

## Advice to the IB Class of 2006 From the Class of 2002

As part of their first semester calculus exam, last year's calculus students, who were mostly seniors, were asked to answer the following question:

*Think back on your experience in the IB program. What advice would you give to someone just starting the program as a freshman? What possible pitfalls can you help this student avoid? What seems to have been most important and deserving of the most study? Your answer should mention mathematics, but your advice may address more than one subject area. If you like, you may write your response in the form of a letter.*

Below you will find their answers. They have been edited only slightly, largely to correct typographical errors, and they appear in no particular order. In the end, you will make your own mistakes as you progress through high school, but it is the hope of the students whose words you read here that you avoid their mistakes and make some original ones instead. They all took this assignment seriously, even those whose answers may not seem so serious. We hope that you find some wisdom in their words.

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**I**B has been a hard process of growing up and maturing along with the rest of my peers. I recommend people stay in the IB program only if they are positive that a higher education is what they seek. To freshmen, I recommend that you take the advice of those teachers who have been teaching these IB classes for years. Also, listen to the advice of the other classes, especially the seniors and their stories. This will give you a good idea of what to expect in the upcoming years at IB.

IB is a program that is meant for people who are serious about learning and who will have to give up a lot of time to get work done. Don't wait until the last minute to get essays started or the IB portfolios in Ms. Frisbie's class or big assignments in all the classes. I believe that for those people who aren't mathematically inclined calculus will be the hardest so more concentration should be given to it.

*Angie Corrales*

**I** hope that your time in IB has been interesting and stressful (God knows it was for me). You think it's bad now? Wait until you hit the real IB. Okay, I'm just trying to scare you, it's not unmanageable. The teachers are willing to work with you and some are even willing to stay after. Ms. Frisbie would be one of those Godsenders. [Editor's note: Ms. Frisbie helps those who help themselves.]

Personally, I thought the most difficult classes were American History with Mr. Goss and History of the Americas with Mr. Shuff. Hmm, I'm beginning to see a pattern here. History has always been a weak area for me, but with a decent amount of studying, you can still

make A's and B's in those classes. The key to earning A's in Trig/Analytical Geometry and Calculus is to do the assigned homework. They account for a large portion of your grade and are great practice questions for the chapter tests. On the other hand, for a class like TOK where homework is not the norm, class participation is crucial. Since there are so few points to earn in Graffam's class, a lack of class participation can really hurt your grade. [Editor's note: As you may know, Mr. Graffam is no longer here.]

I should also mention other aspects of IB such as CAS hours and time management. Ever since I started as a freshman, I've heard people talking about procrastination. I soon realized that it was the ultimate evil. Everyone has a tendency to put things off until the last minute. While this is the method most IB students use, it's not very efficient. Ultimately, you receive less sleep, more stress, and lower grades. Thus, learn to manage your time wisely. As for CAS hours, DON'T procrastinate on those either. Your senior year is going to be so busy that CAS opportunities often times are not taken advantage of. Creative hours can be earned by joining the yearbook staff or the literary magazine. Action hours are often accumulated by playing a sport. Join an athletic team that participates often in competition because only those hours count. Such teams include cross country, tennis, soccer, etc....

Now that I've give you some advice on making your IB years easier and less stressful, I wish you all the luck and hope you will not go insane. Stick with it; it's a worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,  
*Jing Liu*

**F**or an incoming freshman at the Bartow IB program, there are a great many hurdles to overcome. For starters, it must be pointed out that IB is only for the most dedicated students, regardless of intelligence. Those who are reluctant in the first place probably won't do very well in the long run. Students should have a good attitude, and should want their good grades. If the student doesn't live up to this, the years ahead will be very tough to get through, and it might be best to consider possibilities other than IB.

As for particular classes, there are certain trouble spots. Of course, students inclined toward a particular subject, such as math, will have an easier time in that subject, but there are some surprises. Some classes, such as Graffam's, biology, and physics may seem easy but are easy to get behind in. Chemistry is as hard as it seems, and would best be taken on by those interested in becoming chemists. Other trouble spots include freshman English, algebra 2, and, of course, foreign language.

In order to succeed, there are some good habits to get into. First and foremost is to stop procrastination where it starts. For instance, the time is now 11:30 the night before this is due, and I still have a physics outline to write. Procrastination is a nasty habit, so don't do it. Also, cheating isn't as productive as it appears. It may seem rewarding at first, but it encourages laziness (see procrastination), lowers your test scores, and can get you in big trouble if caught. If you have the right attitude and avoid bad habits, though, IB isn't as bad as some will say it is.

*Ryan Harris*

**R**andom advice from my head (either from personal experience or the experience of acquaintances):

- Take this advice, as you should take anything I say, with a grain of salt.
- If you get a teacher with a lenient late policy, don't get behind. It will come back and bite you at the end of the nine weeks. I lost a couple hours of worthwhile sleeping time finishing late physics work because of slacking.
- If you're like most IB students, you'll find one class that you can pass with no effort. If you're lucky, you'll find that there are two or three such classes. Don't try to understand why, and don't put forth more effort than is necessary in this class. You'll need the extra time for sleeping and all the other classes.

- If math is one of those classes, remember that your great abilities to do math are usually reduced when you're frantically finishing homework at 6 AM on a bouncy school bus by the light of a flashlight.
- Take blowoff electives as a sophomore. For those of you interested in inflating your GPA through weighted electives, it's not worth it. Sophomore year is your easiest year; don't make it hard. Several sophomores (C/O 2004) had to pull unnecessary overnights because they chose to take AP European History.
- Sleep is precious; don't lose it needlessly. Staying up all night to finish an English project that's half your grade for the semester is justifiable. Staying up all night to write essays for the AP class you took as an elective isn't.
- Don't beat yourself up over not getting all A's, especially if it's by one B. Getting 6 A's and 1 B is a great accomplishment.
- It is said that "burning the midnight oil when you could be sleeping" is a sign of discipline. Do this enough, and you'll cross the line from discipline into idiocy.
- As an incoming freshman, four years seems like a long time. It passes quite quickly. Enjoy it while you can.
- Attend Comedy Buffet in Winter Haven (and occasionally Lake Wales), even if you live in Sebring. It's funny, and it's very good stress relief.
- If you can't get sleep, caffeine will do.
- You may find IB jokes circulating around your class. You won't realize how true they are until you're a junior.
- Read the book. You may hear stories of those students who passed without ever reading the book. That probably won't work for you, unless it's in your no-effort-required class.
- Half of what you hear about IB is true. Half of it isn't. Unfortunately, nobody's really clear on which half is which.
- Don't drink the water.
- Finally, enjoy IB as much as you can. It's an experience like none other.

*David Massey*

After three-and-a-half years of hard work and late nights, I figured I was going to reap the rewards of getting into UF. Well let me be the first to tell you, if any of you are planning to get into UF, pay attention to your unweighted GPA, and try to keep it above a 3.2. This is because Florida has become very difficult to get into, and the myth that if you get the IB diploma you get in is a lie. So let me stress this: try your hardest, and *do not* look at your weighted GPA.

Now pitfalls will be, if you have work do not go to sleep, because there is a 7/10 chance you will not wake up. Or if you are completely exhausted and need sleep set two alarms and either have a parent wake you or a friend call. Do your homework — all of it — because your grades drastically improve.

I personally think math and science are the most important to study. That is because it is a fact the more you study, the better you do. But the most important is to do well in Algebra 2 and take trig. It sounds hard, but Ms. Frisbie is the bomb, and she could teach a monkey calc and trig. [Editor's note: Take the math that's right for you. And the monkey report is unverified.]

*Darren Vogel*

If I had to give advice, I would say to be sure to take the science you feel that you will enjoy most because of the material, because remember you will be stuck there for two whole years. There is really no turning back.

Next, don't be afraid to go into the higher level math, coming from a C student in Algebra 2 who now likes and thinks she understands math better. Did I forget to mention that I now have a good B in calc?

