



Welcome

Information for

International Students

York Region District School Board (YRDSB) is one of Canada's leading providers of Public Education. We look forward to welcoming you to York Region and trust that you will enjoy your time in Canada, feel at home in your new community and have an academically successful learning experience at school.

Orientation Program – Secondary Students

To provide every secondary student with the best possible start, all new students are required to attend a two-week orientation program. The orientation is relevant to you as it will prepare you to adapt to your new home, school and community. As part of the first week's program, you will be given your Literacy and Numeracy Assessment. You are not able to register at your home school until the assessment is completed.

Upon Arrival – Checklist

Your selection of courses – placement in courses at the secondary level - is dependent on the academic assessment which normally takes approximately three hours to complete. In order to proceed with the assessment, make sure that you have the following documents/items with you:

- Education Services Agreement signed by parent/custodian
- original Letter of Acceptance
- your passport with your Study Permit
- proof of address in York Region
- your most updated school report cards/transcripts
- dictionary
- calculator

Important Contact Information

Some telephone numbers to keep handy:

York Region Learning Connections

General Admissions: 905.883.0047
admissions@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Homestay Coordinator

905.883.0047 ext. 306
Emergency toll-free telephone 1.866.694.1323 (available 24/7)
homestay@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

International Student Liaison Officer

905.883.0047 ext. 328
Direct line: 416.315.8986
international.liason@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Ingle International Student Medical Insurance

1.800.663.0399 (24-hour claim emergency line) or online www.ingleinternational.com

Police/Fire

911 - To be used in case of emergency only. When connected, inform the emergency operator of the reason for the call and answer all questions correctly. In cases of emergency, timing is of the essence.

York Region Learning Connections



*International Education Division,
York Region District School Board*

10909 Yonge St., Suite 202, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3E3

T 905.883.0047 | Toll-free 1-866-306-YRLC (9752)

www.yrlc.on.ca | yrlc.info@yrdsb.edu.on.ca



Excellence in Action



Character Matters: *respect • responsibility • honesty • empathy • fairness • initiative • courage • integrity • perseverance • optimism*

Clothing Attire

The climate in Ontario is characterized by four seasons: summer, fall, winter and spring. Each season brings frequent and abrupt changes in temperature. As a result we suggest a variety of clothing items to accommodate the fluctuations in temperature.

The temperature ranges from up to 34C during the summer to occasional lows of -20C in the winter. Make sure to check www.theweathernetwork.com for comprehensive weather information.

Most Canadian students wear jeans, shirts, sweaters and sweatshirts to school. Although, shorts are permitted in the school environment, short-shorts, low-cut tops and other revealing articles of clothing are not permitted. If you come to school with inappropriate attire, parents or custodians may be contacted and you will be sent home.

Be sure to pack:

- casual clothes for daily wear
- sweatshirts and sweaters
- warm jacket
- winter coat, scarf, gloves and winter hat
- lightweight waterproof jacket for spring and fall
- walking shoes and running shoes
- boots for the cold weather
- personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.)
- prescription medication
- eye glasses and eye care requirements along with prescription

Other Suggestions:

- backpack to carry books to school
- digital camera
- pictures of your home and family
- special sport clothing (ski clothing, bathing suit)
- small gift to give to friends or host family
- dressier clothing for special occasions
- traveller's cheques in Canadian dollars



School Life

Daily Schedule – Classes begin punctually between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. and end between 3:00 and 3:30 pm. Please confirm the time with your school schedule.

Text Books – The York Region District School Board supplies text books for all students on a loan basis. Students are financially responsible for lost or damaged text books. Final marks/report cards will not be issued if books are not returned.

Attendance – Daily attendance and punctuality are vital to the process of learning and essential for success in a course. If a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the student/guardian (if the student is under 18) to contact the attendance office and advise staff accordingly.

Exams – Time is set aside during each semester for exam scheduling. It is the student's responsibility to know his/her exam schedule. On occasion, teachers may substitute the examination, with special project/presentations.

Report Cards – Students will receive a report card for every semester with the final term marks being distributed. Students should be aware that final exam marks are worth 30% of the overall mark and day to day classroom work/assignments make up 70% of the total mark. For this reason, it is imperative that full attendance, class participation and homework be priority to all students.

