

Pre-Admissions Interview Overview

Before attending Indigo Sudbury Campus’s Admissions Interview, parents are required to go through the following materials at home with the child/ren they are enrolling. We at ISC ask this for the following reasons:

- *parents and children will be very clear on ISC’s philosophy and operation and will be more sure of their decision to enroll*
- *parents and children can go through the material over a time period that works for them rather than being overwhelmed by a flood of new information all in one session*
- *the Interview process will be significantly shorter*
- *more time can be focused on answering questions*

In the case of split custody, it is best if all involved parents go through this material and also attend the Admissions Interview.

Please be sure to print and bring these forms with you to your Admissions Interview! *Write any questions you have in the spaces provided.*

SAFETY STATEMENT:

The first thing parents will be asked at the Admissions Interview is whether or not they can vouch for their child/ren’s capability and willingness to:

- be safe
- think ahead and ascertain danger
- ask for help if unsure about safe practices
- commit to discussing safety concerns with anyone who is not being safe; if necessary, use the JC (Judicial Committee), and in the case of serious danger or an injury, notify a staff member immediately

The enrolling student will also be asked if s/he is prepared to commit to the above.

INDIGO SUDBURY CAMPUS’s philosophy and operation are based on the following:

EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

- Students learn
 - what they want
 - when they want
 - with whom they want
 - for as long as they want
 - to the depth of their interest
 - in the way that best suits them
 - *as long as the chosen activities are respectful, responsible and reasonable.*

Questions: _____

CURRICULUM AND THE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- ISC students are free to learn anything they choose as long as what they choose respects the Campus's Lawbook. Note, however, that ISC does not offer Alberta Learning's official curriculum; we have a number of alternate learning programs available instead.
- At any time, students can set up classes at ISC and/or get learning programs through Education Unlimited (the homeschooling board ISC works with.) These programs are not Alberta curriculum and are not accredited. There is a cost involved with the learning programs (usually homeschooling programming money covers this).
- Students are also welcome to organize field trips.
- High school diplomas are generally not required for students to gain entrance into post-secondary institutions.
- Education Unlimited has extensive experience in helping students gain entrance into post-secondary institutions without marks or other traditional school accreditation.

Questions: _____

VOLUNTEERS, MENTORS and APPRENTICESHIPS

- When students express an interest in something staff don't have expertise in, staff are available to help students to find the resources they need to pursue their interests.
- Volunteers may be brought in to work with students, or students may connect with a mentor via phone, e-mail etc.
- Students may also want to work on-site with a person who specializes in their area of interest; in this case, where possible, an apprenticeship will be arranged.

Questions: _____

CORPORATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

- Corporations are groups that take responsibility for the materials and equipment that support particular student interests. They are formed by students as the need arises.
- Examples of Corporations are: Computer Corporation, Art Corporation, Kitchen Corporation etc.
- Students create Corporation guidelines and determine certification procedures.
- Corporation members vote on a Director who is responsible for certifying the students who wish to use the Corporation's room and equipment.
- Students present their Corporation to Campus Meeting and ask to have it approved.
- Students new to the Campus are responsible to find out from Directors how to become certified when they want to use materials belonging to a Corporation.

Questions: _____

ADJUSTMENT PERIOD AND THE VALUE OF BOREDOM

- Because ISC is so different from regular school, some students go through an adjustment period when they first come to ISC.
- Students may experience short or extended periods of boredom.
- At ISC, we celebrate boredom because it forces students to look within and determine who they really are, what truly interests them, and what they want to do with their time and their lives.

Questions: _____

ISC DIPLOMA PROCEDURE

- At ISC, students graduate when they decide they've gotten all they can from the Campus and want to pursue their interests in the greater world community.
- Students may choose to go through the ISC Diploma procedure; it is fully optional and the diploma is, as of yet, not recognized by Alberta Learning.
- Diploma procedure:
 - Students write a thesis in which they show how they are responsible people, and they detail what they plan to do when they leave the Campus.
 - The draft is reviewed by the Thesis Committee (interested students and staff) and then a final copy is written.
 - A copy of the thesis is mailed to all students, staff and parents.
 - The student sets a "thesis deepening" evening; all interested students, staff and parents are welcome to attend.
 - Attending students, staff and parents ask questions of the diploma candidate.
 - At the end of the evening, all people present vote on whether or not they feel the candidate deserves the diploma.

Questions: _____

ISC'S LAWBOOK

- Indigo Sudbury Campus has a Lawbook that outlines all the rules community members are expected to respect. Laws may be added or removed by vote of the community.

Questions: _____

MEDIATION

- When conflicts arise, students are encouraged first to talk to the person with whom they are in conflict. If that doesn't work, they can choose to call Mediation. Mediation allows student to resolve a conflict right in the moment.
- Anyone involved in or witnessing an escalating conflict can say "Mediation!"

