly believe that our students need to feel secure in their homestays if we expect them to succeed in school. The Homestay Coordinator will help mediate the process. Sometimes it is nothing more than a simple misunderstanding or a personality conflict. Every effort is made to match you with a Canadian family that is suited to your personality and lifestyle. Both students and families must realize that they are dealing with a new culture, and both may need to make some compromises. Even if you are matched with a family that is different from what you expected, the homestay experience can be great. In unusual circumstances it may be necessary to move you to a new homestay.

HOMESTAY LIVING EXPERIENCE

Your home-away-from-home is your place to relax and experience Canadian family life. Your Homestay family is there to provide you with a welcoming place to stay, guidance when you need advice, and comfort when you have had a long day. Although your Homestay parents will never replace your natural parents, they are your caregiver while you are living in their home. Your Homestay parents will have expectations for you to follow. We have recommendations to help you build a successful and happy Homestay experience.

1. Manners - Be polite and courteous with all members of the family. Use good manners: say “please” and “thank you.” Help in your Homestay and be part of the family. You can help by offering to set the table, bring in the groceries, or empty the dishwasher once in awhile. When visiting with another person from your country, speak English in front of your Homestay family.

2. Respect - Treat your host family and their home and its possessions with care and respect. Your family will be respectful of your things, too. Please listen to your hosts as they teach you how to use their appliances especially the stove and laundry machines.

3. Home Time - Be home at the agreed time, after school and on the weekend. Mealtimes with Homestay families are very important and should not be missed except for important functions. You can discuss any food concerns with your host parents. Tell them if you dislike a food or if you have a wish for a particular food. It would be nice for you to offer to prepare a traditional dish from your country for your family to enjoy. We require our students to have at least 4 dinners with their host family per week. If you will be late for dinner, please give your host as much warning as possible. Let them know if you would like a plate of food left for you to heat up when you arrive home.

4. Community Time – While in the community, all students must be under supervision and stay in regular communication with Homestay parents. (This is why you must have a phone plan with data!) Make sure your Homestay parents know where you are and when you will be home. If your plans change, let your Homestay parents know. Before dark, you need to be at a supervised location like your home, a friend’s home, a shopping mall, or recreation centre. You must not be at the beach, lake, park or any other unsupervised location after dark. Always be with a friend when ever possible. If drugs or alcohol show up.... leave immediately.

5. Curfew - Follow the evening curfew rules. They are in place to ensure your safety and well-being. While you will be home studying most evenings during the week, if you do go out it is expected that you will be home by 9:00 pm, or at the time requested by your Homestay parents. Be sure to phone or text your Homestay if an emergency comes up, or if you will be late returning home. Curfew times vary with age and demonstrate responsibility and can be adjusted at the discretion of the Homestay parent.

Weekdays – Sunday to Thursday

- 9:00 pm for grades 8 to 12
- When you join a school or community activity during the week, you can ask permission from your Homestay family to extend curfew to attend these events and activities.

Weekend – Friday and Saturday and any day immediately prior to a school closure.

- Before midnight for grade 11 and 12, unless, from time to time, an extension is authorized by your Homestay parent
- 11:00 pm for grade 10
- 10:00 pm for grade 8 and 9

6. Having Friends Over - Be sure to ask for permission before inviting friends to your Homestay. Sleepovers are only permitted with advance approval from the Homestay parents of both you and your guest. It is the student's responsibility to provide their host parents with the phone number, address, and names of the parents who will supervise you while at the sleepover. Your homestay host must communicate directly (by phone call, not text) with your friend's homestay host or parent to confirm sleepover arrangements. International Student Education Program rules prohibit sleepovers involving students of the opposite sex or chosen partners.

7. Energy Use - Be sure to understand the operation of the heating thermostats and when they should be used. For example, don't leave heat at a high setting when you leave in the morning. As well, talk over the use of the shower to be sure the arrangement is suitable for all family members. Showers should not be longer than ten

minutes to conserve hot water and energy.

