

Spring Street International School



2009/ 2010 International Boarding Program *Frequently Answered Questions (FAQ) and General Information*



Logistics

Getting to Friday Harbor

Flights booked to the United States should be routed to Seattle Tacoma (SeaTac/SEA) airport. For 2009, the school will provide transportation from SeaTac for students arriving at the airport from 10am to 2pm on September 5th only. If the student's flight arrives other than on this day(s), the student is responsible for his or her own transportation to the island.

By Shuttle

The most expedient option is the Airporter Shuttle (1-866-235-5247 or www.airporter.com/shuttle). The shuttle can be taken to the Anacortes ferry terminal, where the student will board a ferry. To align flight, shuttle and ferry times and ensure smooth transportation:

- Visit the ferry schedule at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/schedule/>
- Select your date of arrival
- Set the departing terminal as Anacortes
- Set the arriving terminal as Friday harbor.
- Plan on arriving at the ferry at least 30 minutes before departure time.
- Make sure your student has cash or card available to pay for the ferry (Rates are seasonal, but always less than \$15)

The school is located less than a mile from the ferry landing. SSIS staff will be available to pick arriving students up in Friday Harbor and bring them to the school.

By Car

The islands are served by the ferry terminal in Anacortes. By car, take I-5 to the Burlington exit (exit 230), travel west on Highway 20 to Anacortes and follow the signs to the ferry terminal. Ferry traffic can be heavy especially in the summer months and it is strongly advised to get your car in line at least one and a half hours ahead of your departure time. During peak times (weekends and weekdays between 10am and 5pm) you may want to arrive earlier as wait times can be double or triple.

If you choose to leave your car behind, you can pay to park it in the terminal parking lot. Please note that space is limited. For parking information call 360.757.4433

Ferries

The ferry schedules change quarterly, so it is important to consult a current schedule when planning your trip. ***Washington State Ferries*** provides current scheduling information by telephone at 206.464.6400 or 800.84.FERRY. Scheduling information is also available by visiting their website at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/. The Victoria Clipper has regular service from Seattle. The Victoria Express offers passenger ferry service from Port Angeles and Victoria, B.C. www.victoriaexpress.com

By Plane

Kenmore Air flies float planes between Lake Union, in downtown Seattle, or nearby Lake Washington to the harbor in Friday Harbor. Land-based aircraft fly from Boeing Field to Friday Harbor airport approximately 4x /day.-

Charter service between the islands and the destination is available from [Island Air](#) (360) 378-2376

[San Juan Airlines](#) provides daily scheduled flights from Bellingham, Anacortes, British Columbia and Inter-island.

Contacting the school and your student

The school can be contacted by phone at 360-378-6393. The student dorm can be contacted by phone at (360) 378-0330. The school's fax number is 360 378-4220. Students are encouraged to bring cell phones to communicate with each other and with you. Cell phones of all major providers get adequate service in Friday Harbor.

To communicate via e-mail please visit www.springstreet.org and use the contact page to e-mail school administration or staff.

To communicate with the school via mail, address your package to:

Spring Street International School
505 Spring Street
Friday Harbor, Washington
98250 USA

To ship luggage and belongings address them to your student at

345 Blair St.
Friday Harbor, Washington
98250 USA

Money

Parents frequently ask how to manage their student's access to money while abroad. Ultimately, we feel the solution is for parents to decide what is best for their unique situation. SSIS recommends that older students open an account with one of the four local banks (all located in downtown Friday Harbor within walking distance of the school and the dorm) on the island and obtain an ATM card to an account you can fund at your discretion.

Wells Fargo:	305 Argyle Ave, Friday Harbor, WA (360) 378-2128
Islanders Bank:	545 Park St, Friday Harbor, WA (800) 957-5976
Key Bank:	95 2nd St S, Friday Harbor, WA (360) 378-2111
Whidbey Island Bank:	535 Market St, Friday Harbor, WA (360) 370-5641

For middle school students and for parents who feel their student would benefit from more direct oversight, SSIS offers an "allowance" service through our on-site accountant, Ms. Shelley Shelton-Wilson. Shelley is happy to hold money for younger students and disburse it for trips and general spending.

