

International Student Orientation 2026–2027

We are delighted to welcome you to the Simcoe County District School Board for the 2026–2027 school year! We hope this year will be full of growth, discovery, and unforgettable experiences. We're excited to be part of your educational journey and look forward to supporting you every step of the way.

Here are some important details to help you prepare for your orientation week. Please read carefully!

Orientation Week Schedule: September 1-3, 2026

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

In-School Orientation

Students will attend orientation at their assigned school. Transportation will **not** be provided to and from the school, please discuss this and make transportation arrangements with your host family. Please arrive on time and go directly to the Guidance Office upon arrival. Orientation sessions will include a school tour, timetable review, and helpful tips for a smooth start.

School	Orientation Start Time (1-1.5 hours long)
Banting Memorial High School	12:00-1:30 PM
Barrie North Collegiate Institute	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Bear Creek Secondary School	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Bradford District High School	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Collingwood Collegiate Institute	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Eastview Secondary School	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Georgian Bay District Secondary School	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Innisdale Secondary School	1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Maple Ridge Secondary School	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Nantyr Shores Secondary School	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Orillia Secondary School	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Twin Lakes Secondary School	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

 Please note: End times are approximate and may vary slightly depending on the school's schedule and activities.

- What to bring: Nut-free snack and water. (Food is NOT provided).
- Dress comfortably and be ready to explore your new school!

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Cultural Experience at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons (morning) and Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre (afternoon)

All students will participate in a half-day cultural excursion to Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, a historic site that offers a unique glimpse into early Canadian history. In the afternoon we will make our way to Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre (10-minute walk). At Wye Marsh “participants will learn all about the different types of birds of prey, their habitats, adaptations, and life histories, all while being delighted by these magnificent animals in flight.”

- Departure Time: Bus schedules are being shared via True North through email communication with you and your host family. **Please arrive at your school and go to the FRONT OFFICE 10-15 minutes prior to your departure time.**
- What to bring: Nut-free lunch and snacks, water bottle, and comfortable walking shoes.
- Dress for the weather – this is an outdoor event!
- Lunch is **NOT** provided.

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Team Building at Hardwood Ski and Bike

Join us for a fun and active day of outdoor team-building activities!

- Departure Time: Bus schedules are being shared via True North through email communication with you and your host family. **Please arrive at your school and go to the FRONT OFFICE 10-15 minutes prior to your departure time.**
- What to bring: Nut-free snacks and water bottle.
- What to wear: **Closed-toe shoes**, comfortable clothing, and layers (short and long sleeves). Dress for the weather – this is an outdoor event!
- **Lunch will be provided**

Additional Information

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

School Hours: 8:00 am to 2:30 pm

School Bus: If your host home is more than 3.2 km from your school, you are eligible for school bus transportation and will be assigned a school bus. Details will be shared with your host family.

Timetables: Timetables will be distributed during in-school orientation. You'll meet with Guidance to review and request changes if needed. Course changes are allowed within the first two weeks, *depending on course availability*.

Technology: We recommend bringing a Windows laptop for compatibility with school systems. Apple devices are acceptable if you're comfortable using both platforms.

Cell Phone Policy: Phones are not permitted during class unless directed by a teacher.

Sports & Clubs: Tryouts for sports teams begin the first week of school. Clubs are open to all and usually meet during lunch or after school. To find a complete list of sports and clubs at your school, check with the school's guidance department or visit your school's website (click on 'students' and then 'clubs and sports'). The school websites can be found at: <https://studyinsimcoecounty.com/academic-programs/our-schools>

Winter Activities: If you plan to ski or skate regularly, consider bringing your own equipment. Rentals and used gear are also available locally.

 Don't forget to review the online orientation for more helpful information!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU SOON!