Also be sure to take electives you enjoy, because your classes will be hard and not always satisfying. This also goes for extracurricular activities — join them and have a life but be sure not to go overboard. I got too involved and I allowed my grades to suffer because of it. I regret it and wish I could go back and fix it.

In conclusion, take advantage of IB, learn as much as you can, and have as much fun as possible without hurting your grades. Don't be afraid to push yourself; sometimes it works out for the best.

*Tina VanNocker*

Firstly, to all who read this, I would like you to know that this is being written in class, so please excuse the lameness. Anyway, considering I am only a junior, I can only give you advice on the two-and-a-half years I've been in this program. To start with, as freshmen, I know you have it hard, because that transition from middle school to high school was a [insert profanity here]. Even if things seem like they are insanely hard, take note of the fact that it will get worse. Yes, it really does get harder, and a piece of advice: never complain to an upperclassman.

Now moving on to your sophomore year, DO NOT BE FOOLED. This is like the eye of the hurricane, where everything becomes calm, until you get smacked by the rest of the hurricane. With your two electives, it seems like IB can't be that bad at all. WRONG. In fact, my advice to you is to drop out after this year. Take your extra credits and run.

Finally, you come to your junior year, well that is if you were stupid and did not take my advice. I'm warning you, procrastination will kill you, but if you still want to try it, go ahead. If you have some brains in you, you'll realize physics is your best bet for a science. With all your other classwork, physics will be a nice break. [Editor's note: Not everyone agrees.] Also, take the lower math, not because of trig, but because of calculus. It's hard as [insert another profane word here]. You will have an awesome teacher, but still, take the lower math. And my final bit of advice to you is, don't try to write the calculus essay on the midterm in class. As you can see, it didn't work out too well.

*Neil Masters*

First I want to applaud you for making it into the IB program and accepting the challenge. Make no mistake, this program is challenging. Now, having completed the first semester of my senior year, there is much advice that I could give you. There are pitfalls that I can perhaps help you to avoid and encouraging aspects that I can tell you about.

The first pitfall to avoid is procrastination. I know you've probably heard it a million times by now, as every IB class has, but it's true. Learn to do homework assignments and projects on time. *DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE*. Maybe you could get away with procrastinating and still be able to make good grades in middle school, and maybe you'll be good enough at it to get away with it your freshman and sophomore years in this program. But during your junior and especially senior year you will not be able to do it without adding more stress, sleepless nights, and an increased possibility of sickness to your life.

Pitfall number two to avoid — do not develop a prideful attitude. Over the next four years at least one, if not more, of your classmates will grow tired of it and let you know. Keep this advice in mind, especially during your senior year. When the going gets tough, the last thing you need is to develop enemies. Work hard; be friendly and helpful to each other; encourage each other. As corny as it sounds, this is a valuable lesson.

There is a positive side to all the work and stress you will be dealing with over the next four years: the IB diploma. It is possible to exempt one to one-and-a-half years of college (depending on the college) with the IB diploma and the IB and AP credits you may get. The colleges will recognize and reward the hard work that you put forth. Also, each major essay that you complete, each internal assessment, each external assessment, and each test that you complete that brings you closer to your IB diploma truly does lighten your load and brings a well-earned feeling of pride and accomplishment. When I think about my freshman year and how at that time I thought geometry was challenging, then reflect on the calculus problems that I can do now (finding derivatives and antiderivatives, solving integrals, etc.), I am truly amazed. Some advice for Miss Frisbie's class — do not get in the habit of turning in assignments late; all those points taken off for lateness will eventually hurt your grade. Take advantage of the extra credit that she offers. And last but not least, don't be afraid to ask for

help; not everybody is a calculus whiz. There will be problems or ideas that you need help understanding, so don't hesitate to get the help that you need, whether from Miss Frisbie or another classmate. [Editor's note: This also works for other classes.]

Freshmen, in this letter I did not wish to scare you, nor do I wish for you to be illusioned about this program. There will be stress; there will be sleepless nights; you may even catch a cold due to stress and lack of sleep. However, there will also be moments of joy, moments of great accomplishment, and moments of true appreciation of knowledge and education. You are in a class with some of the brightest minds in Polk County. Treasure this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
*Debbie Renelus*

From my experiences in IB, I have learned that no matter how much time you have for an assignment, no matter how little you have to do, the total time spent on it is next to none until the night before it's due. Procrastination is not only a gift, but a huge cause of stress.

You ask how procrastination is a gift? Allow me to tell you. I, for one, am one of the worst procrastinators of all. In fact, I just finished writing a 1500-word essay last night that I started last night and, oh yeah, ... had about three months to write, but I did excellently and I was very efficient. That is the gift; if you are a "good" procrastinator it improves your work.

Now, by no means am I encouraging procrastination. All that I am saying is don't stress about things, because in the end they count for nothing. And just a little advice for your sake, do not procrastinate in calculus when/if you get there. If you fall behind you will fall, if you know what I mean. Good luck and remember 95% of all work wouldn't get done without that last minute.

*Brandon Harrison*

I know how you feel, no words needed to describe the pain, anger, and frustration that comes from knowing that for the next 4 years of your life you have to work hard, while some people around you barely work at all. It seems pointless but it's not, at least you hope that it isn't. You will receive sage advice from those above you. If it seems stupid listen anyway — it's easy to learn from your mistakes but if you can learn from others' mistakes why would you choose to make your own? There are some vital things that you have to do to survive IB unscathed: do your best (I know it sounds trite but in the end however things turn out at least you can say that you did your best and have no one else to blame but yourself), don't stress out, do homework when you have a spare moment at school (these add up), ask questions especially in math (if you can't follow something, it's likely that there's someone else in the room on the same boat as you, so ask for an explanation), do your homework, remember that friends and teachers are there if you need help, do not stress about dating (its time will come, just enjoy being young), be nice to everyone (remember, 4 years with these people, pace yourself with making enemies), Dr. Katz is your friend (if you need advice, ask her or Ms. Frisbie, you will learn of her genius soon enough), there are things called IB-days — don't take too many of those. Regarding math, the best thing to do is do the homework because it's practice. Good luck. Don't procrastinate too much.

Your friend,  
*Rachel Desamero*

I would like to give you some pointers to help you avoid the pitfalls that can appear before you on the rocky road to the IB diploma.

First of all, if you are intending on taking the mathematical avenue leading to Calculus, it is very important to your future wellness that you do your **HOMEWORK**. This is essential because it helps you to gain understanding and a lasting memory of the procedures involved in solving the problems. It also allows you to recognize areas where your genius may need a little coaching from the All-Knowledgeable Frisbie. If you need help, it is up to you to procure it — no one will hunt you down and force it upon you. Also, with portfolios and free response questions, it is best to begin working on them the first day you learn some of the material. Believe me, rushing to complete the portfolios and FRQ's at 9:00 PM the night before they are due

is just not worth the sleep wasted on a futile effort.

Secondly, do not blow off your AP American History class! It is really more convenient if, in your senior year, you are able to remember which American presidents had policies that dealt with Mexico and the other Latin American countries. I learned so much more about American policy than I had in my junior year — which is not a good thing, especially when it came time for the internal assessment.

If you are planning to take Biology for the extended science class, please, for your own sake, pay attention in your junior year and try to pass the AP test to the best of your ability. It will only make your senior year that much easier, sparing you the hassle of having to learn the information for the first time.

Even though we all know how grade conscious most IB students are, it is important to take a break from the mountains of knowledge in your classes. It is okay to take a blow-off elective like keyboarding skills or pottery. They are helpful because you have a chance to mix with other types of people (mainly non-IB) and they can relieve some of the stress associated with IB.

Lastly, begin working on the Extended Essay over the summer of your junior year — it is best if you can complete it fully. Otherwise, during the first semester of your senior year you will be tearing your hair out trying in vain to plan time to complete the EE, the two World Literature Papers, and the ToK Paper, not to mention all your other regular assignments. Like you have and will hear for the rest of your IB career — **PROCRASTINATION IS THE KEY TO YOUR OWN UNDOING**. Do not let your first semester of your senior year ruin your chances at the coveted IB diploma.

