

Yamate - Alberta Exchange Update
August 28, 2018

Parents: Thanks to those of you who may volunteer your homes to billet two Japanese students. Here is an update concerning billets:

1. **A tentative schedule has been drawn up (see attached).**

We will share ideas re: billeting and activities when our guests are here next April.

Approximately 160 students will arrive in Edmonton on Friday April 12, 2019 at Strathcona Composite High School 10450 – 72 Avenue, Edmonton.

They are here for two weeks, departing Friday April 26, 2019 from Strathcona Composite High School.

2. **During host phase:**

For the first few days upon arrival in Canada, the Yamate students will be suffering from Jet Lag - try not to overplan these days - maybe some **recreational shopping** is in order. It is quite normal for Japanese students to sleep while travelling.

Provide each of your guests with a piece of paper **identifying** them and their Host Family names, address and phone number.

Travelling with the Yamate students are 8 of their teachers. They have a **strict code of conduct** and expectations for their students, as we will have for our travelling students to Japan in the summer. Yamate Students are considered ambassadors for their school, community and country and will be expected to immediately return home (at their parents' expense) if their conduct is not appropriate.

Host Parents will have the name of the Yamate H.S. Teacher Chaperone attached to Jordan High (including HIS/HER Hotel phone number)

Allow your Japanese guests to participate in family activities (Church, sport clubs, service clubs, etc.)

If you plan a **weekend away from town**, please provide dates, location, and phone #, etc. to **me** (in case of an emergency).

Do contact the school coordinator (me) if you have any concerns.

Let the Yamate students experience **Canadian food customs** (quantity is more important than what is being served); they will eat what you like to eat.

Treats are up to you (the kids do bring spending money)

Yamate students do travel with **complete medical coverage** (do care for them if there is an injury or accident)

Gifts? ... by custom, each Yamate student will bring a gift for each member of your family. In the past, some Host families have given a small gift at the end of the stay (perhaps a little picture booklet of memories)

The Yamate students **should** be travelling with **proper clothing** and foot gear for a Can. April. (but, remember they are TEENAGERS)

Common Japanese Expressions

For your guests to feel comfortable, please **ask positive questions** (not negative ones). These students are not used to slang.

Upon first arrival, our Japanese guests will appear shy and be nervous about using the **English language** (use charades and pictiary to get by). You have been practicing your Japanese?! Jap. students begin their understanding of English in Grade 7 (they will respond in short order; they travel with dictionaries)

When they arrive in your home, do attempt to explain that in Canada we wash inside the bathtub; show them their sleeping quarters

3. **Travel Phase Host students** who wish to go to Japan may do so for **\$2900**.

This price includes:

- return airfare from Edmonton/Tokyo return
- Canadian departure tax and Japanese departure tax
- comprehensive travel insurance which includes cancellation and medical
- return transfers from Narita Airport(Tokyo) to Yokohama return – bus, tolls, etc.
- supplying passport application forms
- Japanese information provided to each traveling student
- assisting in obtaining visas for entry into Japan for those individuals not holding Canadian passports

Students who billet will have first priority.

Their **non-refundable** deposit of **\$500** is payable to Edmonton Area Yamate Exchange.

This 1st payment can be cheque or cash. **First deposit of \$500 is due by Friday Oct 19, 2018**. At this time, I will also need a copy of the student's passport (if available).

The **second deposit of \$1200 is due by Friday Feb 1, 2019** and can be paid to Edmonton Area Yamate Exchange as previous.

The balance of **\$1200 is due by Friday April 5, 2019** and can be paid to Edmonton Area Yamate Exchange as previous.

Students who do not billet **may** have an opportunity to travel to Japan at a **full cost of \$3400** based on a first come-first served basis, depending upon the number of students billeted at their host school.

There is only room on the plane for approximately 120 students/chaperones from Edmonton and Area and we are accommodating 8 schools – Archbishop Jordan, St Andre Bessette, Jasper Place, Strathcona, Louis St Laurent, Sturgeon, Salisbury, and St Peter the Apostle (Spruce Grove)

Non-hosters 1st deposit - \$1000, 2nd deposit \$1200, balance \$1200 due same dates as above.

More information will be passed on as I get it. Please call me if any concerns.

Sincerely,

Marge Hallonquist

Past Chair, Edmonton-Yamato Exchange 2019

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