



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73  
(Kamloops-Thompson)

# 2025-2026 International Education Annual Report

School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

April 2026

## Secwepemcúl'ecw yi7élye ell, re tmicws re Secwepemc n7élye.

School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) acknowledges that we reside in Secwepemcúl'ecw and recognizes the Secwépmc as the keepers of their traditions and knowledge.

We are grateful to be guests on the territory of seven Secwépmc First Nations: Tk'emlúps te Secwépmc, Sexqeltqin (Adams Lake Indian Band), Skwláx te Secwepemcúl' ucw, Neskonlith, Simpcw, Pellt'iq't (Whispering Pines Clinton Band), and Skítsesten (Skeetchestn Band).



**Our Mission:** Supporting learning opportunities and environments which inspire students to thrive.

**Our Vision:** Fostering educated and resilient citizens empowered to contribute to a diverse, inclusive, caring, and sustainable society.

**Our Values:** Connections / Relationships, Equity, Well-being, Sustainability

## SUMMARY

The International Student Program (ISP) experienced a very successful year, marked by strong enrollment, meaningful partnerships, and continued program development. Hosting **289 students from 26 countries**, the program achieved a **Full Time Equivalency (FTE) of 201.6 across 11 schools**.

These figures reflect both stability and growth, demonstrating the district's ability to attract, support, and retain international learners in a competitive global education market. The diversity represented by **students from 26 countries** enriched classrooms, broadened perspectives, and strengthened intercultural understanding throughout the school community.

A significant accomplishment this year was the **graduation of 65 students** who successfully completed their British Columbia Certificate of Graduation. These graduating students represent the long-term impact of the ISP, having fully integrated into school life while achieving academic success. Their accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of teachers, counselors, homestay families, and support staff who guide students throughout their educational journey. As graduates move on to post-secondary institutions and future careers, they carry with them positive experiences that enhance the program's international reputation.

The program also partnered with Global Education to host 71 students from Taiwan who participated in Summer School during July and August. These **71 Summer School students** brought additional energy and global perspective to the district during the summer months and will return to Kamloops over the next two school years to complete their graduation requirements. The students participated in English language instruction with cultural and experiential learning opportunities. Students not only improved their academic skills but also gained firsthand exposure to Canadian culture and community life. This partnership strengthened international relationships and demonstrated the ISP's capacity to deliver high-quality short-term programming alongside its full-year academic offerings.

Another key focus this year was the revitalization of the homestay network. With **163 active homestays supporting students**, the ISP invested in recruitment, communication, and relationship-building initiatives to ensure a positive experience for both students and host families. Homestay families are central to student well-being, providing a safe, supportive home environment and daily opportunities

for cultural exchange. By strengthening this network, the program reinforced its commitment to student care and community engagement. A robust homestay system also positions the ISP for sustainable future growth.

The **return of Brocklehurst Secondary** to hosting students marked another important milestone. Reintroducing international learners into the school enhanced cultural diversity and expanded placement options across eleven of the district's schools. The renewed participation of Brocklehurst Secondary reflects strong collaboration within the district and confidence in the program's operations. Students at the school benefit from its academic offerings, academies and extracurricular opportunities, while domestic students gain valuable global exposure through peer interaction.

Diversification of international marketing played a critical role in maintaining program stability. With **67 unique agency placements** contributing to enrollment, the ISP broadened its recruitment reach and reduced reliance on any single country or region. Expanding marketing efforts into new and emerging markets not only strengthens enrollment resilience but also increases cultural diversity within schools. Strategic relationship-building with agencies and international partners ensures continued visibility and competitiveness in the global education sector.

Student engagement remained a priority, highlighted by **48 student activities** offered throughout the year. These activities supported social integration, leadership development, and cross-cultural friendships. From community events to recreational outings and cultural celebrations, the program provided opportunities for students to connect beyond the classroom. Such experiences enhance overall satisfaction and contribute to positive word-of-mouth promotion internationally.

