



**Host Families Needed For
October 3rd to October 13th, 2026
Japanese Student Visit**



This year the Town of Stony Plain and its Japanese Sister City, the Town of Shikaoi will be celebrating their 40th anniversary. That is quite a milestone! Since 1997, adult and student delegations have been travelling back and forth between these two towns every year. Many lasting friendships have formed, and to this day, communication continues between community members on both sides of the globe.

We are now preparing for the students who will be travelling to Stony Plain from Shikaoi from **October 3rd to October 13th, 2026**. While here, the students will stay with host families, attend classes at Memorial Composite High School and experience Canadian life. We are expecting approximately 50 students from Shikaoi High School this year. While in Stony Plain, host families are needed to accommodate two students in their home for a period of 10 days.

So, what's involved in being a host family? It is opening your home, your hearts, and your minds to another culture. You do not have to know how to speak Japanese – charades and sign language work very well! The students know some English and communicate to the best of their ability.

It's a whirlwind 10 days. In addition to doing what you would normally do as a family (the students especially love being part of our Thanksgiving Day traditions), the following is a tentative schedule of planned activities that you and your family would be invited to be part of.

Saturday, October 3	Students Arrive in Stony Plain Welcome Meet & Greet
Saturday, October 3 to Sunday, October 4	Students spend time with Host Families)
Monday, October 5	School Visit/Showcase/Mural Tour
Tuesday October 6	Students attend Stony Plain Memorial High School and High Park School
Wednesday, October 7	Full Day at Memorial Composite High School Cultural Showcase & Banquet
Thursday, October 8	Shikaoi students travel by bus to Jasper
Friday, October 9	Shikaoi students return from Jasper Meet up with Host Families
Saturday, October 10 to Monday, October 12	Thanksgiving Weekend Students spend time with Host Families
Tuesday, October 13	Farewell Breakfast Students return to Japan

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If you have any questions regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information, please contact the Information Management Coordinator at 780-963-8655.

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