Hopefully my words of experience (not so much wisdom — or I would have taken my own advice) will help you to have an easier time than did I.

Sincerely,  
*Lindsey Fallon Replogle*

**H**ello there!  
Welcome to a world of all work and no fun. We have papers, projects, orals, extended essay, lab reports, math problems, presentations, and much, much more! What would you like for this evening? Actually, you don't get to order. You get **TO BE ORDERED** around. Your teachers are very excited to tell you what to do and put you through all kinds of torture. Luckily, or unluckily, it's all mental torture, but you get to yelp in pain anyway.

Sorry if I scared the wits out of you (scared? Me? Nah). What I've described, however, is true to a certain extent, depending on the type of person you are and how you manage your time. Time management is the key to surviving IB (or Pre-IB). I might as well save myself the trouble of telling you not to procrastinate because it happens spontaneously anyway. Just don't procrastinate on **EVERYTHING**. For example, if you have five assignments due on Friday, don't wait until Thursday night to do all of them, or you **WILL** have a nightmare. Remember to take breaks once in a while, especially when your brain decides to blank out, and you've been staring at the cursor on the computer for an hour. Don't take breaks every two seconds, though, or nothing will get done. Take this from an experienced IB senior: chronic sleeplessness is a normal part of IB life; get used to it. When you get to the point where you feel like crying at night, then just give it up or finish it quickly, however unworthy it may be. The mental stress is tremendous, especially if you want to be perfect.

The classes can be fun or boring, depending on how you and the teacher spend the time. Math has always been my favorite subject (It's true; I'm not saying this be a sycophant), so I pay attention (don't fall asleep in Mrs. Frisbie's class or she will throw chalk at you). Algebra 2 wasn't my favorite, but I liked geometry, trigonometry, and calculus. **BE AWARE** of Mr. Graffam. There are many new and puzzling things you will learn in his class. I never felt like sleeping in there, but clouds of confusion float around once in a while too. Sometimes, though, when classes become routine like in history (although I like history, too), it could become boring. So try to determine an interesting aspect of all your classes, even if it's your friends, so that you could like and look forward to each one. Always avoid getting on the teacher's nerves because you would like the class less if you have a bad teacher-student relationship, even if you love the

subject. When the classes get tough (like in chemistry, for me), you can ask the teacher questions to clarify whatever you don't understand. The teachers are usually very nice about that, and I believe asking questions shows that you're thinking.

Finally, you can have fun in IB too. There's an IB conference at Epcot nearly every year. Also, remember that your IB diploma can mean scholarships and possibly a year off from college. You're working like a camel right now, but you will be rewarded someday (remember those Hardee's coupons you used to get in elementary and middle school? Hopefully, IB means a big coupon from work later in life). Best of luck to your future endeavors.

*Han Huang*

**A**ttention Prospective International Baccalaureate Student:

It has been brought to my attention that you are interested in joining the International Baccalaureate program. I will not lie to you, it is not easy, and many of your friends might not make it through the rigorous schedule of homework, classes, and extracurricular activities. I have personally had a rough time for the last year, but if you are willing to make some sacrifices and can stay that flexible for the next four years, you will survive.

One disclaimer most others will overlook is that your friends going into the program might begin to annoy you by the bitter end. Part of this is evident through the quirks you and others possess, which tend to be brought out more and more as time progresses. Some of these quirks and eccentricities are all for your good, but some are self-defeating. In short, if you *think* you can make it through this program, do not even bother starting this program. However, if you are going to complete the International Baccalaureate Program, we will welcome and help you as much as possible.

Best wishes,  
*James McKee*

Your IB years are going to be a long journey. Make sure you make new friends in IB with you to go through the stress with, yes, sorry to say you will be stressed occasionally. Working together on homework may be advised, but please don't try to cheat because you will get caught, and possibly suffer the consequences. Procrastination will probably be your middle name, as we have found to be true for everyone. This is when the all-nighters come in. You're going to have to accept the fact that it happens. Sleep as often as you can, preferably not in class. You're going to need that sleep. It may seem fun to stay up late now that you are a big dog in high school, but hey, I take naps every day after school and still go to bed by 10:30 just about every night. I would also advise getting on your teachers' good side, because if you're not, you won't have as easy a time getting help or possible makeup work. Don't forget to have a sense of humor because it relieves stress, even if you're joking around about how much work you have to do, as long as you get serious when it's time to do the work. Make sure you work hard and actually pay attention all four years, because when it comes time to take those AP and IB tests you're going to wish you had. Everything ends up being important knowledge whether you think it is or not, or whether you think your teacher is crazy. There is plenty of stress just being a teenager, try to avoid schoolwork stress as much as possible. One last word of advice, girls, don't let the guys get you down, and guys same to you, because as soon as you graduate and get the heck out of high school you're never going to see these people again. Relationships aren't as important as they seem when you're in the middle of them. Just learn your lesson and move on. Good luck in high school!

Sincerely  
*Laura Hinton*

I would like to take a few moments to express the wonderful experiences of high school to you. I would also like to give you some advice, so that you won't make the same mistakes as I did. High school is full of many memorable occasions. Some of these occasions are bad; however, the majority are ones that you can look back on for years and enjoy. I would strongly urge you to get involved around Bartow High as much as possible. My worst fear would be to spend four years in high school and never really get to know anyone. My freshman and sophomore year I was co-captain of the JV

cheerleading squad and involved in Chorus and FCA. My junior and senior years I was involved in Anchor, NHS, FCA, Chorus, etc. At least get involved deeply with one club. I promise you'll never regret it.

There is a time for play, but there is also a time for work. High school should be fun, but don't neglect the reason you're here, which is to learn. I considered myself a well-rounded student, but I also spent many hours of studying. I would catch myself staying up to 12:00 or 1:00 in the morning, and waking up at 4:00 to finish my homework. This is partly due to my tremendous ability to procrastinate. I put every assignment I could think of off until the last minute. Do me a favor, don't do that; it is so easy to put off some assignments that are due later than others. After I had watched my assignments stack up, I was so stressed when I had to complete five or six big assignments in one or two nights. The one class I would strongly advise you to not procrastinate in is math. Especially if you're not a math god or goddess, which I certainly wasn't. My freshman geometry honors class was extremely difficult. Homework is your only link to really understanding the material. Whatever you do, don't give up. If you don't understand something feel free to go to your teacher to get help. That's what they are there for. For instance, Calculus really threw me for a loop this year; however, I didn't give up. I continuously went to Ms. Frisbie for help, and she graciously helped me. I would also suggest that you take as many honors and AP classes as possible. They might seem like a lot of work, but they will surely pay off. Upon graduation, you could possibly clep your entire freshman year of college. Even if you aren't able to clep as many classes as you would like, you still have the experience needed for college level classes.

In conclusion, high school should be four of the most memorable years of your life. However, those four years can't be all play and no work. Please consider my advice on getting involved with as many extracurricular activities as possible. Also, take pride in your schoolwork and aim for high goals. If you have determination, then you can accomplish anything. Also, whatever you do don't PROCRASTINATE. I know you'll do great in your high school career; you can do it.

Sincerely,  
*Amanda Jackson*

[Editor's note: Amanda was never in IB. Note how similar her advice is to many others'.]

I would like to take this chance to share with you the different experiences that I have gone through to get one semester away from completing the biggest challenge of my current life. You have made the decision to join in a school that has been labeled with the most difficult curriculum in the country, and for that I congratulate you and wish you the best, but there are a few things that I would like for you to keep in mind as you progress through the next four years of your life.

First and foremost there is one huge factor that will either make your nights sleepless or will leave you with a chance to relax, and that is procrastination. With the projects that you will be getting they will be numerous, but not as daunting as they initially appear to be, so do not do what most people become accustomed to, do not procrastinate. It took me until my senior year to realize how much simpler life is if you budget your time, and even then I was kind of bad at it. So do yourselves a favor when you get your first project and each one after that, budget your time and try not to wait until the night before something is due in order to work on it.

