

In Their Own Words: Quotes About IBO

Quotes from Educators

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) provides rigorous academic programmes and assessments and an unwavering commitment to prepare students to be citizens in an international community. IBO is to be commended for its visionary approach to promoting a more peaceful world by engaging students, staff and community in a greater awareness of, and appreciation for, differences between and among the peoples of the world.

—Dr. Gerald Tirozzi,
Executive Director,
National Association
of Secondary School Principals

The International Baccalaureate programme raised the bar for all advanced academic programmes in Fairfax County Public Schools. Student enrollment and achievement in IB courses at our most diverse schools show that high expectations lead to high performance. The IB programme teaches our students that being smart is not a matter of heredity, but of motivation and hard work. The programme leads students to deeper understandings of themselves and the world around them—basic skills for success in the 21st century.

—Bernadette Glaze,
Coordinator for Advanced
Academic Programmes,
Fairfax County (Virg.) Public Schools

Send us prepared students à la IB...It is the “best” high school prep curriculum an American school can offer.

—Marilee Jones,
Director of Undergraduate Admission,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) has provided the opportunity for our students to challenge themselves to higher levels of educational excellence. The IB has provided the foundation for intellectual curiosity and academic rigor to thrive. ... In reality, the IB has been one of the most effective ways our school district has leveled the playing field for students no matter where they live, who their parents are, and despite their socio-economic status.

—Delores Hopkins,
Former Associate Superintendent,
Jackson (Miss.) Public Schools

Students seeking the finest [high school] preparation available for an American college should consider the International Baccalaureate. The IB offers an integrated curriculum that provides students with the skill needed to be world-class scholars and an educational philosophy that prepares them to be first-class citizens. I do not know of a more comprehensive and appropriate learning model.

—Jim Crowder,
Director of Admissions,
Macalester College

IB is well known to us for excellent preparations. Success in an IB programme correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Programme on the transcript.

—Marilyn McGrath Lewis,
Director of Undergraduate Admission
Harvard University

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One of the advantages of an IB curriculum is its structure and quality. It is a coordinated programme, well established, well known and well respected. We know the quality of IB courses, and we think the IB curriculum is terrific.

—Christoph Guttentag,
Director of Undergraduate Admission,
Duke University

I have always been a supporter of the International Baccalaureate. It is a thoughtful and genuinely intellectual curriculum with an unusually high degree of integrity and connectedness. There is no other curriculum anywhere that does a superior job of both educating students and inspiring a true and broad-based love of learning.

—William Shain,
Dean of Undergraduate Admissions,
Vanderbilt University

The International Baccalaureate programmes' emphases on critical thinking skills, increased content knowledge and an interdisciplinary approach to education not only prepare students for success at the post-secondary level, but also for life and the world of work.

—Dr. Kathleen Plato,
Supervisor of Advanced Placement
Programs, Washington State Office
of Superintendent of Public Instruction

There's nothing mystifying about this program, except perhaps for the name. It doesn't supercede the existing curriculum at a school, it enhances it. It injects an element of global standardization that is very appealing in today's world. Our graduates will be competing with young adults from all over the world in college and beyond – for jobs, for leadership positions, and simply to be heard. Offering the IB curriculum is a great way to give our students an advantage.

—Mollie Pilling,
IB English teacher,
St. Paul's School, Brooklandville, MD

There will be an increasing premium on educational systems that can travel more easily across borders and meet the needs of globally organized businesses and social services. For example, the well-known ... International Baccalaureate secondary school programme is now used in schools throughout the world; and the International Baccalaureate Organization has developed elementary and middle school curricula. Such trends and systems may not directly challenge individual and cultural identity; indeed their success across the globe presupposes that they do not clash with local values in Detroit, Denmark or Delhi.

—Howard Gardner,
"Too Many Choices?"
The New York Review 11 April 2002

Quotes from American IB Students

The IB program is very vigorous and challenging. I think every student should be involved, even if they won't be attending Ivy League schools. The program prepares you for any life activity - it should become nationwide and be available in all schools. The biggest benefit, I believe, is time management skills. With the level of work and the vigor of the courses, you have to learn extremely quickly how to manage your time, and that's a skill that will carry into every aspect of my life.

—Chanté Stubbs, Warwick High School, Class of 2006, Newport News, VA

I really think the IB program is amazing. I would not be going Harvard and be so confident if it were not for the program. The way that the essays and tasks are structured encourages a very balanced education. There is room for individuality and independence in what you are studying, and it's a lot of fun. Living near the US-Mexico border, I really appreciate being able to use my bilingual education. You can carry your education to another county, anywhere you want to go in the world.

