

Penticton Christian School

International Student Policy

Rationale:

The rationale for this policy is based on four aspects:

- To enrich PCS' culture by enrolling students from a variety of national backgrounds.
- We live in a “global village”. International students make this point real to our school community.
- To support the Biblical perspective that the Christian church is made up of all nations.
- To provide PCS with an opportunity to increase revenue as well as to use its resources in an efficient and stewardly way.

Parameters:

- Enrolment of international students may not exceed **10%** of the total student body or a class at any given time. Students should be fully integrated into PCS in terms of language, curriculum, and extra-curricular activities before being considered outside the 10% limit.
- Enrolment of a variety of international backgrounds is encouraged.
- International students should live with parents or guardians before **grade 9** and live in an environment that is consistent with the school's vision and enrolment policy. PCS must ensure that its vision of the home, school, and church working together in the raising of a child is honored.
- Commitment to PCS' mission, goals, and vision needs to be understood clearly as well as followed by those considering enrolment.
- Parents/guardians of international students are to meet with the school's Enrolment Committee “face-to-face” before admission is granted. Prospective international students should attend such “face-to-face” meetings as well. This will allow all parties involved to form a clear understanding of the school's expectations and services, the students' expectations and responsibilities, and the students' families' expectations and necessary commitments.
- International students should receive some form of English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. This will help students acquire a working knowledge of the English language. Upon arrival at the school, international students in grades 4-12 will be tested to determine their level of English proficiency. Based on the outcome of the testing the students will receive formal ESL support based on their level of proficiency. The cost of ESL will be covered in the international student tuition fee. ESL students who are in K-3 learn English best through immersion; students will not receive formal ESL instruction but the ESL teacher will provide support to the homeroom teacher.
- International students are expected to participate in the regular educational program of PCS, based on their grade level placement as well as taking their own unique educational needs into account.

- An International Student Coordinator is needed to provide support to international students. **The fee of \$500.00/student/school year is to be borne by the school's international student program.**

Tuition Fees/Living Costs:

- International students and their families are to be charged a flat fee of **\$11,700.00**, per student and per school year. This amount includes tuition fees, fees for ESL assessment and instruction (if applicable), the International Student Coordinator's fee, as well as all fees related to medical insurance. MSP is available to students after a waiting period of three months. The school will provide interim insurance for students from an authorized insurance provider during the waiting period.
- In the case of an international student enrolling for only a portion of the school year, the above amount will be pro-rated.
- International students and their families are to be charged **100%** of the school's registration fees, activity fees, and all other fees that may arise from time to time.
- International students and their families may consider presenting host families, if applicable, with "Thank you" gifts in order to show their appreciation for the commitment of such families to the school's international student program.
- Host families should receive a pre-determined and mutually agreeable monthly payment from international students and their families in order to cover the students' living costs and any other costs host families may incur while looking after international students. The school suggests a minimum of **\$650.00/student/month** be paid to host families. This "homestay" fee does not include personal expenses such as toiletries, school supplies, etc.

Immigration Canada:

- International students and their families are responsible for ensuring that all matters of immigration have been taken care of before the students start their studies at PCS.
- International students and their families are responsible for paying any and all fees associated with obtaining the privilege to study in British Columbia, to enter Canada, etc.
- The school's International Student Coordinator is to assist students and their parents with renewing student visas, if applicable, and to ensure that all international students, if applicable, have valid student visas.
- International students attending PCS for only a short amount of time and for the purpose of exposure to a different culture and language (immersion), without receiving marks/grades for their performance at the school, do not need to obtain a student visa.

Medical Insurance:

- International students who possess a valid student visa are eligible to obtain BC MSP coverage 3 months after their initial arrival in British Columbia. The school will provide interim insurance until the student is eligible for MSP. The school's International

Student Coordinator will enrol international students in both interim insurance and BC MSP and administer the payment of all fees.

Agents:

- Agents shall not be paid any fees for their referrals of international students to PCS.
- Agents need to be made aware of PCS' mission and vision, goals, and policies.

Date of Board Approval:_____ Signature:_____