Another area which I would like to speak about is frustration. My recent experience pertains to my Calculus class. We were going through a section of studies dealing with derivatives. In my experience math normally just came to me, but this time it did not. I struggled and got so frustrated that I started getting backed up on my work and the next thing I knew my grade, which had been an A, was now the lowest possible C, and I let my frustration get the best of me and gave up. You will inevitably come across different topics of study that are going to challenge you — that is part of this program which you are entering — but you will get through it. In the mean time do not let yourself neglect your work or to give up because of it.

While the challenges of IB are a little bit more extensive than these two areas, I feel that these two will benefit you the most in helping you prepare for the greatest experience of your life. I do not regret IB at all and I promise you that neither will you.

*David Vogt*

I have been asked to compose a letter telling you of the ups and downs of the IB life, of what to avoid, of what not to avoid, what areas of study you might enjoy, and the like. But I think that I have advice to offer that is more valuable than that.

I am, at this point in time, the only student to have ever repeated a grade within the IB program at Bartow High School. I suffered from an extended illness in my sophomore year and was given the opportunity to return to the IB at the cost of a repeated year — I had missed almost all of the second semester of 1999. Although there are certain aspects of the senior year that make me question this choice, I still do not regret it.

My coexistence in two IB classes gives me an interesting perspective on the importance of social harmony within the class. I noticed with that first class to which I belong that many of them began to separate by their senior year. The class seemed to break into factions of people who simply did not get along. I have noticed the same sort of behavior in the present class I am in, but it of course varies to the differing sets of personalities in each group.

My message here is this: do not allow yourselves to grow apart from one another because of bitterness. The times to come will be difficult for you all. There will be some teachers that you will all have difficulties with, there will be problems with the harsh schedule your life will be forced into, there will be problems in general—if you cannot find a tie that binds you all together, you will be enduring the tribulations of IB on your own. By the time you reach the end of your senior year, you will feel like bitter old men and women if you let your fatigue and differing personalities get in the way of supporting one another in tough times. Become friends, all of you, even if it just seems for show... some day you will be glad.

Also realize the value of some of your teachers. Teachers like Ms. Frisbie, Mr. Keers, and Mr. Graffam (depending on who remains at Bartow with you) will be valuable resources in your education. They are compassionate and understanding individuals, and they will make an honest attempt at helping you through your IB education. Do not get on their bad side; you will regret it when you need them most.

I shall leave you with this statement: keep in mind that the IB is much more about the process of learning than the ability to show that you have learned. Enjoy that process, revel in it when you can. If you try, you will look back fondly on your high school years.

With warm regards,

*Matthew D. Townsend*

$$\text{P. S.: } \int_a^b f(x)dx = F(b) - F(a)$$



**A**dvice from Queen Kathryn's Corner  
As the supreme, magnanimous, and almighty *Math Goddess*, I would like to graciously bestow upon you my sage advice on the truly important things in the International Baccalaureate Program... well... at least as far as school is concerned. ☺

Primarily, I must warn you of the perils of Mr. Shuff's History of the Americas class your senior year. Hard work in that class will earn you a B. I would recommend going to his class *every day* it meets. I did not do this and made the course very burdensome on myself. In general, try to always come to school, and not be late in the mornings (despite how tempting it is once you have a car) because it's hard to make up all the work you miss. Plus, just think of what would happen if you miss a lot of class and then you come down with something awful, let's say, oh, *bronchitis!!!* and aren't *allowed* to come to school for 3 days...

Secondly, I don't want you to fear the next four years. The only thing any nervous apprehension should be held over is first semester of Senior year. It is a very rough and rigorous time. If I told you all the assignments you'll have to do, I'd scare you, and you wouldn't be able to fully understand their magnitude and all the work, thought, effort, and sleepless nights they entailed. Which brings me to an important issue: make sure you make time for fun, just relaxing, and sleeping! It is true that IB students exemplify the lyrics written by the Barenaked Ladies in their song about Sleep (you know the one ... it goes, "Who needs sleep? Well you're never gonna get it!") BUT, I hypothesize that it is possible to not be sleep deprived IFF ← a very big IFF, you start working on assignments the day they are assigned. (I know you're not going to, but it really would work.) When you write your mini-Extended Essay for Mr. Sparks, start as soon as you can and get it out of the way. Same applies to freshman science projects.

If there is any one key element that almost every IB student lacks, it is time management. Yet, this seems to be the most important aspect of IB. Just make sure that Sophomore year you don't put off working on your Othello and Human Condition projects. Junior year is a little different in that there are many "Little - Big" assignments. They are hereby dubbed "Little - Big" assignments by *The Math Goddess* due to their nature of not taking months and months to finish yet notwithstanding being time consuming and only being granted a week in which to hand

them in. Junior year these "Little - Big" assignments will come from Mr. Goss (F.E.F.) with his DBQs and Communist paper, Mrs. Frisbie and her wonderful IB Portfolio projects (which I, of course, rock at), and Mrs. Smith's English essays and huge, long journal assignments. Senior year, my advice is to write your Extended Essay over the summer — get it over with and get extra credit for Mrs. Delk's class. Getting the Extended Essay out of the way is one of the most important things you could do for yourself. Try also to write your ToK Essay before the last week of school when it is due — it's not difficult it just requires a little thought. World Lit papers I wouldn't worry about much, just make sure you hand them in on time. And don't forget about college application essays!!

And finally — and definitely my most amazing advice I could ever endow you with: take Trig and Calculus (a.k.a. "The Smart Math") — it's called that for more than one reason if you catch my drift). You should take it because even stupid people, such as myself, can work diligently and make good grades. Also, it will make you really smart and make you feel really smart if you're not — and that's really cool because you just sorta sit back and are like, "Wow, that's pretty darn\* cool." It's great. (\*Censored. How many people think darn? That's what I thought...) But the most important reason you should take Math Methods is because Ms. Frisbie is awesome!! (And I'm not just saying that because she's reading this!) [Editor's note: Maybe not *entirely* because I was reading it. ...] She is the reason I chose to try the higher level math and I haven't regretted it (seriously). Mrs. Frisbie is a frickin' genius, not to mention she always comes up with cool phrases to explain math with (like "frickin' HUGE" and "Junk" and "BIG NASTY") and fun sound effects for graphs. ☺ She also explains concepts until you understand them, she will help you after school just about every day — except Fridays she's a little busy (go A-team, go!) — with homework or let you re-take a test you've failed miserably.

So, to summarize, in case you've already forgotten, the keys to IB are big, yet complexly simple.... a *paradox*.... 1. Come to school (don't be late either!) 2. Time Management!!!! 3. Write your Extended Essay over the summer **before** Senior year. 4. Take Math Methods because you want to be smart and Ms. Frisbie rocks!

With all my love,  
*Katie Carlson*

Dear Gretchen or whoever gets this,  
Right, since you're reading this, it means you aren't doing math. Take time now to pause and thank God for that. OK back to topic (topic?). You are now in IB, which means your life is going to start sucking really bad really soon if you let it. So I will try to give you some advice to help you so you don't become like me, always trying to catch up during lunch with homework.

First order of Business: You must make time to do your homework. Yes, I know it sounds dumb, but believe me if you put it off, you will become so addicted to coffee it won't even be funny. Make sure you can identify the subjects you need help in and those that you can help other people out in, Try to find a friend to help you out with stuff you don't know. This not only can help your grades but also it can help you build a meaningful relationship with another IBER.

Classes — Math for me was of the devil, for you I hope it's not too hard. Listen to what Ms. Frisbie has to say, take your notes and keep those notes organized. There will be a test. Don't sing in her class, and do your best to understand all of the Fuzzy math on the board. History is great. Goss is a ball of laughs, just pay attention in class and read the book. Shuff is pretty much the same way, but watch out for the pointer. As for English — learn to read, and love it, cause you won't stop reading book after book.

Make sure you get out of the house, too; no one likes a nerd. Get a hobby, go to church, do something, but get the heck out of school. You need to relax. British comedy on Saturday nights is always a good thing.

Lastly, do you extended essay over the summer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! This really is important. Can you do it at the last minute and do well — yes, but you will suffer in your other classes, believe me. But other than that, you should be fine with IB. Dr. Katz will help out where ever you need it. Dr. Vetter has a lot of pencils for the taking, but beware of the Olliff, she guards the door to the realm of Vetter.

