

High Life

Grimsley High School

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Greensboro, NC 27408

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Out of the Blue

Mr. Penland, in an attempt to encourage students to improve their attendance records, has developed the "Cash In" Student Attendance Incentive Program. A student becomes eligible for a free breakfast during 1st period and entry in the grand prize drawing if he or she receives no tardies or absences for twenty consecutive days. The drawing, held at the end of the year, has prizes of up to \$250 in cash.

Seniors David Hyman, Andrew Jordan, Patrick Kinlaw, Jamie Link, James Nehlsen, and John Pool have recently been chosen as National Merit semi-finalists. The decision was made based on their performance on the 1994 PSAT. Seniors Brent Barkley, Anne Beatty, Jason Bower, Rachel Davis, Anna DeCasper, Maia Kaplan, Matthew Kohut, Benjamin McCoy, Sarah McCullough, Jennifer Oxenfeld, Julianne Peeler, Carla Ransom, Luke Reiser, Rebecca Rolnick, and Michael Votta received commendation.

Meagan Renn and School Resource Officer David Robinette appeared on "CBS This Morning" on October 30. As members of SAVE, they were invited to participate in a discussion on school violence in America.

Jennifer Hudspeth won first place in the recent SAVE essay contest. Mary Holsenbeck and Jessica Wells received second and third places, respectively, writing about students' reactions and responses to school violence. First place received \$50 and dinner for four, second place received \$25 and dinner for four, and third place was awarded \$20 and dinner for two. All winners were awarded a SAVE T-shirt.

Students react to reality of IB

By Sarah Atkinson
Reporter

Ten out of 15 students enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program believe that the education they are receiving is worth doing every bit of the work they have been held responsible for. The other five students say it is just too much work.

The general consensus among all of the IB participants is that the work load is very high. "There is no time to do anything. It's just homework, homework, homework," said Jason Elliott, a junior.

Tim Danford, a junior, believes Grimsley has made a step in the right direction by installing the program, but agrees that the work has been tremendous. "There's not enough time to do all of the extracurricular activities that I like to do. There's no way I can devote myself fully to any specific activity."

Mr. Buczinsky, the eleventh grade IB English teacher, said, "My fear is that IB is too ambitious and that students in the program will not have the time and energy necessary to integrate and appropriate the instruction into their lives."

Other students feel that the way in which the program has been set up at Grimsley has largely contributed to this problem of having only enough time in the day to do school work.

Ed Goode, a junior, said, "Most other places that have IB don't stick to the six-classes-a-day schedule like we do. It's crazy."

Elliott agrees that the school could have taken precautions to help reduce some of the pressure that comes with taking the IB classes. He said,

"Grimsley isn't engineered to help students in IB like other schools are. Here, six classes a day means six homework assignments a night."

For these very reasons, Kate Worthington, a junior, elected not to go for the IB diploma. "I am not going to give up all the things I love in the name

Representing the majority of students who decided not to take the IB path, Hana Brown, a junior, said, "I am not confident enough in my ability to handle all of that work."

"Too much pressure is put on students to take higher level courses that they might not be ready for," said Kelly Youngken, a junior.

This is the exactly the situation that many IB students found themselves in at the beginning of the school year. Some stuck with it, many did not.

Messmer said, "I regret that a lot of students dropped out in the very beginning based on less than one month's experience with the program. It's all about learning, not the grades you get."

Even so, the pressure to make good grades is still a large source of stress on students today.

Mohan Sethi, a junior, sees the IB program as being "too challenging" and therefore "very stressful."

However, Messmer said, "For me, it's not as much a stress factor as a

'lack of sleep' factor. I was a living corpse the first couple of weeks, but now it's all in my hands as far as time management."

Danford noticed the same thing. He said, "I consistently find that I go to bed at 1:30 or 2:30 each night. This is a big change from last year."

Dr. Kee, the coordinator of the IB program at Grimsley, has seen such changes as these in all of his students. "There is a maturing process going on, which is good but painful. From tenth to eleventh grade is a big change anyway, but especially for these kids because they don't get a break. They've had to make sacrifices but they are learning how to prioritize."

This may seem well and good, but not everyone can find a good reason behind making all of these changes.

Al Bangura, a senior, said, "I could have taken the courses, but I didn't need them."

Stewart Allen, a junior, feels the same way. "I could take all standard classes and still go to a good college. I don't need IB."

Justin Parr, a junior, went so far as to say, "Just because someone is in the IB program, they seem smarter than they may actually be."

However, Dr. Kee says, "This is not a thing for geniuses. It's about setting goals and achieving them."



IB students SunJun Park and John O'Brien begin their days at 7:30 in Dr. Kee's Theory of Knowledge class.

Pendergraft Photo

of a better education when I am already getting an above average one," said Worthington.

Some students chose to enroll in IB not just to get a better education or to get ahead in college. Ben Messmer, a junior, said, "I'm not taking IB to get college credit, because I am planning on going to art school. I'm taking it to challenge myself in high school."

Goode said, "I took it out of curiosity. I just wanted to see what it was like."

"A lot of pressure was put on me to take IB," said Elliott. "Also, I was afraid that I would have looked back and said, 'I think I could have done that,' and I don't like that feeling."

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Homecoming Court

"Do a Little Dance"

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