Parent Interview Night – Once the report cards are received, parents/custodians are invited and encouraged to attend the Parent Interview Night. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the teacher and to discuss your academic progress and in some cases provide advice on what needs to be done for improvement.

York Region District School Board - Custodianship

If you have appointed York Region Learning Connections as the "Custodian" during your study in York Region, you will be under the York Region District School Board's guardianship for the time you spend in Canada.

Throughout the school year, the International Student Liaison Officer, will be visiting your school on a regular basis to monitor your academic progress. This will also give you the opportunity to discuss any concerns that you may have.

The International Student Liaison Officer will be the contact person between the school and parents if matters arise regarding your academic learning, behaviour, attendance or any other issue that may require attention. Should you have any questions or concerns, the International Student Liaison Officer can be reached by telephone at 905.883.0047 ext. 328, through the direct line at 416.315.8986 or by e-mail international.liaison@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Homestay Program

York Region Learning Connections makes every effort to ensure that students are provided with a safe and caring home environment. Our host families are carefully selected. Not only are they required to meet specific requirements, but families are interviewed on a personal basis by our homestay representatives. Students in a homestay setting will meet with the homestay representative on a monthly basis to ensure that the student/homestay family are comfortable with the existing arrangement. Once the interview is completed, a detailed report is given to the Homestay Coordinator.

If you have any concerns, please contact our Homestay Coordinator at 905.883.0047 ext. 306, or by e-mail homestay@yrdsb.edu.on.ca. An emergency toll-free number is available 24 hours per day 1.866.694.1323

Other Information

Cell Phone Use – Cell Phone Use – In Ontario there are a number of major cell phone providers. Each communication company offers a wide range of options, but unfortunately the cost tends to be very high with additional incurred costs for overseas calling. A more convenient way of communication is the "calling card" which is available for purchase at most convenience stores, drug marts and grocery stores. The calling card appears to be the choice of the majority of international students. Pay telephones are readily available at a cost of \$.50 for local calls with some phones allowing credit card payments.

Banking – As an international student of York Region District School Board, you will have the option of banking with HSBC. As HSBC is international, a pre-arrival account may be opened. To start the account opening process prior to coming to Canada, please contact the International Banking Centre located in your homeland. Please visit our web site at <http://www.yrlc.on.ca/international/secondary.html> for detailed information.

In order to open an account you will need:

- primary ID (e.g. valid passport)
- secondary ID (e.g. driver's licence, credit card, national/student ID)
- official Letter of Acceptance from YRDSB
- bankers introduction letter or bank referral letter from your current Financial Institution
- valid Study Permit



Transportation – The majority of students take advantage of the York Region Transit system to move around. VIVA Service runs every fifteen minutes or less, seven days per week. Monthly passes, discounted sets of ten-tickets and single ride fares can be purchased from MultiRide machines located in all terminals. For additional information, please visit www.yrt.ca or www.vivayork.com or connect with your school VIVA representative. Other connecting services are Toronto Transit Commission www.ttc.ca and Go Transit www.gotransit.com.

Fun things to do in York Region

York Region has many opportunities for growth and discovery in the range of cultural, sporting, outdoor, entertainment, shopping and dining activities. Here are just a few to choose from:

Canada's Wonderland – Canada's largest amusement park
www.canadaswonderland.com

NASCAR SpeedPark – race-themed amusement park
www.NASCARSpeedPark.com

The Wave Pool – York Region's first and only indoor wave pool
www.richmondhill.ca

McMichael Canadian Art Collection – Art Gallery of famous Group of Seven, First Nations and Inuit artists
www.mcmichael.com

Black Creek Pioneer Village – Discover life in rural Ontario in the 1860's
www.blackcreek.ca

The Kortright Centre for Conservation - is Ontario's premier environmental and renewable energy education and demonstration centre.
www.kortright.org

Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts – celebrates 20 years of award winning professional entertainment. It also promotes community and educational performances and arts programs.
www.markham.ca

Vaughan Mills – 250 store mecca combines fashion, outlets, dining and entertainment
www.vaughanmills.com

Pacific Mall – The largest Chinese indoor mall
www.pacificmalltoronto.com

Additional tourism information can be found by visiting www.yorktourism.com



*We unite in our purpose
to inspire and prepare learners
for life in our changing world community.*