All the Best,  
*Richard David Hill III*

### IB Sage to Cure the Rage

Ah, You are just a freshman,  
All the work has yet to set in,  
Enjoy your first three years in the program,  
The last one will hit you like a red Dodge Ram,  
Do not take yourself seriously here,  
Otherwise some slacker will leer,  
Focus on your math classes,  
Otherwise Miss Frisbie will kick your butts,  
Leave Mr. Sparks alone,  
He can not cope with reality — but merely moan  
and groan,  
Listen to the bearded teachers,  
The wisdom lies in their facial features,  
Avoid doing doughnuts in the parking lot,  
The Bartow Police Department will get very hot,  
Procrastination is your friend,  
But beware young one — too much will be your  
end,  
IB will make you a heck of a student,  
To use the same assignment in different classes  
is prudent,  
Guys: To get past first base — Pretend to listen  
to what the girls say,  
Girls: Go for the guys with loud cars — there's  
more character that way,  
The Green Bean is a good old car,  
It can blow away anything at BHS by far,  
And finally, remember this my friends when all  
hope has gone:  
LIFE GOES ON.

*Burt Morse*

[who also submitted this as a poem for English class (but asked permission first) — Editor]

I would like to share with you some information about what things you are about to face in high school. High school will be fun at times, but it is difficult. My first suggestion to you is to start your assignments when you get them. If it is a long-term assignment, you can bet that if you procrastinate until the last minute you will have four other assignments due that day. This is not fun! You will probably hear that from your teachers, too; it is good advice and I speak from experience. If your teacher assigns a book to read, read it. Many of the books are decent, and Shakespeare is fun once you get used to it. One of the most important things to remember is become friends with everyone, get phone numbers and don't be afraid to call and ask for assignments or help from your classmates. As you progress in high school, eventually you will find yourself staying up into the early morning hours. This has become a normal thing for me, but I have a rule I follow. I always start my work early and make sure I won't be up past midnight working. Sleep is a very good thing. to have. That is about it. I know, I know, you're thinking so what, I already knew this. Well, trust me, it actually works.

*Brenton Kollinger*

**W**ise Words and What-not  
You are in. You are in one of the finest schools you'll ever be in. You are a freshman in the IB school at Bartow, congratulations. What you need to do now is adjust. Get used to life as a high school student, get used to the amount of work you'll be doing, and get over all the lame a\*\* IB jokes that Bartow or any other students make. If you can make it through a mere four years here, you'll be changed and challenged more than you may think.

I am a junior in the program, and I don't think I'd trade the past two and a half years of my life for anything, except maybe a really nice car, but you'd have to know me to understand that. My point is that over the past few years of my high school career, I've become someone who the eighth grade me probably wouldn't recognize at a glance.

IB's gauntlet of classes and tests it puts you through truly has a benefit for everyone, even if you chose not to stay the full four years. To help you through these first tough days, let me give some advice that I've accumulated over the past few years.

- However many times you hear it, do not procrastinate. Procrastination is a word often

tossed around by current IB tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders as a joke, but do not take it too lightly, as I can tell you from personal experience. Procrastination is the potential IB graduate's kryptonite, and only the student himself can fully defeat it.

- Do not cheat. Over time, you'll have a lot of technical words thrown at you, no lie. You'll hear "collusion" and big words like that so many times that you'll get a sort of burning sensation on your jaw or somewhere. A jaw-burn, so to speak. Cheating is and always has been a problem for students, and particularly a class such as mine. That's not to say we got off with a slap on the wrist, but to warn you that cheating is rarely something that you do just once and never think of it again. It has an uncanny ability of turning high-potential students into low-self esteem low GPA students who barely make it to the end of senior year if they are lucky, and then fail the IB tests because they don't really know anything. In short, don't cheat.

- My last point is one of sincere and heartfelt seriousness. Learn to love coke, coffee, or any other form of caffeine. It helps you to save up all the time you'd waste away sleeping, and store it until you die, when you can use all your sleeping time at will. "But how can I get such a supply of caffeine without winding up in some jail cell next to Robert Downey Jr.?" you ask me. Well, if I told you that I'd have to... well, I can't say that in a school essay I think, but you know what I mean. So fend for yourselves on that one, guys.

*Ian Trulson*

**W**ell, as I sit and write this essay, I find myself trying to avoid cynicism and pessimism. You'll probably find yourself avoiding the same wonderful ideologies as you sit doing homework while your "old middle school friends" are relaxing at their respective high schools. So, to avoid these horrible -isms, I'm going to unleash my creativity and write this essay in more of an informal list form, rather than your typical "5 paragraph I can't write so I follow this formula that the teachers like conformist paper." And so, your most useful source of wisdom and knowledge begins. Read it twice. Oh, I even italicized the good ones for ya! (NOTE: This essay is not to be taken literally. Any insinuations to events or actions of any members of IB never really happened are completely made up. Disregard the second note.) (NOTE: The first note is false.)

Math is cool.  
Your freshman year will be tough. Your sophomore year will be okay.  
Your junior year will be tough. Your senior year will be real tough.  
If you're unhappy, talk to someone. If you're happy, talk to someone, too.  
*Don't take school so seriously. Yeah, I mean you.*  
*You do not have to do every homework assignment to get an A. It took me three years to learn that one. If you get good grades the first nine weeks, take it easy on the 2nd because your semester average is all that matters.*  
Change.  
Never forget that the best learning often occurs outside of school.  
*Find out who Mr. Graffam is, and pity yourselves for not having him as a teacher.*  
Sometimes, being nice to teachers just isn't worth it. Don't live a lie! Stay true! Stay true, young ones!  
*Most importantly, RELIEVE STRESS or you will blow up like my inflatable girlfriend (insert allusion to a Weird Al song here). Here are some tips:*  
One word: Kleptomania. Steal things. Anything. IB pencils, shopping carts, slow children at play signs (excellent room decor), Bob's infamous barricades, mile markers of numbers that live in infamy, ask for more ideas.  
MiB does not stand for Men in Black. Find the website!  
Drive. Drive a lot and drive fast, but keep driving. Especially on dirt roads.  
Class should not always be serious.  
Well, now I feel inclined to offer some worldly advice, so here we go:  
Mayonnaise in foreign countries is not really mayonnaise (neither are their laws).  
Christopher Walken is the single most underrated comedy genius of the 90s.  
Not everything people tell you is wrong is really wrong, unless they're talking about excessive homework.  
Driving in reverse is much more difficult than driving forward. Although it is doable.  
Telling white supremacists how little they don't know their mothers is clearly the best way to stop racism.  
Wear undergarments. Clean ones.  
Never be afraid to try, learn about, or masticate new things.  
Rich people really are better than the rest of us.

Laugh at yourself and you will always be amused, unless you're asleep because that's just not funny.  
Don't pull pranks on people who would rather complain than pull a prank back on you.  
Teachers do not need nice furniture in their rooms: steal it.  
Forty slices of Cici's pizza is enough for anyone, don't listen to your friends.  
Ketchup is a meal by itself.  
Never tell dead baby jokes in front of a girl you are attracted to — they won't think it's funny.  
Use paper rock scissors to force your friends to do stupid things.  
If you think you will never see a member of the opposite sex again in your life, it is only natural to hit on them.  
Oh, do not use the pick up line, "Does this smell like chloroform to you?" It never worked for me.  
DTD is the place to be.  
Avoid overuse of abnormal substances, such as caffeine pills, Midol, or Jello.  
The ability to act stupid is the least recognized aspect of maturity.  
Do what you want to do, and get along with what you have to do (sometimes).  
This is just the beginning, I wish I could know and talk to each one of you little froshies, but you're luck is unfortunate, and I can only speak, counsel, and teach you through this lonely, white, sheet of paper with small black font. It's quite symbolic. Right now your sheet is blank; most aren't that lucky.

