

**Students Without Borders Academy
School District #22**

STUDENT INFORMATION PACKAGE



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A desk is a dangerous place from which to watch the world. - John le Carre

Students Without Borders Academy

Thank you for your interest in the Students Without Borders Academy program. SWBA is an exciting alternative program, for grade 11/12 students, which includes five BC ministry of Education courses and an extended odyssey to Panama, Central America. Because of the level of commitment and responsibility required for successful completion of this program, and because student interest in the program exceeds capacity, a selection process has been put into place. The selection process will commence in the latter part of MARCH.

Please explore this document and the **SWBA** web page, discuss the program as a family and then, if you think this program is for you, take the 45 (+/-) minutes to complete the application form available on the SWBA.CA site.

Things to do:

1. Read the **Program Outline and Program Requirements** (this document).
 2. Read and sign the **Code of Ethics on the application** .
 3. Complete the **Student Application Form**.
 4. Ask a teacher, counselor, or school administrator to complete a **Reference Form**.*
 5. Ask someone who knows you well (but **not** a family member) to complete the **Non-Teacher/Non-family Reference Form*** The form must also include the writer's name, email, and signature, and is to be either placed in an envelope which is to be sealed and signed by the writer across the seal OR submitted by email directly to dfehr@sd22.bc.ca .
- * If it is more convenient, reference providers may access the forms at swba.ca
- ([Teacher Reference Form](#) [Non-Teacher/Non-Family Reference Form](#))
6. A recent photograph of yourself.
 7. Compile and submit all necessary information by email or sealed envelope attention to **SWBA – Dave Fehr**
 8. Applications are to be submitted before the deadline indicated on the application.

We look forward to receiving your application and hope to have the opportunity to work with you in this exciting program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You can reach me at dmfehr@telus.net

David Fehr - Director, Students Without Borders Academy

PROGRAM AND FIELD STUDY FEES:

Visit us online to see what the Field Study is all about. Our Panamanian odyssey will be life-altering.

The actual cost may vary slightly based on airfare, the Canadian dollar, and locations of the trip. Students are encouraged to discuss the Field Study Fee with their parents and come up with a realistic earning and savings plan before they apply for the program. Once students have been accepted into the program, a deposit of \$500.00 will be required (non-refundable). This money will be held by SD #22 in trust, on behalf of each student. The remainder of the fees are payable by monthly post-dated checks. Please make checks out to Kal School and date them for the 1st or 16th of the selected month. We can discuss other payment options upon acceptance. There may be some financial help available – please don't let that component keep you from applying.

THE PANAMANIAN FIELD STUDY PROBABLE DATES: January 1st – February 1st.

Dates may vary to capitalize on flight costs and availability of Panamanian opportunities.

The total cost to students for the **SWBA** Program: \$5,900. This includes all semester outings, boot camp, curricular costs, and field trips.

This does not include student spending money for gifts and incidentals.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: The **Students Without Borders Academy** is a unique opportunity for students to explore global issues, learn about the field of international relations, and participate in a project-based field study of a lifetime. It is expected that students will act as positive ambassadors of School District # 22, their local communities and Canada, in their dealings with any activity related to this program, both within and outside of the academic setting. Students will also be expected to maintain positive behaviour, good grades, and excellent attendance in all of their classes prior to participation in the program.

For more information about *Students Without Borders Academy*, please contact David Fehr:

Phone (778) 692 6743 E-mail: dfehr@sd22.bc.ca Or visit us online: SWBA.CA

SWBA PROGRAM OUTLINE

Program Rationale: No matter what career they choose, today's high school students will need a global education. Educators find that international exchange is an accelerant for students to prepare for an increasingly multicultural, interconnected, and fast-changing global society. The SWBA experience will dramatically improve a student's preparation for multiple paths of employment while grounding them in the new values needed for today's world.