Overall, the ISP's achievements—**289 students, 201.6 FTE, 65 graduates, 71 summer participants, representation from 26 countries, 163 active homestays, 67 agency partnerships, and 48 student activities**—demonstrate a thriving and forward-looking program. Through strategic partnerships, revitalized community networks, expanded marketing efforts, and renewed school participation, the International Student Program continues to build a strong foundation for sustained growth and global engagement in the years ahead.

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

## YEAR IN REVIEW

## Key Programs

### Department Mandate

The International Student Program provides social and economic benefits to the Kamloops-Thompson School District and region by giving international students meaningful opportunities to engage in school and community life. It promotes diversity and strengthens intercultural connections among students, staff, homestay families, and the global community, enriching everyone involved.

### Highlights and Achievements

#### Academic Excellence

Yuze Liu from China and a 2025 graduate of NorKam Secondary is recognized for outstanding academic excellence, leadership, and community impact, earning the prestigious Governor General's Award, to be presented at NorKam Secondary's commencement ceremony on June 26, 2026.

#### The "Natural Choice" for Study in Canada

With 48 activities, the activities program emphasizes nature immersion and authentic Canadian experiences, offering outdoor adventures, cultural connections, and hands on learning, making it among the busiest and engaging activity programs in Canada.

#### Increased Diversification

A newly formed partnership with the Baltic Council for Education expands marketing reach into Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia, enabling targeted promotion, stronger networks, increased visibility, and improved student recruitment opportunities.

#### Brocklehurst Secondary Returns to ISP

Brocklehurst Secondary's return to hosting international students was a great addition to the school community, enhancing cultural diversity, expanding placement options, strengthening district collaboration, and providing academic, extracurricular, and global learning opportunities for both international and domestic students.



### Revitalization of the Homestay Network

The international high school student program was revitalized under the leadership of the Homestay Manager and through the addition of an Assistant Homestay Manager, improved communication with stakeholders, and hosting information nights to boost engagement, support, and enrollment growth.

### Diversification of International Marketing

Diversified marketing improved the international student program by reaching broader global audiences, enhancing brand visibility, attracting diverse applicants, and strengthening partnerships with agents, schools, and communities worldwide.

### Program Management for Partners

The office manager's strong partner engagement, streamlined process development, and efficient organization enhance collaboration, reduce inefficiencies, and build trust, making operations smoother and more attractive and reliable for stakeholders.

