

Immaculata Regional High School

International Student Program

1493 KLO Road
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W-3Z6
Ph. 250-762-2730
Fax 250-861-302
immaculatakelowna.ca
bmelnyk@cisnd.ca

Our school consistently ranks among the top schools in the district, offering grades 8-12. We are a smaller Catholic based school well known for our excellent academic, athletic and artistic programs, our strong sense of school community, and a welcoming atmosphere.

Strengths

The strengths of our school cannot truly be measured until you have had an opportunity to experience our school community.

- B.C. government curriculum
- Athletic Programs with unmatched success
- Named Most Outstanding School by B.C. School Sports Association
- Mustangs Theatre Company
- Art/Drama/Music
- Global Opportunities Team
- Student Council representatives
- Cafeteria
- Homestay opportunities for international students. Homestay families are mostly associated with either the school or local parishes.



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“We are an educational community pursuing excellence and developing the whole person while striving to see and bring forth Christ in others.”

Immaculata is a regional Catholic high school serving Kelowna and its surrounding area. Immaculata was first established in 1960 and shared its campus with St. Joseph school. In 1995, the “new” Immaculata was opened on the 1493 KLO Road site and currently serves approximately 250 students from grades 8-12. The fully modern facility supports students in all their academic, athletic, artistic and spiritual endeavors.

Following the Roman Catholic tradition, Immaculata aspires to a Catholic atmosphere that is centred in the Gospel Message of Love. This Catholic atmosphere; inspires a deeper understanding of our Catholic heritage, instills a spirit of service, respects the dignity of the individual and promotes involvement in parish life. Following our school motto, “In developing the Whole Person”, we guide and form our students intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, artistically, physically and socially.

With a population of more than 120 thousand, Kelowna is the largest city in British Columbia’s Okanagan Valley. Bordering Okanagan Lake, Kelowna is well known for its hot summers and temperate winters.

Kelowna is one of the most livable cities in Canada. In the recent Canada Pulse survey, 90% of residents reported “My city is a great place to live.” This is partially due to the temperate climate where it is possible to walk, hike and bike outside year round. In addition, our lake is surrounded by sandy public beaches therefore swimming and water sports are part of the culture of the community.

In addition, we are a quick flight or a four hour drive from Vancouver. We boast some of the best skiing in the world and are a destination resort community with fruit trees and world class vineyards.

Why wouldn’t you want to be here?

Meet the teachers

Each of our teachers are qualified and registered through the British Columbia Teachers Federation.

All of our teachers have degrees in Education from recognized Universities and many have Masters Degrees in Education.

Most of our teachers also have additional degrees from Universities which give them a well-rounded approach to educating the students.

We have Special Education teachers at every school and there are many teachers within the diocese who have special training in ESL (English as a second language).

Each teacher is involved in extra-curricular activities. We all agree that this is the best place to build a healthy relationship with the students that makes the classroom experience more effective.

Each of the staff members is involved in their respective Catholic parishes around the city.

The staff is a great combination of youthful exuberance balanced with experienced mentoring teachers who have been long committed to ensuring the high educational standards that Immaculata is known for.



“I can’t imagine a better place to teach. The students are getting an experience they cannot find anywhere else.”

Q: What does Immaculata offer an international student?

A: We offer a smaller community type school with a strong Catholic tradition and a very welcoming school environment. Our classes are typically smaller than in public institutions and students enjoy more personalized student to teacher interaction.

Q: In which grades do we offer the international student experience?

A: Typically we offer international student experiences from grades eight through twelve.

Q: Are there direct international flights to Kelowna?

A: There are direct international flights to Vancouver, Canada and from Vancouver there are flights to Kelowna. In addition, we can offer pickups from major airports to alleviate with any transportation concerns.

Q: Does Immaculata offer homestay families for international students?

A: Immaculata has a database of available homestay families. Most of the homestay families have children in the school to alleviate travel concerns.

Q: Do the International students receive any extra help once arriving at the school?

A: Each international student is given literacy tests by a trained ESL teacher. Once those tests have been administered, an individualized educational plan is given in order for students to gain the most of their experience.

Q: What are the lengths of stay for International students at Immaculata?

A: Although a full year of study is recommended and preferred, there are shorter stays available from one week and longer available.

Q: How many International students do you accept in each grade?

A: We currently have a 10% international student population cap per grade. In most cases this would be a maximum of two students in each class.

Q: What is the curriculum at Immaculata and is it different from that of public schools?

A: The curriculum in British Columbia is decided by the government and all schools must follow these curriculum offerings.

Q: I am not Catholic. Can I still attend Immaculata High School?

A: Of course you can. Our school community is proud of our Catholic identity, but we still offer a great educational experience to our non-Catholic friends. All students must respect monthly masses and a religion program centered on the gospel message of love.