Two questions for you to ponder before I go: Where is an elephant's reproductive organ? (Its feet, of course, but why?) Have you heard about that new pirate movie?

Finally, I leave you with these great words: What the world needs now is love, sweet love. Don't stop till you get enough.

*Eric Stubbs*

**S**o you want to be an IBer... As you undoubtedly know or may not know, you are on a path to a more advanced style of education. I could tell you that this path you are on is paved in gold. But it is not. Have you ever crossed the speed bumps in the last row of the big yellow bus? Take that and cross a speed bump every 5 minutes. Well maybe not that bad. I mean as a tadpole, your year is quite simple. When you move to your next year, school is not as wonderful as you thought. Remember those speed bumps... As a junior, you finally get to really be an IB student. Well you get the title, and a little pin. Those speed bumps... well they are not quite as often. Finally you will be where I am now, writing away after zillions of essays. Remember the speed bumps?? Well there is not even a road anymore. I hope you can fly, because you just went over a cliff.

I'm supposed to mention math in this essay, the paper told me so. I had better not let the paper down. Yes, I refer to the paper as a real thing. It died. Especially since my TI-83 Plus took over. You will use your calculator often. At least I always did. Except when you get to calculus. There you get to see your calculator. Notice the course title, calculus not calculator. You missed out on Mr. Woods. Shameful, a really great guy. As for everyone else you meet before 11th grade, I couldn't tell you much about them. I never had them. Do the free response, for the love of anything you hold dear, do the free response.

OK see here is where the essay ends, and my thoughts come in. Sadly enough I am still under conformity. I asked if this really had to be an essay, and first response was yes. Then I asked if I could do like a top 10 kinda thing. Well that was OK'd. So here is the second part of the essay. The part where I just tell you things. Much of this is from experience. If you are going to be a police officer or something, I suggest you believe that most of what I say is false. If you want to live to see the second semester of your senior year, here are the things that you need to consider:

If you always have gotten A's, forewarn your parents now. You don't have to do all the homework to get an A, this I know. But just make up for it with a few tests.

Don't sweat the small things, only tests truly matter. Oh I suggest doing class participation as well. Unless you are taking French. It's OK to make funny noises and not care about anything. You won't do wonderful on your IB test, but you can get away with a 2 on it and still get the

diploma without trouble. If you took Spanish, I'm sorry.

*You will never be popular.* Face it now. As someone who goes to the "smart school" never expect to make it past homecoming court, Noel court, and certainly snuff Prom King out of your head now. The only time you are cool is if you are David Bentley.

Play sports. You may never be home before 7:00 but teachers understand and will sometimes let late homework slide. But remember, you won't be popular because you play a sport, or are even a star.

Did mom and dad ever tell you how you were always up at 3 am screaming? Well you will still do it.

When in doubt sleep with your textbook. You can at least think you absorbed something.

If you see something you want, you can get it. Go to Fazoli's and get a cup if you are thirsty or feel you might be in the future.

Shopping carts are novel. Either hold them as your own or ride around in them, crashing into other shopping carts with other people in them.

Bob's Barricades are not really Bob's. I mean, who is Bob? Why does he have millions of barricades? I say he should share...

Cones are like barricades. So is anything you find along the road. Take a ratchet set with you wherever you go. Especially on the road to Orlando, Count the miles

Procrastination kills. I suggest getting a life insurance policy.

Teachers mean only about 80% of what they say. Chances are you only hear the 20%.

Take advantage of the kindness of teachers. Don't exploit it though.

Be like Brak, and Don't touch me. I suggest downloading the most stupidest things you can find. Brak, Tai Mai Shu, Southpark, and Weird Al.

There are some things that have to be enjoyed, Monty Python being one.

Three things that you must watch and worship: MATRIX. AMERICAN BEAUTY. FIGHT CLUB.

Music, love it and cherish. You will soon listen to almost anything, get over it. Bum as many CDs as you can. It's the only way to plagiarize and not have a teacher care. This I also know. Thanks for the lesson, Mr. Goss.

The sooner you get a car, the better off you are. You'll never ride the bus again. You will receive a ticket within 50 days of your new car, too.

THE MIDNIGHT RULE: Never stay up

past midnight for any reason. Unless... It is an essay or an assignment you want to do. OR if you are talking to other IBers online. Especially if you are griping about all the work you have, when you should be doing it during the time you are griping.

Class is for losers. If you can't learn it from the textbook, it is not worth knowing. Unless you have Mr. Goss as a teacher. Keep a notebook in his class. Every other class you have, sleep in. Especially if it is French class.

You will hate ToK. Well only if you never have Mr. G. as your teacher. Your life depends on how long he lives.

Make friends. Make good friends at that. People who are IB are the only people to have as friends. You see them for 8 hours every day. Every day. For 4 years. It took me 2 years to find Eric and Himler. Now we are inseparable. Don't be afraid to be taboo. EHHHH.

My mom is now complaining that I have excessive tardies. Think of your parents as evil. They don't understand what you are going through. They never have, they never will. They can't grasp how tough it all really is. *But I promise it is worth it.* Just keep your friends close to you. You will live.

Yes, other people have a much better life than you do at the moment. They don't have to worry about scholarships or how to pay for college. But you are a better person than they will ever be.

Most of all, this is not a scare essay. Just a note of what life has been like. I would never trade my years of IB for anything else. The teachers are not really that bad. Promise. The work load, not overbearing. Have fun with your friends whenever it is possible. Finally, your parents can not do anything for you. Welcome to the real world.

*Kurt Stefanie*

I'm supposed to give you advice about IB. Now, I can't really say that I'm the best person to listen to as far as advice. As I write this, I'm only halfway through the sophomore year myself. Pay attention to the juniors and seniors, not me. You'll notice that you're not hearing from many other sophomores (I think). The reason that you're hearing from me is that I started out IB with some extra math credits, no fault of my own, and got bumped up a couple of years in math. Enjoy geometry (or algebra) while you can. It only gets tougher.

I'd tell you not to procrastinate. I figure that you've probably heard that from just about everybody by now. I don't think that's the best way to approach things, though. I say procrastinate now, and suffer for it while it doesn't matter quite so much. You probably will suffer, and you'll probably be back on the right track by 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, when it does matter a whole lot. On the other hand, you just might figure out that you work best under pressure. That's what I do think you should watch out for. What happens junior year when you have a psych paper, a math portfolio, a history essay, and free response problems due on the same day? It will catch up with you.

You're going to find your freshman year tough enough, most likely. It's a really good time to leave the program, if you feel that it's too tough. You tried, and it wasn't right for you — there's nothing lost if you leave. On the other hand, should you stay with the program, you might find that you get used to it.

The last thing I have to say is that you shouldn't let IB take over your life. Take Saturdays off, don't do any schoolwork period on Saturdays. Stick with doing whatever you can do outside of school. Get a job. Keep in touch with your 'other' friends, from outside of the program. IB is an experience, whether it is right for you or not. The best thing to do is to not worry too much about it. This is not to say that you should slack off, just that if you let it get to you too much, you'll go out of your head. If you relax a little bit you will really be able to get more out of the program. Have fun.