### In School Support for Students

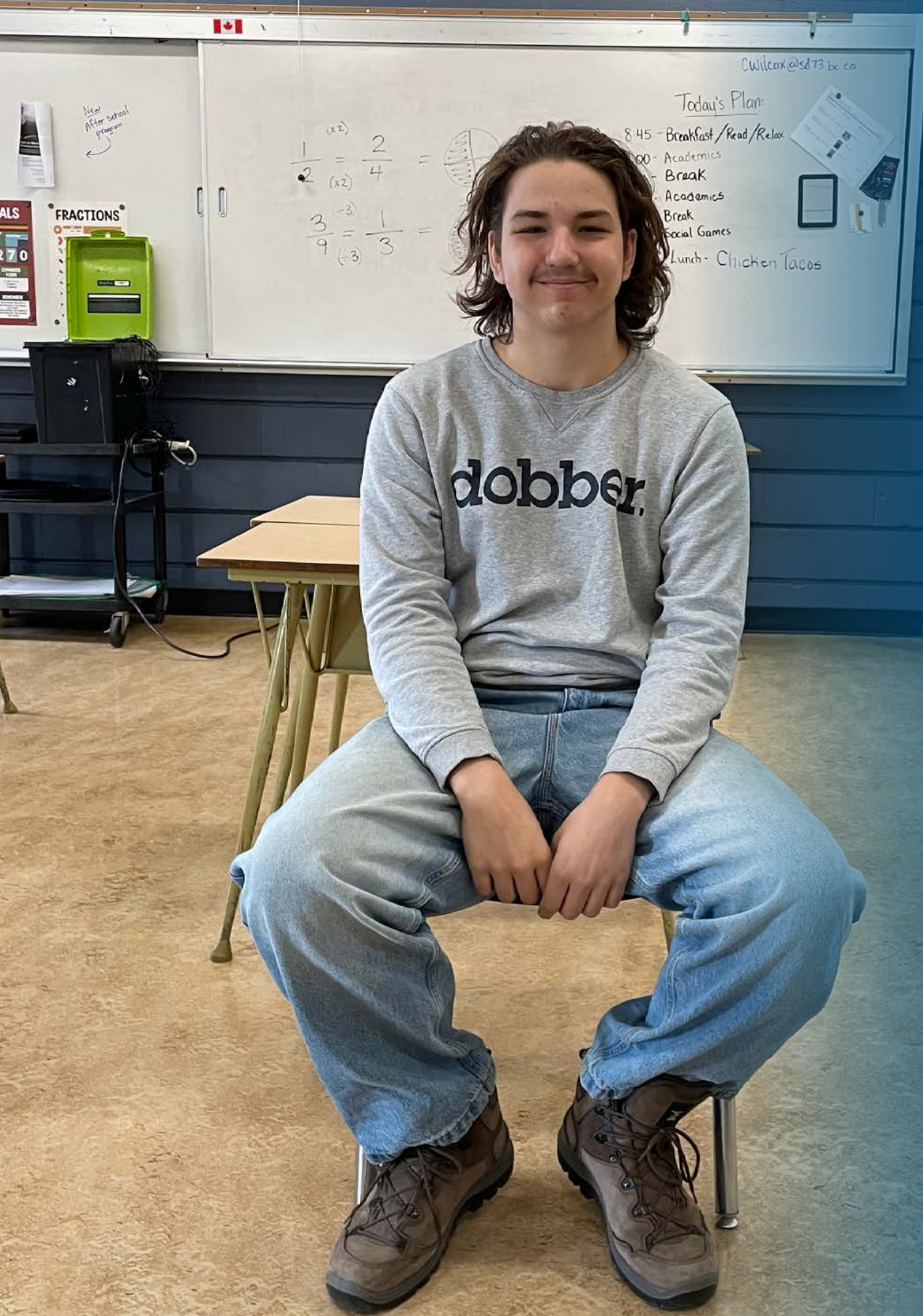
Having an in-school English Language teacher and certified counsellor with consistent schedules improved student support by strengthening language development, providing academic guidance, addressing wellbeing needs, and helping international students adjust, succeed, and feel more connected.

### Moving Forward

The International Student Program is moving forward with a clear commitment to student well-being, inclusion, and community growth.

A key priority is proactively identifying and supporting students' mental health while helping them successfully adapt to life in Canada through targeted resources and guidance. The program also emphasizes equity, ensuring all students have meaningful access to activities regardless of background or circumstance. In addition, ISP staff is building capacity to recognize and embrace the cultural, social, and educational value international students contribute. Together, these focus areas foster a supportive, inclusive environment where international students can thrive and enrich the broader school community.





## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Meet Godány István Gellért from Hungary

As part of this year's International Student Program (ISP) marketing strategy, a key goal was to diversify the countries represented within the program. A fall recruitment trip to Europe, which included a brief two-day visit to Budapest, quickly proved successful, resulting in the program's first-ever application from Hungary just weeks later.

Godány István Gellért, known as Gigi, is a Grade 11 student from Budapest who arrived in Kamloops at the end of January to begin Semester 2 at Brocklehurst Secondary. He will remain in the program until the end of April, marking an important milestone as the first Hungarian student welcomed by the district. While studying in Canada, Gigi has continued working on coursework from his home school to ensure he stays on track academically. Shortly after arriving, he also faced an unexpected challenge when his personal laptop broke and required a month-long repair, adding an extra layer to his international experience.

Despite this, Gigi has thoroughly enjoyed his time in Kamloops. He speaks positively about Brocklehurst Secondary, particularly appreciating the friendly and supportive teachers. He values the opportunity to take classes with different groups of students,

which contrasts with the Hungarian system where students remain with the same classmates and courses throughout the year. His favourite class has been Metalwork, where he has created several projects including a garden shovel, bookmarks, and a can opener.

