



Welcome to
Canada



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



INTERNATIONAL
E D U C A T I O N
NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CANADIAN INTEGRATION EXPERIENCE
& ESL PROGRAM

www.niagaracatholic.ca

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION DIVISION

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the International Division of the Niagara Catholic District School Board is to provide all our students, local and international, with opportunities for personal growth and achievement through experiential learning in a God-honouring, student-centred, flexible environment which respects the dignity and worth of every member of the school community, regardless of race, gender, culture or religious background.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW



CANADIAN INTEGRATION PROGRAM

The Niagara Catholic District School Board's School Integration Experience Program was developed to offer visiting students a valuable educational experience through intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) learning and integration within our Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools in Canada.

International students from grades 5 to 11 (10 to 16 years old) are invited to take part in the program, which runs at various times throughout the year in the Niagara region. Senior students from grades 11 and 12 are also welcome during specific times of the school year which do not coincide with senior mid-term or final exams.

The Integration Program offers students the opportunity to develop English language skills, through formal ESL classes, and cross-cultural awareness through everyday interaction with Canadian students and teachers in our Catholic schools. In addition, students maximize their cultural experience by living with one of our carefully selected Canadian host families for the duration of the program. Groups may choose the standard 4-week stay or an alternate program which could be shorter or longer than 4 weeks.

ACADEMIC COMPONENT

The **Integration Experience Program** has as its central focus the academic development of students in the area of **English as a Second Language**. This goal is achieved through two program components with different instructional formats.

INTEGRATION COMPONENT

This part takes place within a regular classroom in one of our schools. After the initial orientation day, students are integrated with Canadian students during the regular school day for the duration of the program. While integrated in class, students have the opportunity to participate in all student activities designated by the various grade teachers and school staff. Students are placed in a grade appropriate to their age and similar to their Canadian classmates. At the end of the program, students are encouraged to write an individual report (either in English or in their

first language) summarizing their learning experience at the Canadian school (visiting schools may choose to grant a credit for students' participation at this point). The report assignment is highly recommended so students have a sense of accountability during the program.

ESL COMPONENT

During the first day, students' English ability is assessed for placement into a level-specific ESL class. Classes are based on a solid curriculum that requires accountability from students through assignments and homework. These optional ESL classes are customized to meet the specific needs of the groups. Teachers will generate individual progress reports at the end of this phase. Student groups who don't need ESL may choose to exclude this portion of the program.





CULTURAL COMPONENT

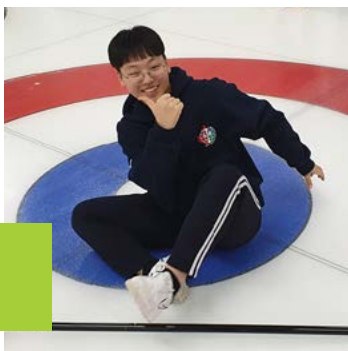
While in Canada, students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of organized activities designed to promote learning, integration with Canadians, cultural awareness and, of course, some fun.

All activities are closely supervised by our instructors, program monitors, and by the Niagara Catholic District School Board's international administrative staff.

A detailed schedule of activities is provided closer to the date of each program, prior to students' arrival in Canada.

SOME COMMON ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- ✓ Visit to Toronto
- ✓ Royal Ontario Museum
- ✓ Professional sports games
- ✓ Visit to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake
- ✓ Theatrical productions
- ✓ Various sports and physical activities
- ✓ Movie evenings
- ✓ Bowling tournaments
- ✓ Ski trip (during winter program only)
- ✓ Canada's Wonderland
- ✓ Optional trip to Ottawa and Montreal
- ✓ And much more...



SAMPLE SCHEDULE



NCDSB CANADIAN INTEGRATION PROGRAM

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Schedule 4 weeks

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
week 1	April 29	30	May 1	2	3	4
SAT Apr 27 3:00 pm Family Pickup at Best Western Hotel 2 North Service Rd. St. Catharines	Orientation ESL Assessment 9:00 am St. John Centre Welcome Lunch & Tour 4:00 pm Family pickup at St. John Centre	First Day At School 8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	8:45 am School 3:30 pm ESL class at St. John Centre 5:30 pm Family pickup (SJC)	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	8:30 am (SJC) Full-day trip to TORONTO Visit CN Tower Blue Jays vs Mariners Shopping Eaton Centre 7:00 pm Family pickup (SJC)
week 2	6	7	8	9	10	11
	8:45 am School 3:30 pm ESL class at St. John Centre 5:30 pm Family pickup (SJC)	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal 6:00 pm Movie night Family pickup at PEN	8:45 am School 3:30 pm ESL class at St. John Centre 5:30 pm Family pickup (SJC)	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	9:00 am (SJC) Day excursion to Niagara Falls IMAX Sightseeing 5:00 pm Family pickup (SJC)
week 3	13	14	15	16	17	18
	8:45 am School 3:30 pm ESL class at St. John Centre 5:30 pm Family pickup (SJC)	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	8:45 am School 3:30 pm ESL class at St. John Centre 5:30 pm Family pickup (SJC)	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	9:00 am (SJC) Day excursion to Canada's Wonderland 7:00 pm Family pickup (SJC)	9:00 am (SJC) Day excursion to Niagara-on-the-Lake Fort George Spanish Aero Car Outlet Mall Shopping 5:00 pm Family pickup (SJC)
week 4	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Victoria Day Holiday No School Activity	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal	8:45 am School 3:30 pm ESL class at St. John Centre 5:30 pm Family pickup (SJC)	8:45 am School 3:30 pm Dismissal 5:30 - 9:00 pm Closing Dinner Activity for Students & Families	8:45 am School 3:30 pm ESL class at St. John Centre Last evening with Host Families	5:30 am Students depart from SJC to Toronto Airport Farewell Friends!!