Visiting your student

Q. What if I want to visit my student while he or she is attending SSIS?

A. SSIS welcomes parents to accompany their child and visit the school. SSIS will recommend local accommodations and put parents or family in touch with local businesses that offer comfortable accommodation within walking distance of town, student residence and school.

Condensed Calender: Important Dates 2009-2010

September 5	Residential students arrive
September 8	First Day of Classes
December 18 - Jan 3	Winter Holiday Break, no school (Student Residence closed)
January 3	Residential students return
January 4	School resumes: 2nd Semester Begins
March 6-21	Spring Break, no school, (Student Residence remains open)
March 22	Resume classes
June 5	Graduation
June 8-10	Final Exams
June 11	Last day of school
June 12-14	Residential Students Depart. Student Residence Closes on the 14th.

Health and Insurance

- Liability coverage for SSIS students is provided for dorm and campus and is included in enrollment fees.
- SSIS requires all international students to have medical coverage while attending the school.

Some agencies provide medical coverage as part of their services and supply a medical card for each student. Others expect the families to provide or acquire their own coverage.

SSIS staff can assist parents who need to acquire U.S plans for their children while attending school in the U.S.

Plans vary but a Bell-Anderson Insurance plan for exchange students known as the Worldwide Medical Insurance Plan is available and recommended by SSIS insurance agents. It includes packages for a complete school term. The package is usually zero deductible and provides good coverage for fees ranging from \$50-\$60 per month.

If a student becomes ill

All Friday Harbor medical options support the Bell Anderson plan and provide coverage for most worldwide insurance coverage plans. SSIS dorm parents or staff will accompany and support a student in need of medical services. Parents will be immediately informed of any serious issues or emergencies. Professional medical services are available in very close proximity to the dorm and the school.

Prescription medications policies

SSIS has clear policies about drugs or stimulants but if prescription drugs are needed for a student, SSIS staff will support the student in the process of getting the medical treatments or medications required. In rare cases, medical conditions may require the student to return home for proper care or coverage. SSIS will facilitate and support our students in any eventuality, including assistance in making arrangements for travel and providing transportation and personal support.

Dorm Life

What to bring

- Students should bring bed linens with them to fit a twin size bed, as well as a comforter. Pillows, but not pillowcases, will be provided.
- Towels
- Alarm clock
- Items to make a room feel like home including posters
- Personal computer (The student residence is wireless enabled, computer must support wireless)
- Clothing

The climate on the island is variable. During the summer months when heat waves come in from the mainland the temperatures can reach above 80F/26C. During the winter the average temperature is around 40F/4C but can drop below freezing during the nights. Snow is infrequent but possible during the winter months. Students will need to bring clothing to be prepared for the changes in climate. Students should bring both shorts and long pants. It is important to have a good pair of walking shoes/sneakers for trips, a pair of sandals for warm weather and a pair of boots for the winter rainy season when sneakers become quickly saturated or for outdoors trips around the northwest. Students will need a good winter jacket, pants and long sleeve shirts and sweaters. Local shops can provide needed items for purchase. In addition, students often travel to the mainland malls for day trip shopping.

What will be provided

- Bed
- Desk
- Wastepaper basket
- Dresser
- Heater
- Iron/Ironing board
- Washer / Dryer Laundry available in student residence
- Lighting /lamps

What not to bring

- Weapons of any sort (BB guns, paintball, firearms, slingshots, bow and arrow, fireworks)
- Pets (other than fish)
- Illegal drugs, alcohol or prescription drugs not prescribed to you
- Inappropriate clothing as defined in the student handbook
- Electric appliances (toasters, microwaves)
- Bicycles

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are the dorms coed?

A: Yes. Students are divided by floor (boys upstairs, girls downstairs) and have separate bathrooms.

Q. What size are the rooms?

A. The Student residence is a historical building over 100 years old. It is very much like a home but was not originally intentioned as a dormitory, and the rooms vary quite a bit in size. The average room is approximately 200 square feet and there are two students to a room.

