

International Baccalaureate Organization

NORTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

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

Quotes from Educators

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 IB students and parents

...I can't imagine a better experience than the journey I have made since graduating from the IB programme. I learned a lot at St. Pete High, but I have to say in retrospect that the course in Latin American History left the biggest impression on me. Exploring the United States' tragic relationship with the countries of Latin America caused me to think critically for the first time about the power of reporting facts accurately (or inaccurately, for that matter) and placing them in a realistic context. I try to keep that lesson in mind in all the work that I do.

—Adam Elend, St. Petersburg High School,
Class of 1995, St. Petersburg, Florida

I was admitted to all of the universities to which I applied and was offered scholarships, I am now a student at Guilford College in North Carolina on the presidential scholarship, where because of my IB scores I was able to enter with 12 credits. I am majoring in psychology. I loved my experience as an IB student, even all the long nights working on papers and studying. It is an experience I would never give up, nor would I ever discourage any student from studying in the IB programme.

—Laura Marie Myerchin,
Cajon High School, Class of 2001,
San Bernardino, CA

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, Florida

The International Baccalaureate Programme is one of the best things American education has ever experienced....This programme teaches students to think outside the box, to speak in public and to manage a successful career while milking life for all it is worth.

—Melissa Sue Dossey,
Ridgeview High School,
Class of 2004 Orange Park, Florida

Compared to a lot of my friends here at university, I've had a huge advantage having done the IB programme. I'm used to writing essays, I know how to research and find books, I know exactly how to reference, and the workload is a lot less than doing the Diploma Programme. One of the greatest surprises was when my IB History got credited for a second year history course which I am required to take for my degree in European Studies ... now I have room to take an elective. I am seeing the benefits of the IB programme now, and I definitely know it was the best choice for me!

—Lauren Cameron,
Park View Education Centre,
Class of 2004, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

As a parent, initially unfamiliar with the IB programme, I feel very fortunate that my children were enrolled in a school system that led them to Park View and the IB. From providing the eldest with the opportunity to trust her faith in her abilities and reach for the unknown, to teaching my middle child that having to readjust your goals part way through something is part of learning, to providing the youngest with a challenging and rich environment to stretch and thrive in, The IB programme was an integral component to their successful transition into three Nova Scotia universities. All three of my children found first-year university a breeze!

—Jacky Dulong,
parent of former IB students