*Alex Wales*

As you are just entering into IB, you really have no clue what it is going to be like. Yes, other people have told you about the required work and the sleepless nights, but that really does not mean anything to you yet (trust me, it will eventually). You are going to have some fantastic times in IB, both at school and outside of it, and it will be hard work, but of course you have heard that. So let me just say that the best quality that you can have right now and for the next four years is to not be afraid to ask for help. That does not just mean your teachers, either — your classmates are pretty smart people. You will quickly learn who your most helpful people are (not being limited only to book-smart people — common sense people are invaluable). So hang out with them a lot. Dr. Vetter and Dr. Katz are great — any problems you have, talk to them. Even if they do not fix the situation, they can explain to you why the system works the way it does (generally because it is successful), as well as remind you that the work you are doing really does pay off eventually (see paragraph two). Eventually you will wonder why you are putting yourself through such stress. The answer to this question will come during the fall of your junior year (which is, conveniently, when you start seriously asking this question). You will attend college fairs with regularity at this time. When introducing yourself to college personnel, be sure to mention that you are in the IB program. Always be certain that you are wearing sunglasses at this time, as the face of said college personnel will light up immediately after this statement. They will begin asking you questions like, “how are your grades?” and “what do you do for extracurricular activities?” This is a good reminder that grades do matter, and colleges do pay attention to more than just school. Remember that everyone has classes they do not like or that they do badly in, but that is never an excuse to slack off. Get involved in activities outside of school NOW. Then, when you become overloaded with work in your junior and senior year, you know how to work these activities into your schedule, as well as already having an impressive list of things you got involved in early. But do not just try to make that list as long as possible — get involved in stuff that you enjoy. Other wise, it is a waste of your already limited time. But enough about things that will happen to you in two years. The following is a list of suggestions and information that will be helpful throughout your high school experience: Chicken nuggets for lunch means there will be a long line. All Bartow water tastes nasty; get used to it or bring your own from home. Procrastination is

evil. Homework is not necessarily for home — it can also be done before school, during lunch, or on the bus. If you buy a whole box of pizza at school, it costs less than buying eight slices individually. Believe it or not, bowling is a great stress reliever. Do not ever complain about senior privileges, you will want them in your senior year. It is futile to attempt to communicate during pep rallies. Never procrastinate without a good reason — if you think of one, let me know. Never, ever be afraid to ask for extra credit — the worst answer you can get is no. When the teachers tell you to start on a project right away, they generally are not kidding. When it is “recommended” that you write your Extended Essay the summer before your senior year, the people who tell you this are not kidding, either. Do this, and all IB papers, as soon as possible — you will thank yourself in November and December of your senior year (and you’ll manage an average of a couple more hours sleep a night, too). Make sure you eat at least twice in a day, even if it is just a ham sandwich. Taking a day off “to catch up on work” tends to mean that you slept in, watched cartoons, went out for lunch, played video games, and now have lots of make-up work in addition to all the regular assignments. Procrastination is bad. Every once in a while, take a day for yourself and do absolutely no homework. PopTarts are the IB breakfast of choice — quick, portable, and can be eaten cold or hot with little mess. The computer is your friend, till it reboots, freezes, and locks up the night before a major paper is due. Save often. Printers are also your friends until they run out of black ink (try really dark blue, no one can tell the difference), or have no paper. Again, do not procrastinate. Have an up-to-date list of phone numbers and e-mail addresses of reliable people — these are good for homework help and gaining printed copies of essays when the printer decides to fritz. AIM is also a bonus, since you can carry on multiple conversations at once, not to mention that the beeping will keep you awake late at night. Always have a camera with you (and use it). There is more that you should know of course, but that would spoil some of the fun of finding these things out for yourself (and, typically, I have another essay due tomorrow that needs to be finished). So have fun with your next four years and remember to enjoy your experiences.

*Lindsey Spann*

**B**y the time this is read I'll have been graduated and gone from good old Bartow High School. However, since I have spent the majority of the past four years of my life here I learned a couple things along the way.

The first thing that I learned was that putting things off until the last minute is not the greatest thing. If you do get into the habit of procrastination be prepared for heavy loss of sleep in the years to come. Even now I still procrastinate and I'm a senior. However, some people think that they do better when they procrastinate. They say that procrastination brings out the best in them, myself included. There's something about working under pressure that makes things click. I am not in any way condoning this habit of procrastination, but I am trying to be fair in exploring all viewpoints.

Ms. Frisbie, the world's greatest math teacher, asked us to write about the most important and deserving subject to be studied. Well, of course, it's math. [Editor's note: This sort of flattery does not improve one's grade.] Because math is one of the fundamental basics that you will need to have in college and it is a part of your other subjects as well. For example, the other day in biology in our genetics unit we were calculating the probability that a family would have all girls with blue eyes and blonde hair. You need math to do that. Even though math is a useful subject it takes some work to get good at. Plus you'll probably have some form of math homework after every class. Some people, like Eric Stubbs (my fellow classmate), can sleep through class and still make good grades. However, the majority of people actually have to work at learning math. That is why I think that it is the most deserving subject to be studied.

You'll eventually have to pick a science to study for your last two years. Word of advice if you like a lot of extra credit and doing worksheets take physics. I personally would recommend biology because Mrs. Kennon is the best, even though she thinks our class hates her, we don't. Finally, forgive me for saying this, but only people that want to commit suicide take chemistry. Mrs. Bond is a nice person, but that class is murder, or so the people who have taken it say. [Editor's note: Neither Roshni nor I am condoning suicide. And taking chemistry seems extremely inefficient for that purpose.]

Above all, enjoy your time here because you'll never get it back. No matter what other people say to you, you will have a life. It's just that your life will be a little busier than others. After all, you're probably counting on skipping

at least your freshman year in college. So you got to give a little to get a little. Finally, you are going to spend four years with the people in the IB Class of 2006, so try to get along with as many people as you can. Above all, keep friendships outside of school so that you aren't tied to the same people because after a while the same people can get tiring and annoying. I hope this advice helps.

Sincerely,  
*Roshni Patel*

P. S.: Whenever you're in the math wing make sure you're in dress code — otherwise you'll get busted by the dress code enforcement police.

**W**hen I was told in class that I was going to be given the chance to show an incoming freshman the ways of the MIB I was fast asleep, but then I woke up and thought that would be insanely cool. This particularly interested me as I have in each class, with the exception of that eerily-way-too-happy class of 2004, a trainee that I have raised as one of my own to replace me when the time comes, a tradition that they too will follow once the time of their absence is drawing near. Thus, if this crash course in MIB appeals to you ever so slightly you ought to contact Bumpy the Loveball, err, Neil Masters of the class of 2003.

Sooo... by now I'm sure you're wondering why the heck I would call dressing up like Will Smith and dancing around and looking mighty pretty and whatever else you want to call "acting" that he does boasting rights of an IB senior, but no, you fool! You're thinking of the other MIB. The MIB that I'm talking about is none other than the mischievous renegade group of IB students called the Misadventures of IB crew. This is the part where you drop your mouth in awe and start worshipping this paper with your sacrificial llama.

YES! That's right, the MIB! This is Robert, your captain, speaking on behalf of the MIB crew, as I am one of the founding fathers and core members. So buckle up, feed the dog, kiss Aunt Bill goodbye (hey, don't look at me funny, it's your family), spread the love, crank up the volume (unless it's anything other than rock ... in that case I'll have to club you like a baby seal), and get ready to read the coolest thing you'll have read in the past 5 minutes, oh yeah.

Generally speaking, the IB Program is the scariest things since talking trash cans (WHERE



ARE THE PEOPLE?), but I hope that doesn't discourage you, too much. Yes, of course it's difficult, that's why you must test to get here, and no, I didn't cheat, so make like a monkey who's done shaving it and get off my back. Freshman year will be especially hard since you're first jumping into the program and it's a big difference from what you're used to in middle school. Of all people, I can vouch for that one since I came from Jenkins Middle School. There, a reading assignment meant reading a magazine at your desk, then I came to IB and they're throwing stuff at me like "symbolism" this and "motif" that and "macrocosm" here and "book" there. I mean, coming from a Haines City educational system, I never heard those words, but anyways, time to get back on track.

Point is, I survived the jump to IB. As your numbers dwindle down you may find yourself doubting your ability to stay, but make like a KKK victim and hang in there! [Editor's note: it's a joke! Lighten up!] Freshmen year, that's all you, that's the

IB method of hazing to make sure you're fit to run with the big dogs, there isn't any specific advice I can really offer for that year. Well, one thing: **DON'T EVER COMPLAIN ABOUT HAVING TOO MUCH WORK TO A JUNIOR OR SENIOR OR YOU WILL GET BEAT FASTER THAN THE LATEST CHARLES BARKLEY VICTIM.** Remember, young grasshopper, you are merely in Pre-IB, we're the real deal. Anyways, once you get to your sophomore year, then you're allowed to kick off your shoes and relax some, you're safe. Sophomore year is the easiest year you'll ever have, a reward for surviving your first year, and a happy little lie telling you it does get easier.

