



My IB Story



"Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth."

-Bradley Whitford



Indy Brownell
La Paz Community School Student
Since 2014



2016
IB STUDENT

I didn't know what I.B. was until it was too late. I joined this school a month into the first trimester of 11th grade, out of desperation. I was eager to find an accredited school with interesting students...and I found one with a fancy program called the International Baccalaureate. I applied to this school completely on my own, my parents left this choice to me, and I pursued it, running to various people's houses to use their internet, printers and scanners to fill out my application forms. To be honest, I had no idea what I was getting myself into, and then when my new teachers began to talk about all the internal assessments and the extended essay I began to worry. I didn't know high school students were even capable of achieving such tasks.

The first year was downright difficult, at least for those of us who put the time and effort in. Because I wasn't entirely academically motivated by my peers, I had to stay true to my work ethic and find motivation within myself. The work was hard at first... really hard. I would come home from school after an hour long bus ride, and get straight to doing homework. It was quite miserable at times. Sounds like a horror story right? Well as bad as it was, it was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I completed all my tasks on time and maintained good grades throughout the process, and as I entered 12th grade things got A LOT easier. My one word of advice for IB students is this: work hard in 11th grade, it WILL pay off. In 12th grade I only did work at school, and hardly had to do any academic work at home.

In having to deal with all the work and projects (especially the IOC which seemed IMPOSSIBLE), I gained many invaluable skills, which I will use for the rest of my life. I know it sounds cheesy, and this is what all your teachers will tell you throughout this two-year experience. But most of what they said is actually true. I can analyze ANYTHING in under 20 minutes, and I catch myself analyzing things just by nature, whether it's a movie or a conversation I had with my friend. TOK has changed my perspective regarding the world around me, and makes me question just about everything I see and hear, including reality itself.

As challenging as some people make IB seem, it's actually a beautiful thing. Think about it, CAS alone is responsible for community service projects executed by every single IB student, and that's A LOT of CAS projects. Not only is it literally good for the world, but it gives students like me gain the tools we need to pursue our dreams and establish ourselves confidently in our world.

I feel like I've grown up a lot in my time of IB, and it's an experience that will stay with me forever, and impact my future in a very positive way. Don't waste your time in other schools memorizing concepts and dates; IB provided me with intense critical thinking skills, presentation skills, oral skills, social skills, and even increased my confidence and self-respect. It's not just worth it, it's invaluable.

For more information about IB, please visit:
www.ibo.org
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