8. Your Room - Keep your room clean and tidy. Do not eat in your bedroom unless it is permitted. If you are permitted to eat in your room, be sure to bring your dishes out to the kitchen when you are finished. Dirty dishes in your room will begin to smell, mould, and attract insects. Clean the dishes and put them away or put them in the dishwasher. Your bedroom is your personal space. However, we recommend to Homestay parents that they do a quick room check with you once a week. Should you accidentally damage anything, tell your Homestay family immediately. Accidents do happen, and it is better to deal with the issue right away rather than wait.

9. Laundry - Please talk with your Homestay family about the laundry requirements. Ask if you are expected to do your own laundry or if it can be done with the family's laundry. You may be assigned a specific day and time to do your laundry, for example, Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm. Please be respectful of this arrangement so you do not inconvenience other family members. Your Homestay family may choose to wash your towels and bed linens; however, they may give that responsibility to you. Please ensure you understand who is doing this. If there are items you wish to wash by hand and hang to dry, ask where you can do this.

10. Cooking – If you are interested in cooking while you are in your Canadian homestay you should first discuss this with your host parents. Learn how, what, and when you are permitted to cook. Your host parents will most likely want you to work with them in the kitchen before they permit you to cook or bake on your own.

11. Phone Use – All International students are required to have an operating cell phone with data. The number must be provided to your Homestay and the coordinator. Be considerate with the use of your phone. Late night calls after 10:00 pm and before 6:00 am from local friends or family & friends overseas are not allowed (unless it is an emergency) to avoid waking the family, and ensure students are rested for school.

12. Family Expenses - If a student has questions about costs or bills proposed by their Homestay family, the student should contact their Homestay Coordinator.

13. Travel Plans or Visitors - If you have travel plans, or have relatives coming to visit, be sure to discuss this with your Homestay parents and Homestay Coordinator at the earliest date possible. Applications for overnight travel outside or inside of Avon

Maitland District School Board without your Homestay family must be completed at least 7 days in advance (30 days in advance if it is international travel.) If you are away from Avon Maitland District School Board and your return plans must be changed, call, text or email your Homestay parents and your Homestay Coordinator, immediately. You can request a copy of the Travel Form from your local coordinator.

14. Well-being - If you are lonely, worried or feel sick, talk to your Homestay parents, Homestay Coordinator, School Advisor or School Counsellor. They are all there to help you. It is a normal feeling to be worried or sad at times and if you are unwell, it is difficult to study successfully.

15. Homestay Concerns - If you have a concern or a problem in your Homestay talk to your Homestay parents about it. Discussing disagreements or concerns as they arise is a typical Canadian practice. Canadians appreciate knowing about challenges and working to find solutions that will help everyone. If you are uncertain about how to discuss a problem, ask your Homestay Coordinator for help.

16. Student Moves - The Homestay Coordinator makes every attempt to find a suitable match between a student and the Homestay family and will monitor the satisfaction of both parties through regular contact.

When things are not working out with the host:

First, we encourage all students to have a conversation with their host family about any issues they are having. If such conversations do not resolve the issue, the student is advised to contact the Homestay Coordinator on the matter. If the interventions, mediation, and coaching by the Homestay Coordinator do not work and the situation remains unsatisfactory, the student is advised to:

- Contact your Homestay Coordinator to discuss the opportunity for the student to change Homestays and determine if the student move is urgent or non-urgent.
- If the move is urgent, the Homestay Coordinator will make arrangements for the move asap.
- If it is not urgent, the host family and student will be coached by their Homestay Coordinator on how to best manage the situation while a new home is being found.

- We do our best to make the moves in a timely manner, but unless it is urgent the student will need to remain in your home until a new host family can be located and the paperwork completed.

17. Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping, and Smoking - The purchase, possession and/or use of drugs, alcohol, vape products and cigarettes are illegal for youth under the age of 18, in ON, and against program rules. Friends help friends make good decisions. Keep each other safe and report worrisome behavior. Infraction of these rules can result in immediate dismissal from the international Program, confiscation of your Study Permit, and notification to Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Do not buy and do not consume, even if you are 19 years old.

