

January 22, 2008

Dear Parents,

You have probably seen the recent news regarding the change in documentation needed for travel to and from Canada. Please read this reminder carefully to ensure that your child has the necessary identification to cross the border back without difficulty.

As of January 31, 2008:

- U.S. and Canadian citizen children ages 18 and under must present an original birth certificate issued by a federal, state, provincial, county or municipal authority OR a certified copy of a birth certificate (regular photocopies are unacceptable) AND a photo ID (driver's license, if possible, or school ID)
- U.S. and Canadian citizens ages 19 and older will need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate
- Passports and trusted traveler program cards – NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST – will continue to be accepted for cross-border travel
 - The government recommends that individuals taking part in regular travel across the border apply for passports

This new rule will affect our students, especially for athletes participating in regular travel for sporting events. Students must be responsible for carrying their appropriate identification for these trips. We recommend keeping the document(s) in a safe place, such as a folder, plastic sleeve or a resealable bag, and in a backpack, handbag or sports bag that will be carried with you. This will help prevent damage and ensure that the document remains intact. The school cannot be responsible for keeping students' identification, as it is safest for the student to hold his or her own ID.

In addition to identification, the border recommends a letter accompanies your child when you are not traveling with them. This applies to any travel with their team and coach for each trip. We will be enforcing a basic letter in order to safeguard against any possible complications. Please see the template below for your reference. Student athletes will be hearing from their coaches regarding specific team letters for the remaining Canadian games this year. Letters will be available for download on the web site.

Please include the following in your letter for each trip:

- The date you wrote the letter and the date of the trip
- Your name and your child's name
- Purpose of the trip, including sport, game opponent and location
- That you authorize their travel without your presence

We want to ensure the utmost safety and ease for your child when traveling with the school. We will continue to update you as information changes. Please check www.nicholsschool.org regularly. For more information from the government, visit the U.S. Customs and Border Protection site: <http://cbp.gov>.