SWBA students will learn:

- to understand the connections among peoples, cultures, and environments around the world.
- to understand that all human beings have similar potential and aspirations but are not equally able to realize them.
- to look at their own culture and global issues from different perspectives.
- to have an informed understanding of justice, human rights, and responsibilities.
- to ensure our natural environment is sustainable for future generations
- to take responsibility as Canadian citizens for Canada's role in international development.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: SWBA is an accelerated full semester 20 credit (5 course), high-intensity program, where students experience leadership development through active citizenship. It is a hybrid program using classroom and field study. There are NO ONLINE COURSES but there are some online units. Most of the academic program is in a classroom setting at Kalamalka Secondary. In most cases SD 22 bussing works for students to arrive at Kal School. There is also a component of community study and work in conjunction with local organizations. We try to get out of the school one day per week.

Experiential learning is the core of this program. As a result, a significant portion of the program is spent outside of the traditional school setting. Students participate in a range of hands-on activities aimed at making a positive contribution. These activities focus on contributing to our local community and on building the capacity to successfully participate in a five-week international field study in Panama - the crossroads of the world.

This is a unique opportunity to gain leadership skills and a global perspective, combining local activities with extended international experience. A key benefit is that you are able to do this with other like-minded individuals who are ready to make a difference.

SWBA Students will complete all requirements for:

- Intro to Spanish or Spanish 11
- Leadership 11 or 12
- Social Justice 12 or Social Studies
- 11 Comparative Cultures 12
- English First Peoples Literary Studies 11 or English First Peoples 12 (Satisfying the new Grad requirements)

Students will receive 4 credits for each course (20 credits). **Some students may be able to adapt this program in special circumstances.** Flexibility is easily provided to a student with a well thought out personal learning plan. Personalized learning is a primary goal for the academy.

All courses will begin *week one* at the SWBA initiation camp. Students continue their courses at Kalamalka Secondary School before departing for Panama. Spanish and Comparative Cultures will receive a high concentration of hours during the five-week odyssey.

STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS ACADEMY

Sample 1ST semester malleable timeline (second semester is comparable)

Week 1 – FACE TO FACE BEGINNINGS BOOTCAMP

- Expectations and Mission statements
- Team building/Values inventory (what matters to you)
- Courses introduced - objectives outlined
- Research teams created
- Leadership training started
- SWBA Program started
- English 11/12 started

Weeks 2-14 KALAMALKA STUDIES

- Classes Monday to Thursday (Friday is frequently for supplemental work/employment)
- Classroom experience to promote community activity
- Frequently we are able to arrange exchanges to another province for a week.
- Students earn odyssey fees – part-time employment.

Week 15-16 CLASSES FINALIZED / EXAMS

- PERSONAL LEADERSHIP PLAN ARTICULATED
- PERSONAL ACTION PLAN CREATED
- STUDENT CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

Weeks 16-20 PANAMANIAN ODYSSEY/FIELD STUDY

- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institutes
- Bocas Del Toro Ngobe Bugle culture
- San Blas Kuna culture
- United Nations/Red Cross/Peace Corps
- Panamanian home-stay
- Action plan project

SOME TIME FOLLOWING FACE TO FACE ENDINGS (upon return)

- Weekend Celebration
- Final student presentations
- Parents local dignitaries invited
- PROGRAM EVALUATION

SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

1. SWBA Student Characteristics: Due to the nature of this program, candidates should demonstrate some measure of the following characteristics:

- Good Citizenship within the school and community
- Interest in leadership & Global Issues
- Commitment & Dedication
- Compassion for and Interest in others
- Flexibility & Adaptability
- A Desire to work within a team
- An Ability & Willingness to undertake work projects in a hot challenging environment
- Communication & Diplomacy skills
- Problem-Solving skills
- Ability to Listen to & Follow instructions
- Self-Motivated & Able to take Initiative
- Interested in adventure
- Commitment to Participation in all course activities
- Optimistic, Responsible & Mature

2. Requirements for International Travel

- Student and Parents/Guardians must sign all necessary travel forms on time
- Students must have excellent attendance in all their courses throughout the year.
- Program fees must be paid in full as scheduled.
- Students must organize/participate in project fundraising efforts.
- The student must be in good physical and good emotional health.
- NOTE: no vaccinations are required at this time
- Student and parents must sign and comply with the SWBA Code of Ethics. Students must demonstrate an appropriate level of commitment, responsibility, and maturity prior to the trip in order to participate in the international trip.