—Diana Robles, Nogales High School, Class of 2006, Nogales, AZ

The IB program allows you to be part of a unique classroom experience. It is self-selective: the students who decide to go the extra mile and enroll in the program tend to be the students who are motivated in the first place. Not only are the classes more interesting, but you will also be constantly challenged by your peers, which I think is more important than anything else in terms of furthering your education. Stick with it. Persevere. You'll take a lot of interesting classes. Just plough through, it will be worth it when you get to college.

—Jeremy Schifberg, South Eugene High School, Class of 2006, Eugene, OR

The IB program is challenging yet fun. Many people say that it's a difficult endeavor, but if you follow the teachers' directions, stay on time with

all your tasks, and put forth your best efforts, it's not difficult at all. IB educates students for success beyond school. Non-IB education simply gets you out of high school, while the IB program prepares you for life.

—Tony Craddock, Jr., Gar-Field Senior High, Class of 2006, Woodbridge, VA

I think that IB is a great opportunity, not just for me but for everybody else. It doesn't just give you a challenge - it helps you grow, mature and learn responsibility, and it teaches you to become a better person.

—Jovina Yang, Luther Burbank High School, Class of 2006, Burbank, CA

IB was a great experience. It allowed me to really grow and expand my horizons beyond what a normal high school would give. It was challenging academically and socially, and I think that's what's great about it—creativity, action and service. IB students are much more attentive to prioritizing what they have to do. We have to juggle a lot more homework. Many of us have a job on top of the program.

—Melvin La, South Fork High School, Class of 2006, Stuart, FL

As I reflect on my high school experience, I am proud to say that I am a member of the IB program. Though very rigorous and challenging, the IB program has helped me to live up to my full potential as a student as well as a person. This program requires you to work hard, take education seriously, and stretch your mind to do things that you never thought were possible. I am very thankful for the opportunity to participate in a program that holds my future to a standard of excellence that does not waiver. From the IB program, I have acquired study habits and work skills that will serve me well in college and throughout my life.

—Sierra Minott, Fort Myers High, Class of 2006, Fort Myers, FL.

Quotes from Canadian IB Students

The relationship that you develop with students and your teachers helps you get much more involved with the school and the community, even globally. Particularly nowadays, it's really important to have a global outlook. We ran a program called "Bike to the Future", where we raised money to send bikes, particularly for women, to third world communities so they can ride to work and get better salaries. There are so many things that make you feel like you are giving back to your program.

—Allison Robinson, Westwood Collegiate, Class of 2006, Winnipeg, MT

The benefit of the IB program was being in a better learning atmosphere — it has changed my view of how schools work. The curriculum is very different than other classes I've taken. Completing the IB program made me feel so much better about myself: I got through the challenge... I did it. Also, the individuals in our groups were easy to do group projects with, they were more laidback and were ready to learn and participate. All of the IB kids became known as the "IB group". Being the smart group became cool.

—Shannon Hall, Park View Education Centre, Class of 2006, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada

I feel like the IB program added a lot to my life. It's a very well rounded program: it not only incorporates academics but also extracurricular activities, especially the CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) hours. The IB program creates a social conscience within teenagers through community service. I think IB students are more prepared for university as they have strengthened their time management skills and balanced their priorities.

—Naheed Hirji, Turner Fenton Secondary School, Class of 2006, Brampton, ON

This programme has motivated me to go beyond what I thought I was capable of doing and it has given me the challenge that I was looking for all through elementary and junior high school. It has also given me the chance to meet people who share the same enthusiasm for learning. All these positive

results have not come without a lot of effort on my part ... but I truly feel prepared for university and the level of work that I will have to do when I get there.

—Reynaldo Glombowski, Park View International Baccalaureate Society, Class of 2005, Nova Scotia

I am privileged to live in a society in which educational opportunities are so prevalent, and where students have the right and privilege of choosing the educational paths that they desire. Having undertaken the IB program, I find that its greatest benefit was that it left me with a better understanding of myself: my capabilities, my strengths as well as my weakness. By pushing my boundaries, the program compelled me to strive for a higher degree of excellence and in doing so it fostered within me both academic and personal growth. With its holistic curriculum, the IB program has expanded my perspectives and fostered within me a critical yet open-minded attitude that has been essential in my personal development.

—Christie Ma, Class of 2004 at McNally Composite High School, currently attending the University of Alberta in Canada

My success as an undergraduate, both in academic and extra-curricular settings, was largely due to the time-management and analytical skills developed during my years in IB. In applying to law school, many of the top, internationally recognized, schools requested my IB marks, even four years after I had graduated from the IB program. More than anything, however, the IB program fostered in me a love of learning. Time is a precious commodity these days; however, I still value a balanced life and make time to volunteer, participate in athletic activities, and indulge my passion for literature, a passion developed by the IB English program, while engaging wholeheartedly in my studies. In pursuing IB studies, young people will only better prepare themselves to become the future leaders of their communities, and of the global society.

—Erin Wiley, Class of 2002 at McNally Composite High School, currently attending Cornell Law School in New York, USA.