18. Sexual Activity - International Students are expected to abstain from sexual activity with a partner while in Avon Maitland District School Board.

19. International students as passengers in cars - Let your Homestay know who you are driving with and do not be part of overloading a car. It is advisable to avoid being a passenger in a vehicle driven by an under the age of 21 driver. An G2 Driver may only have one passenger unless they are a member of the driver's immediate family.

20. Home Security - You are also responsible for helping to maintain security in the home. Ensure doors and windows are locked before you leave the home. Take your keys with you and do not give copies of your keys or alarm codes to anyone. If you lose your keys, the family may feel the need to change the locks. You may be responsible for this charge. If you do lose your key, tell your Homestay parents. Do not borrow a key from another family member and copy it.

21. Emergency 911: In most areas of North America, 911 is the universal call number if police, fire or ambulance personnel are required. If you require any of these services, do not be afraid to call. However, 911 is not a toy and should never be "tested." Misuse of the 911 system is a Criminal Offense under the Criminal Code of Canada and punishable by fines and expulsion from the program. Make sure you have learned your Homestay address and phone number should you ever need to give it to emergency personnel or if you become lost or disoriented. That way, someone can always help you. You will be given a card with this information, but it is a very good idea to store it in your phone and memorize it as well.

22. International students are not permitted to have paid employment. You have a Study Permit, not a Work Permit. You may volunteer.

A good Homestay experience can build relationships that last a lifetime. When you put respect and responsibility together with patience, curiosity and humour, the foundation for a great Homestay experience is created!

GETTING TO SCHOOL – SCHOOL BUS/WALKING

Your homestay host will explain how you should go to school each day. Some students will live further away from the school and will take a yellow school bus to/from school each day. Other students will live closer to the school and can walk or ride a bike to school.

By School Bus / Public Bus:

Many students take a school bus to school each morning that picks up at the same time every day. Your homestay host will explain to you what time the bus will be picking you up and where the bus stop is.

To find out more about school bus services, please visit our student transportation website at <https://hpsts.mybusplanner.ca/TransportationEligibility>

Walking or Riding a Bike:

If you live close enough to walk to school, your homestay host will explain directions to/from the school to you. Some students will choose to ride a bicycle to school. If you would like to do that, speak to your family about getting a bicycle. You will also need to get a bicycle helmet and a lock for your bicycle.

*** Note: Students enrolled in the International Education Program at the Avon Maitland District School Board are not permitted to drive motorized vehicles under any circumstances.**

****Note: International students as passengers in cars - Let your homestay parents/coordinator know who you are driving with and do not be part of overloading a car. It is advisable to avoid being a passenger in a vehicle driven by an under the age of 21 driver. An G2 Driver may only have one passenger unless they are a member of the driver's immediate family.**

SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

School Expectations

Students who are accepted into the program agree to follow school expectations. Successful students show respect, demonstrate responsibility, commit to their studies, and engage in activities. These are the school district expectations:

- Attend all classes on time with the right materials.
- Complete all assigned work. Even if the work is difficult.
- Ask the teacher or the ESL teacher, for extra help, attend study groups.
- Read in English for 30 minutes each day.
- Be polite and courteous with all teachers and school staff.
- Be friendly and cooperative with other students.
- Participate in school activities such as teams, choir, clubs, and social events.
- Plan appointments and vacations during school holidays so you do not miss school.
- Speak English every opportunity you have, even with people who speak your home country's language!

Classroom Expectations

Academic Expectations: The course passing grade in Ontario is 50%, however, international students are expected to achieve a minimum of 60% in each course. If you find a course challenging, please see your School Advisor/Guidance Counselor as soon as possible. Our schools offer English Language support, your Homestay parents may offer support, and our communities have opportunities for additional tutoring.

