

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the staffing arrangements at Sheldon?

All staff are hired by the Toronto District School Board and are all trained in First Aid and CPR.

- 1 site supervisor
- 1 teacher
- 2 outdoor education specialists
- 1 woodsperson/maintenance
- 1 full-time cook/1 part-time cook
- 2 university interns

2. How many staff must attend from the visiting school?

One of the responsibilities of the visiting school is to supervise the dorms. A minimum of two staff are required to accompany the class(es) to Sheldon. In the event that either the number of males or the number of females exceeds 20, a third adult must accompany the group in order to supervise students in the Casson House dormitories. In accordance with the TDSB excursion policy, overnight excursions involving students of both genders will be supervised by adults of both genders.

3. What do I need to do to prepare for my class' trip to Sheldon?

Please refer to the Pre-Trip Checklist on our website for a detailed description of your responsibilities prior to your trip.

4. What type of food is served at Sheldon?

Breakfast might include:

Cereal, bagels, fruit, muffins or pancakes

Lunches might include:

Soup and grilled cheese sandwiches, macaroni and cheese and salad, wraps

Dinners might include:

Chicken and rice or roast beef, mashed potatoes and corn or spaghetti

Bedtime snack might include:

Crackers and hummus, cookies, pretzels or popcorn

We will make accommodations for vegetarians as well as any medical or religious dietary concerns. Please understand that we are not able to make accommodations for dislikes.

* Parents of children with severe food concerns should call and talk to Tracy at (705) 435-4266.

5. Can students call home?

No. We need to keep the phone lines open for emergencies. Please tell parents that no news is good news. If required, we will contact parents. A phone call to the school will be made once the bus arrives at Sheldon.

6. Can students bring cell phones, iPods, MP3 Players etc.?

No. Please leave all electronic devices at home (cameras and watches excluded) The use of cell phone cameras are not permitted at any time at Sheldon.

7. What type of clothing should we bring?

Bring old clothing suitable for the season. Clothing has been known to get dirty. Encourage students to refer to the packing list when preparing for their trip.

8. Should students bring snack food?

The only food that students should bring is a lunch for the first day. Please encourage students to bring a litterless lunch!

9. What are my responsibilities as a visiting teacher at Sheldon?

- supervision of students during breakfast and certain free time periods
- assisting during 2 of 4 day time program blocks (depending on program)
- assisting with evening programs
- dorm supervision

10. Is there internet access for visiting teachers?

Unfortunately, there is no internet access. However, you will have access to a telephone.

11. Will programs be modified for students with religious or health concerns?

Program accommodations will be made for students with religious or health concerns. For example, a student with a bee allergy will not participate in the bee portion of the Biodiversity program.

12. What if questions arise that I don't know how to answer?

If you are unable to address parental concerns please contact us for assistance in answering the question at (705) 435-4266.

13. What happens in the event of an illness or injury.

In the event of illness or injury parents will be contacted. Depending on the severity, a student may be driven by staff to seek medical attention at the local hospital in Alliston. In the event that a student cannot continue with program parents or the principal will be expected to come and pick up the student.

14. Can arrangements be made to pick up a student early or drop off a student late to allow the student to attend a special event?

Parents **must** contact us prior to the trip to confirm directions and timing for pick up and/or drop off. A student still waiting to be picked up at the time the bus departs will be sent home on the bus.

15. What is the practice for students that must return home early due to misbehaviour?

Parents will be contacted and they will be given directions to come and pick up their son/daughter. In the event that a parent is unable to make the trip the principal will be expected to make the trip to return the student to the school.