Q. How are roommates assigned? What if we don't get along? Can a student request a room change?

A. Roommates are chosen randomly but are matched as much as possible by grade level. SSIS fosters cohabitation skills that will be important throughout life and especially in college. To this end, conflicts between roommates will be discussed with residential directors. Students are expected to resolve differences or preferences by working together and with dorm staff in all matters of comfort, convenience and adherence to dorm guidelines.

Q. What is the meal program for the dorm? Do the dorms have cooking facilities?

A. The residence is equipped with a full kitchen. Students are permitted to cook breakfast and lunch in the dorm. Dinner is prepared each night with a rotating crew of two students who are assisted by and supervised by the residential director on duty.

Q. May students stay in their rooms during the breaks, or must the students return home?

A. For 2009, there will be supervision for spring break and students are welcome to stay at the residence during the break. For the winter break, dorm supervisors will also be on vacation and students are encouraged to travel home or to visit family. In special circumstances, accommodations can be arranged for local family stays or accommodation if students do not wish to travel home. Extra fees will likely apply.

Q. How are the residence halls supervised?

A. Three residential directors rotate dorm supervision throughout the week and weekends. There is a supervised study hall time after dinner on every school day. Dorm supervisors reside in the facility and there is 24hours/7day coverage for all students.

Q. Is the Dorm in cell phone coverage? Are there other phone options available?

A. The dorm is in cell phone coverage of all major providers.

Q. How is a typical school-day structured?

A. Our typical schedule is a 2 semester, four-quarter year with a 6 period class day. Classes are 55 minutes with 5 minute breaks between them and 45 minutes for lunch. Classes are scheduled from 8:10 to 3:00pm with some classes offering extended afternoon hours.

Late afternoon electives are available in some subjects and our computer lab and internet support are always available. Class schedules and course curriculum are offered to all parents and guardians via e-mail or access to the SSIS web site.

Q. How much free time will I have? What do students do in their free time? What happens on weekends?

A. Weekend activities might include activities planned by the Residential staff on duty, other school faculty, and the families of our non-resident students. Many outdoor activities are available such as kayaking, hiking, picnicking, biking and boating. Students often go for lunch, shop or just enjoy the beautiful environment of the San Juan Islands. Local trips are often scheduled to explore the islands or take outings to the mainland by ferry/van. Students are encouraged to use free time to complete their assignments and readings but also to make sure they take healthy breaks and seek appropriate exercise and recreation. Friday Harbor is a wonderful, safe place to relax and enjoy the beauty of the Pacific Northwest of the USA. Any expenses for off-island travel will be the student's responsibility.

Q. What kinds of programming activities take place in the residence?

A. The dorm is equipped with a table tennis set, parlor games, piano and comfortable places to read, study or relax.

Q. What is the SSIS campus like?

A. SSIS consists of a two-acre in town-campus with five major buildings, eight classrooms, computer lab, science lab and residence for international students about 200 meters from the main campus.

Q. What is the town of Friday Harbor like?

A. The town is, like its name suggests, a harbor and is a quaint, lovely, safe village in close proximity to the residence and the school. Shops, restaurants and local entertainment are available in the village in a short walk. Friday Harbor is the county seat and is located on the eastern side of the island and is several square miles in size. Please visit the web site for maps/directions and more details on the village and the San Juan Islands in general.

Q. What religious services are available in Friday Harbor?

A. Many denominations and faiths provide services on the island. Local contacts are made available to students as needed or requested.

Q. What kinds of goods and services can be found on the island?

A. The island supports a year round population of people and offers most business services one expects in a small community. However, Friday Harbor does not have major franchise operations or large shopping malls. There are barber shops, two grocery stores, a pharmacy, bowling alley, clothing stores, restaurants, outdoor activity services and many other stores and services available. Packages bought online are delivered to the island and directly to the student residence at 345 Blair Avenue as normal by UPS or FedEx, though it may take one day longer than expected.