Junior year, pay attention: take physics and art. Done. That's it. Blow off biology or chemistry and take art over psychology, but if you choose not to, don't say I didn't warn you. Onward to greater things, you have ToK in the spring semester, something I really was looking forward to as a junior. However, Mr. Graffam might be leaving to return to college at the end of the year, which means that you might have either <name> or Mr. Keers teaching the class. If it's <name>, you <subject> students might be a bit glad since <that teacher> would be teaching that if it weren't for ToK. If it's Mr. Keers, well that totally destroys anything I ever told you about taking physics. In either case, you'll miss out on quite an experience having Mr. Graffam there to guide the class on their path to higher thinking, seriously. Mr. Graffam is honestly one of those

teachers that I would miss when I leave in May.

As far as your math subjects go, this is the point where you must choose to stay in your trigonometry class or to drop down to the "dumb math," something I almost wish I had done. Though, while it might loosen you from some of the stress (mind you, at this point you're ready to snap faster than a bowl of Rice Crispies), you lose the opportunity to sleep in the presence of the great Ms. Frisbie. If I must give you any advice for her class, it's that those notebook tests are killer when you don't take notes, there is no A-S-S triangle postulate, and that long-sleeved shirts must be tucked in as well (I learned this one twice).

Now that you've left the junior year and are on your path to the top of the food chain, do not, DO NOT, do what I did and blow off the Extended Essay. This summer I threw all of my work and reading into the last three days of summer and didn't even think about that stupid thing, and it killed me later on. **NOTE TO SELF: ALL NIGHTERS SUCK.** Anyways, that's the general gist of everything you'll need to know for your academic life in IB.

Though it may seem as if the academic life is the only life that you'll have... well, yeah, you're right. But there are a few instances when you'll be able to relax, though it's compensated for by cramming everything into one day or working on the assignment in the same class it's due. And so, in these times of freedom, you will learn to harness the energy that IB has drained from you as it returns, and be able to channel it into a meaningful use. Let it be the alarming screech of tires of a car cascading backwards through a neighborhood, let it be the joyful yells of you and your friends starting random acts of danger, let it be giving your best friend a concussion, we at MIB do know how to have a good time.

And so I leave you with on these words: if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off. So in the end, while IB may bring us to a future of success, it also brings us a step closer to that lunatic fringe. When you get there, visit us on our site at <http://www.angelfire.com/art2/poeticallybored>.

**DISCLAIMER:** The Poetic Boredom site containing the headquarters for the MIB is not for those who take offense easily.

*Robert Teves*

To my sister, and her compatriots of the Pre-IB freshman class:

From the vantage of my final year as a student of the IB program, I have deigned it a worthwhile task to commit to you, as a part of this essay assignment, a number of worthy notations of advice that will carry you far as you progress through this program. I only wish that I had had the same advantage that these words will impart unto you, for so much would have been spared in the ways of stress and hours of sleep had I been graced with the same. I bid each reader to take to heart what you read.

First and foremost: complete your Extended Essay in the summer prior to your senior year. I cannot stress this one aspect enough. When the seniors that go before you into this Hell tell you that there is an extraordinary amount of work in the Twelfth Year — BELIEVE THEM! They are telling the truth. No matter what type of student that you are, you will be stressed and you will be tired if you add the Extended Essay to your schedule of assignments. You will never imagine how difficult it will be to maneuver between the seemingly hundreds of other Official IB assignments and the, literally, tons of “ordinary” homework assigned by the teachers. If you complete the Extended Essay during the summer, you will have one less item detracting from the years of your life span as you move towards the months of November and December. For the sake of your physical, emotional, and psychological states, I beg you to heed my suggestion. The senior IB English Teacher will warn you once again before you embark on your final summer of IB. Not one class has ever listened to her, let yours be the first.

As for your choice of Math class that you decide to pursue in the sophomore year, I would highly suggest that you weigh all that is your prowess before committing yourself to either Math Methods or Math Studies. Both are ruled by very capable and excellent teachers, but focus on divergent aspects of the science of Mathematics. It is highly suggested that you talk to your tenth grade teacher before making a decision. Neither is “lesser” than the other, but merely cater to different tastes.

The choice of science, I must confess, should follow the same method. Although I know little regarding the sciences of Physics or Biology, as I was a Chemistry major, I can assure you that it is most beneficial to yourselves that you choose that in which you take an interest. Science can be your worst class if you do not enjoy it, as only by such will you be able

to get through the work.

For my last advice, I turn your attention to your senior history class, ruled by the most excellent Mr. Shuff. His class will be by far the most enduring of the senior year, with the most writing assignments and notes (do not take the latter lightly, an “easy” day consists of no less than six pages of arduousness) of all the classes of your schedule. His tests are difficult, for no class in his entire career has ever scored an average of above an 85 percent on a single test. He does offer extra credit, but such are in the form of questions nearly impossible to answer. The one salvation for such is to learn all you can about his life (you will find out what I mean when you reach his domain).

I do hope this aids you in your pursuits of academia. Enjoy life while you can, for such will be most unbearably seized from you by the relentless claws of IB. Yet know also that it can be surmounted, as so many have done so before. On behalf of the senior

IB class of 2002, I wish you well in the coming years — to the end of this year, and all that lie ahead.

With utmost sincerity,  
*Greg Saari*

The International Baccalaureate program is a very challenging program. It takes time to get adjusted to the program and when you think you have adjusted, there are new challenges that come up. This letter I hope will give you some useful advice on completing the International Baccalaureate program.

First of all the official school name is the International Baccalaureate School at Bartow. This in some ways is trivial but is a useful piece of information to know to put on forms, etc.

There are students in IB who say they stay up until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning to finish their homework almost every night. That could be a possibility if you play a sport, or work. However generally in the first three years of IB, if you concentrate, you can finish most days' homework in less than 2 hours.

Now onto some mathematical advice. You will most likely be taking geometry as a freshman. Though you will have a different teacher than when I took it the curriculum is similar. I was not a great geometry student but as long as you have a sound foundation in math and do the homework, you should be fine.

In 9th grade the classes that deserve the most study are math and English. In English the reason is because of the large amount of writing that you are expected to do. The reason in Geometry is because of the almost daily homework, and my general lack of enthusiasm for the subject.

Finally some closing things to note. If you took French as your foreign language, you should have no problems with the class. If you chose Spanish, there will generally be more effort involved. As a freshman it may seem intimidating that you need a 24 score on your tests to get an IB diploma, but it is very attainable.

Sincerely,  
*Chi Zhang*

First of all, I would like to thank you for joining the IB program. It is an accomplishment that you have gotten here. As a fellow senior, I hope your experience with the program will be as fruitful as mine. Yet take caution: this program is not easy. Whether you are able to stay in IB all depends on YOUR attitude and YOUR decisions. I will talk about a subject area or two which will hopefully aid your sojourn throughout the IB program.

Mathematics is a key course within the IB program. It is pivotal that you learn mathematics: it will prove helpful in all three sciences, psychology, and other subject areas. Don't take this class easy; it's just 2 + 2 every time. Mathematics at the IB program is rigorous. A major pitfall that I have taken was to blow away math homework. I used to copy somebody's homework every morning on the bus. I used to get 100% on the homework, but 70% on the test. Why, you may ask? Because I did not get the practice I needed.

In addition, never fall asleep in class. Unless you are a reincarnate of Newton, you need to stay awake in class to understand. Takes notes legibly because they will be able to help you throughout the class, and for the future.

What helped me the most through IB were two things: doing my work on time, and asking teachers for help. Procrastination is the worst sin on earth — one all-nighter can prove to be fatal. Try to do Free Response at 1:00 a.m. — it doesn't work. Doing my work helps me get sleep and I can spend more time on my work, allowing better quality. If I have a problem, I will actually have time to ask my teacher for help. The math teachers, Ms. Cobb and Ms. Frisbie, are more than welcome to help you, along with other teachers.

Remember, take advantage of the opportunities you have at IB — If you don't, it will be a rough path.

Sincerely,  
*Neal Bhatia*