3. Health: A field study in a developing country will test students mentally, physically, and emotionally. Traveling with poor health would be a hazard to the student as well as a disadvantage to the group. Any pre-existing illnesses or medical conditions must be divulged in the Student Questionnaire. Any students with health concerns will be required to submit a medical certificate from their family doctor stating that he or she feels that the student is fit to travel with the group. Consultation with the Interior Health Authority Travel Clinic is recommended for all families prior to departure and all appropriate immunizations must be up to date. No immunizations are currently required for the areas of Panama we visit. Some are recommended. Should you chose immunizations, the cost is the responsibility of the student. Students will also be required to provide information on any medication he or she is taking during any field trips. Adapting to new foods, a different climate, and a different lifestyle may potentially result in a student getting sick. Students will be briefed on some of the steps that can be taken to reduce the chances of getting sick (fitness, nutrition, hygiene, hydration, rest, sun protection, etc) and on how to deal with minor illnesses should they arise. Advice must be followed to ensure a healthy and positive experience. Regarding **Health Insurance:** An international travel group insurance plan is included in the cost of the international trip.

4. Nationality and Passports: Students will be required to have a valid passport. **The passport must expire no earlier than 6 months after the international trip ends.** In most cases, visas to our destination are easily obtained. However, students who hold a nationality/passport other than Canadian should discuss this with the teacher during the selection interview to ensure that they are able to obtain all necessary documents. Participants must be able to travel through the USA.

STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS ACADEMY

School District #22

CODE OF ETHICS

Acceptance of the following list of standards will provide students with a challenging, thought-provoking and rewarding experience during this course. This Code of Ethics is designed as a safeguard for a successful experience and is critical in generating a sense of security and organization for the group. Disregard for any of these standards will seriously impair the student's opportunity for a successful field trip. If at any time during the course of the semester a student indicates an unwillingness or inability to comply with the rules outlined in this Code of Ethics, he or she will not be permitted to participate in the field trip component of this program. Failure to comply with any of the rules during a field trip will result in the student's immediate return to their home. Any additional cost incurred as a result of this early termination from the trip will be the responsibility of the student.

During any field trips associated with the SWBA program I agree to comply with the following rules:

1. To act within the laws of the host country at all times.
2. To abide by the 'Information for Students and Parents' in the Kalamalka Secondary School Parents' Handbook
3. To abstain from the consumption of alcohol.
4. To abstain from consuming, purchasing, or selling illegal drugs or drug-related paraphernalia.
5. To abstain from driving a motor vehicle during the international field trip.
6. To abstain from involvement in any exclusive relationships (romantic or otherwise) within the group which could potentially affect the dynamics of the *SWBA* team as a whole or with the host community?
7. To observe all health regulations established by the *SWBA* team and the Public Health representatives (regarding required immunizations, health practices, etc.)
8. To remain with the *SWBA* team at all times and to act in the spirit of the program.
9. To take part in all organized activities of the *SWBA* program.
10. To respect the customs and cultures of the host communities and fellow students.
11. To abstain from any activity or work for personal monetary gain while on Field Study.
12. To actively contribute to the health and well being of self and the *SWBA* group.
13. To contribute to the successful implementation of the project by practicing kindness, gratitude, acceptance, inclusion, and appreciation at all times.

If you would like to apply, and I hope you do, complete the application package available on the *SWBA.CA* website.