“Live deeply and fully.”

City of Kelowna

SUMMER

Our climate provides dry warm weather in the summer months which is perfect for a wide variety of water sports - including water-skiing, sail-boarding and swimming.

The fine sandy beaches offer a great place to spend the day; all have picnic tables, shade trees and plenty of sunshine. As evening approaches soft breezes entice the visitor to stroll on the beach, or enjoy the local night life.

Kelowna's many quality restaurants offer a variety of fine dining experiences.

FALL

Known as Canada's fruit basket (where much of Canada's choicest fruits and vegetables are grown) we are situated in the heart of the west's wine country.

The valley's climate approximates the northern regions of France and the Rhine land. The Okanagan Valley is much like the famed Napa Valley - sharing similar soil, climate and growing conditions.

High on the hilltops many wineries offer scenic tours featuring spectacular views of Okanagan Lake and the surrounding countryside.

WINTER

Kelowna is one of the best powder skiing areas in Western Canada - featuring downhill and cross country at Big White Mountain 40 minutes from Kelowna.

Heli-skiing is a short distance away in the Caribou and Monashee mountain ranges. With an average temperatures of "0" degrees (Celsius) varied winter sports become a pleasure.

SPRING

The fragrance of the fruit blossoms drifts through the orchards in spring. Excellent fishing in Okanagan Lake and the many smaller surrounding lakes makes spring a good time of the year to test your prowess at landing a tasty lake trout or kokanee salmon.

Hike or horseback ride on a mountain trail and catch the fragrance of the flowers and trees.

Temperatures in Celsius

Month	Daily Max.	Daily Min.	Mean	Extreme Max.
January	0.0	-6.5	-3.3	12.2
February	4.0	-4.1	-0.1	17.2
March	8.0	-1.8	3.3	21.1
April	14.5	0	8.3	27.8
May	20.1	6.5	13.3	33.9
June	23.9	10.5	17.2	35.6
July	27.9	12.9	20.4	38.9
August	26.8	12.1	19.5	36.1
September	21.1	7.6	14.3	33.9
October	13.6	2.6	8.1	25.6
November	6.3	-1.1	2.6	18.3
December	2.3	-3.7	-0.7	14.4



The Okanagan is characterized by cool humid air and cloudy skies in the winter and by dry air with bright skies in summer. The mean annual hours of bright sunshine in the Central Okanagan is just under 2000. Relative humidity drops from mean winter values of 80% to 50% in summer. Areas of highest relative humidity are generally found along the lakeshore and at night in local hollows and low lying areas. The frost free period varies greatly throughout the valley; being greatest along the lakeshore and on sloping terrain. Otherwise, low lying areas and hollows are known to have a shorter frost free period.

All information on this page compiled by Environment Canada

Advice from a previous international student

Q: What can you expect of Immaculata?

A: Immaculata is a small school and therefore you will meet and probably know the names of most people at the school by the end of the year. The teachers are really friendly and they are most often found in their classrooms or the hallways during lunches. The kids are really helpful and welcoming. You will be partnered with a "buddy" to show you around and introduce you to people. You also will have a staff member who you can talk to with any problems.

You will also be invited to take part in many of the activities going on at Immaculata. There are 18 sports teams so you can play or show your support of the Mustangs. There is a strong drama program called the Mustangs Theatre Company and lots of music and singing opportunities. The art department is always trying new things where you can really develop as an artist. There is a Global Opportunities team which is involved in improving the world starting in our own community and reaching outwards with many activities.

Other schools in The Nelson Diocese

Holy Cross (Penticton)
www.holyx.com

Our Lady of Lourdes (West
Kelowna)
www.otal.bc.com

St. Joseph (Kelowna)
www.stjosephskelowna.ca

St. Joseph (Nelson)
www.stjosephnelson.ca

St. Mary's (Cranbrook)
www.stmaryschool.ca

St. Michael's (Trail)
www.scmies.ca

For all inquiries about any of
our family of schools please
contact the International
Student Programs
Coordinator at
bmelnyk@cisnd.ca or call
250-762-2730

Application Document Links

School Website (Admissions drop down window for easy access to all application forms)

www.immaculatakelowna.ca

Catholic Independent Schools of the Nelson Diocese Website

www.cisnd.ca

City of Kelowna

www.kelowna.ca

Big White Ski Resort

www.bigwhite.com

Kelowna Yacht Club

www.kelownayachtclub.com

Ministry of Education-Government of British Columbia

www.gov.bc.bced

Medical Services Plan Home Page

www.health.gov.bc.ca/mssp/

Application to Study in Canada, Study Permits (Citizen and Immigration Canada)

www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/student.asp

