

February 2020

Hello International Block hopefuls! This package has information you need on how to apply for next year's International Block program. Please look this over with your parents or guardians and begin to think about if you can see yourself in the program and what you can bring to it.

If you or your parents/guardians have questions or desire more specific information, please contact Mr. Groot. There will be a session at the Careers and Course Selections meeting at 7 p.m. on Feb. 20!

Thank you for your interest!

Dear Student,

Are you interested in learning in another country in a very different and powerful way? If you are, check out our International Block program information. Links for this document can be found under the heading, Student Information, or under the Courses Info tab page on the TDChristian Splash! Page at www.tdchristian.ca/splash. This letter in printed form includes the what you need to assist you in the decision-making process.

"A tourist is forever an outsider – at best a fleeting presence in the lives of local people. To feel the heartbeat of a people and truly understand who they are one needs to be among them. When one shares in the life of the family and works alongside the citizens in the cultural and economic development of their community one experiences the peoples' struggles and their successes." -- David Peacock

Embarking on an international trip as part of International Block provides opportunities that cannot be matched elsewhere. It will be a challenging experience; but, such experiences are often the most rewarding. If you are chosen, International Block will likely stretch you socially, spiritually, physically, and culturally (i.e. living in ways most unlike home). Communicating using another language will be part of it. However, you will come away knowing more about yourself, society, your beliefs, and the world than could be learned in many other places.

The International Block offers a fantastic opportunity to engage in a new learning environment, experience a completely new culture, and learn some Spanish. In addition, you will be challenged to work with and trust others in group situations. The **International Block Information Booklet** at www.tdchristian.ca/splash provides background on where students have gone with this exciting program. The booklet shows what was done from 2007 to 2014 and gives glimpses of its impact. Trips in 2015 (21 students, 5 chaperones, a full-time teacher, and a part-time teacher) and 2017 (17 students, 5 chaperones, a full-time teacher, and a part-time teacher) were similar trips to the Dominican Republic. In second semester of 2021, students may apply for a two-credit co-op program that includes a six-week trip to Nicaragua, in partnership with the Nehemiah Centre and EduDeo Ministries (edudeo.ca). Morning classes for this program are English and Perspectives.

Consider the information about International Block carefully. If you can, connect with students who have taken part in the program in the past. Show these sheets to your parents or guardians. Talk to them, pray about it.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to speak to Mr. Groot, in person or contact him by e-mail. If you wish, connect with the current Grade 11 and 12 students who can share their experiences with you (especially near the end of the semester).

Finally, if you are interested in being considered for next year's International Block, please indicate so on your course selections sheet.

We look forward to hearing from you!

W. Groot

Mr. William Groot, *Principal*

International Block

TORONTO DISTRICT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL



Learning for service in the light of God's word.

*Serve with an attitude of walking alongside the stranger
with an expectation of learning from the stranger.*

Who? Students who will be at least 16 years old before January 1, 2021. They must be patient, driven, flexible, and be able to take risks. They must be willing to be stretched physically, emotionally, and spiritually. At the same time, they must be able to work independently and in a team for the semester. Finally, students must have the drive and means to raise funds.

What? This Block includes four courses in second semester (English, Perspectives and two co-op credit, though in special circumstances, alternative or extra courses may be taken). Besides working on English and Perspectives, during a two-period block before the trip, students will prepare for service, learn some Spanish, research cultural norms and customs, compare social institutions in Canadian society to those in Central America, and develop group cohesion and teamwork skills with counterparts from up to four other Christian high schools (London, Smithville, Hamilton and, possibly, Quinte). Class time after the trip will be used to debrief, work on summative assignments or projects to complete the International Block co-op credits and complete the regular courses.

When? The proposed time for the six-week trip is early April to mid-May 2021 (tentative).

