



## NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

#### INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: January 5, 2022  
TO: Education Committee  
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent & Rob Hutchins, District Principal  
SUBJECT: International Student Education Program

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In 2021-2022, the International Student Education Program enrolled 385 students from 25 countries. Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools has international students attending for one quarter, for a semester, or for a full year of study. Students benefit from the quality BC Curriculum, while experiencing Canadian culture and the lifestyle of beautiful Vancouver Island.

This year, over eighty percent (312) of our international students participate in our Homestay program. Living with an English-speaking Homestay family, students become part of the family, gain a deeper understanding of Canadian culture, and improve their English skills. Often the bonds that are made between international students and their Homestay families endure for many years, maintained virtually and through travel visits.

While most of our international students attend one of our secondary schools, we continue to expand the offerings for younger students to come and study at our elementary schools. This year, 17 students are enrolled at the elementary level.

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the ability of students to study abroad, especially from countries such as China, Brazil, and Mexico. Our Fall enrollment was impacted by the inability of students to obtain study permits, leave their home country, or arrive when they desired. Given these circumstances, our program will welcome our largest ever Spring enrollment of students at 110.

At home, COVID-19 has impacted the availability of Homestay spaces, which has required us to limit our enrollment. Despite this challenge, the total number of international students joining us has matched pre-COVID-19 numbers.

We continue to grow our program and expand opportunities for international students. We are pursuing new markets and new programming opportunities, including summer programming, to draw international students to our district. Despite world challenges, the future looks bright for ISE as we welcome more students to NLPS and to our beautiful part of the world.