- An objective third person is called in.
- The mediator and the conflicting individuals discuss the problem and work out a solution all parties agree to.
- A report about the mediation is forwarded to the JC for review.

Questions: _____

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (JC)

JC basics:

- The JC is made of one staff member and four students.
- The JC is staffed on a rotating basis. Every two weeks the Campus Meeting Chair selects and posts a list of the people who will form the JC.
- The JC meets Mon – Friday at 1:00 unless no JC reports have been written.
- It is each student’s responsibility to check the JC Member list so as to know if s/he’s on the committee or not.
- When a student is on the JC, s/he is responsible to be in the JC room every day at 1:00.
- *Every student enrolling at ISC must be willing to serve on the JC when it is her/his turn.*

JC process:

- A student or staff writes a JC report because s/he feels someone has broken Campus rule(s).
- At the JC meeting, the JC goes through the JC reports one at a time and gathers all necessary information.
- The JC makes charges where deemed necessary.
- Each person charged is asked to plead responsible or innocent.
- If the person pleads innocent, the case goes to trial at Campus Meeting.
- If the person pleads responsible, the accused is invited to determine his/her consequence. If s/he doesn’t know what to suggest, s/he may ask for suggestions from the JC.
- A consequence must be passed by a majority vote of the JC.

Questions: _____

CHORES

- All ISC students and staff do chores.
- *Newly enrolling students must be willing to partake in chore duties.*

Questions: _____

CAMPUS MEETING

- Held every Thursday at 11:00.
- Run using a modified form of Parliamentary Procedure.
- All students and staff have one vote.
- Students learn to address the Chair, make motions, second motions, debate issues and vote.
- The agenda is posted all week – students and staff are free to list any items they wish to bring up with the Campus community.
- Attendance is optional; students may come if they wish but don't have to. There is no vote by proxy, meaning students must be present in order for their vote to count.

Questions: _____

CLERKSHIP AND OFFICER POSITIONS

- Many tasks have to be performed to keep the Campus running smoothly.
- Some jobs can be done only by Staff members; all other positions can be taken by willing students.
- Students are nominated for positions in the first two weeks of September and elections are held the second Campus Meeting of the year.

Questions: _____

STAFF ELECTIONS

- Every Spring, staff member's names go on a secret ballot and eligible students and staff vote to determine which staff members' contracts will be renewed for the following year.
- Staff are elected based on their usefulness to the students, how well they fit within the Campus's philosophy, and how well they help to manage the Campus's affairs.
- Staff are elected because only the students of ISC can determine who best serves them.

Questions: _____

ROLE OF PARENTS

- Support:
 - At ISC, it is essential that we have parent support. This means we need parents to support the Campus philosophy as best they can.
 - It is *normal* for parents to go through times of fear. During these times, we encourage parents to connect with other parents, talk with staff and/or read Sudbury literature.

- Evaluations
 - At ISC, we only offer report cards and marks *if the students ask for them.*
- Informal updates
 - Generally we like students to have the opportunity to be present if we are speaking with their parents about them.
- Student/Staff/Parent Interviews
 - Interviews may be requested by students, staff or parents and may be scheduled at any time during the year.
- Parents visitations
 - When dropping off and picking up their child/ren, parents are welcome to come into the Campus and spend time with their children, talk with other children and/or talk with staff.
 - Parents wishing to be more involved with the Campus are invited to go through the Volunteer process or have their names added to the mentor database.
 - Parents wishing to spend “non-service related” time at the Campus (ie. to join a planned activity or observe for a few hours) are asked to have their visit approved by the Visit Committee (done through the Attendance Clerk).
- Assembly
 - The Assembly is the name given to ISC’s student, staff and parent group.
 - The Assembly meets at least once per month for a Talkabout and Potluck.
 - The Assembly is also the group involved in the ISC Diploma procedure.

Questions: _____

ROLE OF STAFF

- Staff are the caretakers of the space, the philosophy and the Lawbook.
- Staff have many tasks besides working with students which include the work of keeping the Campus going: helping to clean it, taking care of public relations, meeting with parents, doing administrative work, fixing things that are broken, watching for potentially dangerous situations and behaviors etc. When staff are not needed by students, they focus on making sure all other aspects of the Campus’s operations are looked after, or they pursue their own passions.
- Staff’s primary role is to practice non-interference with students. Staff interact with students, talk to them, play with them and care about them, but primarily staff practice “availability without continuous presence”, listening and responding to students’ needs as they arise, but otherwise leaving students to find and create their own way.
- At ISC, staff members are not responsible for the constant and direct supervision of students although they will intervene immediately where safety or legality is an issue. ISC students must be *capable* of being responsible for themselves, and whether under the direct supervision of adults or not, students are expected to be responsible for themselves and to look out for each other.

Questions: _____