Where? Students will work and serve in Central America where we have been since 2009-10. The plan for 2021 is to be based at the Nehemiah Center in Managua, Nicaragua working with EduDeo and its partner Christian schools (ACECEN). More information will be available at the **Careers and Courses Information Evening (Feb. 20, 2020)**. Our objective is to ensure students have a safe and varied service and cultural experience. Students will volunteer in schools (hopefully, as student assistants) and orphanages, visit significant Nicaraguan sites (hopefully, with Nicaraguan students), and complete construction tasks.

Costs? School tuition remains the same. However, students need to raise funds for their team of around \$6,000. The International Block 2020 team page is found at edudeo.com/hands/internationalblock2020/. Seven students from London and TDChristian make up this group. The funds cover the cost of the trip except for things such as personal toiletries, spending money, vaccinations, passport, health insurance and health coverage. A \$500 deposit in the form of a post-dated cheque is required to indicate a student's commitment to entering this program and will be forwarded to EduDeo once the student is accepted into the Block. Cheques will be returned to those who are not selected. Families who have concerns about finances, should contact Ms. Cate at cate@tdchristian.ca. We do not wish to turn down students solely on the basis of money.

Chaperones: This year we partnered with London Christian High School and sent a teacher and a social worker with the group. Depending on the group's size additional chaperones may be sent.

Anticipated Steps:

#1. ALL students should bring the signed **International Block Application Form** to Marg in the office along with their course selection sheets. Students who wish to be considered for the program should attach a \$500 cheque made out to TDChristian High School (post-dated **May 4**), make sure they fill in the questionnaire portion of the form, and write one to two pages detailing why they want to go, what they think they will learn, and what they could offer to the Block class. How it is written is not as important as what is written.

#2. Based on the writings, teachers' input, students' abilities to work in and out of class, and overall school behaviour students will be invited with their parent(s)/guardian(s) to an interview in late March or early April. The interviews are usually scheduled between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

#3. Interviewed students will be informed whether or not they have been accepted, likely, by mid-April. At that time, they will have the opportunity to accept or reject the offer.

International Block Application Form

TORONTO DISTRICT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

To be filled in and returned to the OFFICE along with the Course Selections Sheet by all students who are interested in next year's International Block.

___ I am interested in applying for International Block and have attached a \$500 cheque (post-dated for **May 4, 2020**) made out to TDChristian High School.

___ I have written the required one to two-page paper and included it with this application.

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____

Those who are interested must answer the following questions (see the reverse also).

Questionnaire

#1. List three personal qualities or characteristics and how each one of them will help you be a good candidate for International Block.

#2. Tell us any special talents or abilities that you have in any area of your life. (It doesn't need to relate to International Block. Just tell us. If you can't think of something, ask a parent, relative, friend or teacher.)

#3. Name two teachers who you believe would support your application to International Block. State why you believe they will support you. It would be wise to talk to them that you are using their names.

#4. State two courses, teams or activities that you have taken or been involved at TDChristian (or your current high school) that have taught you something that will help you be a positive contributor to the International Block team. State specifically what you learned that will be significant.

#5. Rate yourself in each of the following areas (remember, honesty is important):

	Disagree				Agree
I enjoy writing about my experiences; I am a good writer.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
Nothing feels better than finishing a task. I can't rest until I do.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
I like to try new things even if I don't think I will be good at them.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
I prefer being in charge of peers rather than following one of them.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
If I know I have to do something, nobody has to remind me. I just do it.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
I like working with my hands—much more than pen and paper work.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
It is easy for me to do things that I don't like to do, even if they are boring.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	

#6. On a scale of 0 to 10 indicate your level of interest for each (10 is the most interest; 0 is no interest)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ___ shop-type work | ___ singing in public | ___ keeping things organized |
| ___ talking 1-to-1 | ___ meeting someone new | ___ being an example for others |
| ___ teaching children | ___ playing board games | ___ listening to my iPod |
| ___ walking | ___ sharing my beliefs/faith | ___ spending time alone |
| ___ making crafts | ___ playing sports | ___ working so hard that I sweat |

#7. What are the three most appealing things about International Block for you?

#8. What subjects or programs, if any, are more important to you than International Block?