Please note that the School Board reserves the right to make any necessary changes to program schedules in order to best fit the overall purpose of the program - **Niagara Catholic District School Board**

ACCOMMODATION



HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Students in the Integration Program are hosted by carefully selected and very friendly Canadian families who live a short walk or short bus ride from school. Families whose own children attend the school hosting the program are given priority, thus enriching the experience and promoting long-lasting friendships between two families (and two cultures). A maximum of two students are placed per home in order to minimize first language interactions.

Families provide students with a safe and comfortable environment, including three meals a day (with a packed lunch for school). Students are informed ahead of time who their families will be so parents have an opportunity to contact and talk to the host families directly.

An alternative option to the homestay program is available at certain times of the

year where students are housed together in one of the local student residence facilities. An estimate of the additional cost for this option will be provided upon request.



TRANSPORTATION



- ✓ Airport to Niagara by highway coach
- ✓ Daily transportation to and from school by school bus or local city bus (students who need the city bus will be given bus passes). Students living close to the school (2 km or less) are considered “walkers” and will not need to take the bus
- ✓ Standard excursions and day trips by school buses or luxury travel coaches (included in program fee)



REQUIREMENTS

All groups registering in the program must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ A minimum number of 15 and a maximum of 150 participants is required for each program
- ✓ Students must be between the ages of 10 and 16 years old (grades 5 to 11), unless previously approved by both partners (the Niagara Catholic District School Board and the visiting school)
- ✓ In order to adhere to our School Board standards, high school students are required to purchase and wear uniforms for the integration portion in the schools. All younger students must wear the Niagara Catholic District School Board dress code for elementary schools. Cost of uniforms is not included in the fees
- ✓ Students must hold health and accident insurance while studying in Canada. A medical plan is included in the program fees

- ✓ Chaperones must be available at all times and at least one head chaperone must supply the School Board with a cell phone number where he or she can be reached at any time. Chaperones must adhere to and support program guidelines and work in cooperation with program administrators and staff. Students must have unconditional respect for chaperones and consider them a figure of authority. Chaperones must attempt to speak English with the students unless it is necessary to speak the native language to resolve certain situations. An upper-intermediate level of English is required of accompanying chaperones
- ✓ Students and chaperones must obtain a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) before entering Canada, unless they are from a visa-exempt country. A formal letter of acceptance from the Niagara Catholic District School Board will be issued to each applicant to be presented at the Canadian Consulate at the time of application



INTEGRATION PROGRAM **TERMS AND FEES**

•Please contact our local representative partner for details regarding fees

PROGRAM FEES INCLUDE

- ✓ Formal letter of invitation for visa purposes
- ✓ Intensive English classes by qualified ESL teachers (optional)
- ✓ All class materials
- ✓ Integration in a Niagara Catholic school
- ✓ Airport service to and from Niagara
- ✓ Local bus passes or school bus pass for school transportation, if placed in a home further than 2 km from school
- ✓ Cultural activities (all transportation and entry fees)
- ✓ Medical insurance for all participants
- ✓ Full homestay program with all meals (two students per home)
- ✓ Orientation to city and continuous support throughout the program
- ✓ Complimentary accommodation, activities, and medical insurance for one chaperone for every 15 students. Smaller groups will incur accommodation costs for chaperones
- ✓ Program souvenir shirt or sweater
- ✓ Program certificate of participation

PROGRAM FEES DO NOT INCLUDE

- ✓ Airfare to and from Canada
- ✓ Visa application fees (if needed)
- ✓ Uniforms for high school students
- ✓ Students' long distance phone calls
- ✓ Any material damage to homestay or school property
- ✓ Chaperones' cell phones and calling charges
- ✓ Chaperones' transportation within the city
- ✓ Personal expenses and souvenirs

TERMS

- ✓ All applications must be received no later than 60 days before the first day of the program. September groups must apply by June 1st
- ✓ A 25% non-refundable deposit is required with each application
- ✓ Balance payable two weeks prior to group arrival in Canada
- ✓ Payment methods: International bank transfer, certified cheque, cash, or travelers' cheques. Credit card payments will incur a 5% service charge. All payments are in Canadian dollars issued to the Niagara Catholic District School Board





SCHOOL BOARD CONTACT



CONTACT INFORMATION

For inquiries or to proceed with registration, please contact:

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Niagara Catholic District School Board
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