Outside the classroom, Gigi has embraced the lifestyle and natural beauty of the region. He enjoys the variety of activities available, the proximity to Sun Peaks Resort, and the opportunity to explore the outdoors. He especially appreciates Kamloops' sunsets. He has also noted small but memorable differences, such as the quality and affordability of Canadian apples!

While he finds public transportation limited, Gigi is grateful for the support of his homestay family. He describes his experience as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore a new culture, meet people, and grow personally. The district looks forward to welcoming a second Hungarian student this September.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Meet Misuzu Nozaki from Japan

Misuzu Nozaki, a Grade 12 student from Tokyo, Japan, first joined SD73's International Student Program in September 2024 with plans to study for one year at NorKam Secondary as a non-graduating student. After completing her year in June 2025, she chose to return to Kamloops for another full year—this time entering the graduation program, reflecting her positive experience and growing confidence.

Misuzu's return in September 2025 was slightly delayed, as she had the unique opportunity to perform with her dance academy at the World Expo in Osaka. This experience highlights Misuzu's dedication and talent beyond academics, adding depth to her international journey.

A key factor in Misuzu's success has been her strong connection with her homestay family, who are also part of the SD73 staff. This relationship has provided her with a supportive and welcoming environment, helping her feel at home while studying abroad.

At NorKam, Misuzu has embraced school life fully. She has been an active member of both the curling and soccer teams, valuing the

friendships and experiences gained through sport. Through soccer, she traveled to nearby communities such as Kelowna, Merritt, and Barriere, further enriching her Canadian experience. She has also participated in many SD73 organized activities, with a trip to Wells Gray Provincial Park standing out as a favourite.

Outside of school, Misuzu is passionate about snowboarding and regularly visits Sun Peaks Resort, sometimes weekly. She appreciates its proximity to Kamloops and enjoys the international atmosphere, often seeing fellow Japanese visitors, including her ski instructor from Japan.

Academically, Misuzu values NorKam's International Baccalaureate program and the opportunity to connect with academically focused peers. She participated in the Model UN conference in Vancouver in January 2026, an experience she found rewarding.

Although adjusting to English was initially challenging, supportive teachers helped her succeed. Misuzu highly recommends the program, praising Kamloops for its natural beauty, friendly community, and welcoming atmosphere.





## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Meet Noah Moratelli from Brazil

Noah Moratelli arrived in Kamloops from Brazil in September 2025 and will remain through June 2026. A proud Titan at South Kamloops Secondary, Noah has fully embraced his experience in the International Student Program and became highly involved in both school and community life.

A passionate basketball player, Noah earned a spot on the school's boys' team, an achievement he is especially proud of. Beyond athletics, he describes himself as someone who appreciates nature, making Kamloops an ideal fit. The program's tagline, "The Natural Choice for Study in Canada," has certainly resonated with him. Noah has participated in many of the program's organized activities, including memorable trips to Bella Coola and Tofino, where he experienced British Columbia's stunning landscapes.

In his free time, Noah enjoys staying active and trying new experiences. He frequently goes snowboarding and ice skating, and he has developed an interest in Canadian hockey by attending local games. One of

his more adventurous pursuits has been participating in polar bear swims, once near his homestay and again with friends during a basketball tournament. These experiences highlight his enthusiasm for embracing Canadian culture and stepping outside his comfort zone. He also travelled with his host family to Vancouver to attend the Pacific National Exhibition, adding another exciting memory to his year.

A particularly meaningful part of Noah's journey has been the visit from his family, who travelled from Brazil to spend time with him in Kamloops. During their stay, they connected with his homestay family and explored the region, including a tour organized with the program's Activities Teacher. The visit left a strong impression, with Noah's family praising the welcoming community and beautiful surroundings. As a result of this positive experience, Noah's family is now planning to send his younger sister to Kamloops next year. She hopes to join the program and live with the same homestay family, continuing the connection Noah has built during his time in Canada.



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