

IB Myths—Debunked!

Myth #1: IB students have no life.

Fact: While academic achievement is a priority, IB students enjoy a very rich high school experience. IB students participate in sports, musical ensembles, and drama clubs. They consistently show that they are school leaders on Student Government, Honor Societies, and the like, and they enjoy belonging to a host of school clubs and community activities. In fact, Diploma students must meet Community, Activity and Service (CAS) requirements. As all IB teachers who have written college recommendations can tell you, IB students have lives that make their teachers and parents proud!

Myth #2: IB students are isolated from other students.

Fact: Student in the full IB Diploma Programme find themselves a part of a small community of learners within a much larger school. Because SL level classes are one year in length students find themselves with plenty of opportunity to experience students and classes around the school throughout their 2 years in the IB in their electives, sports and extracurricular activities.

Myth #3: If you don't get the IB Diploma, you've wasted time and money.

Fact: Throughout your junior and senior years in the IB Diploma Programme, you take a series of assessments in each subject area. The composite score determines whether you earn an IB Diploma. Many universities will award you up to 24 semester credits if you have earned your diploma. However, many of these same universities will give you credits in the areas in which you scored well even if you do not earn the full diploma. Perhaps more importantly, however, taking IB courses in high school prepares you to do well in college. IB graduates consistently say that they felt more prepared than their non-IB colleagues during their first year of college.

Myth #4: IB students do not get to take electives.

Fact: A junior or senior IB student could have an additional one or two electives, depending on how many IB exams are taken in the junior year. Diploma students also choose to take subjects as Standard Level or Higher Level, as well as choose topics of interest or expertise in which to write their Extended Essay. All of this points to an impressive array of individualization. If one is suggesting that the IB Program is more focused than the traditional school program, that's correct!

Myth #5: There is too much homework in IB.

Fact: IB teachers are experts in their field. They know when homework should be assigned to further a student's skill. There simply isn't enough "wiggle room" in the curriculum to assign busywork. Please start a conversation with the teacher if you believe your child's wellbeing is suffering due to homework overload.