Course Work and Assessments: You are expected to complete all class assignments and class exams in your courses. If you are planning to graduate in Ontario, you are required to collect at least 30 credits, to pass the OSSLT Assessments and to complete 40 hours of community volunteering. For more details, please see your Guidance counselor at school.

ARRIVING AT YOUR SCHOOL

Once you arrive at your homestay, the homestay family will officially register you to the school - **(You DO NOT NEED TO TAKE ANY ACTION HERE)**

The following documentation will be required the first time you visit the school:

- Proof of Address (Utility bill, proof of Ontario Property Assessment Notice, or lease agreement)
- Proof of Birth (Birth Certificate, Canadian Passport, birth registration, citizenship card or official record of hospital birth record)
- Proof of Custody where applicable (Custody orders, court-ordered Guardianship)
- Immigration documents where required (Study Permit, VISA)
- Immunization records

International students can only participate in sports teams/clubs if they complete the OFSAA form. The host family will complete the form for you.

Here's the link to the [OFSAA Transfer Appeal Form](#)

Under Part B (APPEAL BASED ON), students should check (a), (ii). "The student has transferred to an Ontario school from outside of Canada..." Please also note the documentation required on page 7 for each applicant.

Please have this form printed, filled, signed and sent to the Guidance counselor on the first day of school. Host parents can sign under the Parents/Guardian section.

Your school may also prepare an orientation for you and your new classmates. The orientation is designed to help make you feel comfortable and to introduce you to the important people that will help you in your studies. School's orientation will be scheduled in the first week of school. Please contact your school's Guidance Counsellors for more details.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TIMETABLING

The individual timetables for international students will be generated automatically by the school's scheduling system, based on the course selections you provided in your application. This process ensures that your classes are assigned according to your preferences and the availability of courses. It is important to review your course choices carefully during the application process, as these selections will form the basis of your schedule. Once generated, your timetable will reflect the courses you expressed interest in, but please note that adjustments may be necessary to accommodate class sizes and scheduling constraints.

Additionally, each student will have a scheduled meeting with their guidance counselor at the school to review and discuss their course schedule. During this meeting, students will have the opportunity to request changes to their courses, subject to approval by the International Education Department, within the first two weeks of the semester. We encourage students to carefully consider their course selections and communicate any necessary adjustments during this period to ensure an optimal academic experience.

Each student will be enrolled in three to four courses, with each course comprising approximately 110 hours of instruction, equating to one credit per course. Please be advised that any requests for course changes must be submitted through the designated agency and approved by the International Education Department. Individual students are not permitted to make modifications to their course schedule independently without prior approval from the appropriate authorities.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FIELDTRIPS

For the first semester of this school year, AMDSB has schedule 3 field trips for our international students.

1. **September 24, 2025 - Destination Toronto (Trip fee CAD\$100)**
2. **October 9, 2025 - Destination Niagara Falls (Trip fee CAD\$120)**
3. **November 19, 2025 - Toronto Christmas Market (Trip fee CAD \$95)**

Details of the trip itinerary and the registration form will be communicated to you via separate emails from your local homestay coordinators. Please note that seats for the trips are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration form will be distributed approximately one month prior to the scheduled trip date. We kindly advise that you complete your registration promptly once it becomes available.

OTHER QUESTIONS

We am looking forward to welcoming you to our district. Our staff and homestay families would be thrilled to welcome you to our area and introduce you to the reasons why Huron and Perth counties are the perfect blend between rural comfort and urban experience.

Our schools offer a wide variety of programs and amazing opportunities for you to explore. Our district borders Lake Huron in the west with beautiful beaches and fabulous sunsets, and stretches to the east through an ideal blend of rural and urban communities. We are home to the world renowned Stratford Festival, which showcases some of the best live theatre you will find anywhere and we are a short distance from Canada's most popular attractions, including Toronto and Niagara Falls. Our program is supported by a team of friendly and dedicated staff.

Avon Maitland District School Board - Come for the Education, Stay for the Experience