

# **IB Chat**

**Personal perspective  
from three IB students  
and their mom.**

**IB diploma survival:  
Angel Hsu (graduated 2012)**

**Daughters who are still suffering:**

**Jessica Hsu (Senior)**

**Jennifer Hsu (Senior)**

# If it was stressful?

- **Jessica:** Yes!
- **Jennifer:** Well, of course, especially when lots of IAs due around the same days.
- **Angel:** Well yeah it was stressful, but it wasn't like super extreme or anything, it was endurable. I've had worse.

# How they coped with it?

- **Jessica:** I just did. **1** Talk to somebody; **2** go bother your teacher, **3** asking for help.
- **Jennifer:** **1** Chemistry survival group (online study group to help each other, post resources); **2** Drink tea for all nighter when necessary. **3** Go to teacher after school for extra help.
- **Angel:** I didn't have any MAJOR struggles, when I did, I went to ask teachers and friends for help, formed study groups (google docs help a lot!), got together in the weekends/after-school to get extra help from teachers....did extra IB problems from past exams

## If they noticed that their habits changed/ improved

- **Jennifer:** I don't know. Well, work faster, more efficient.
- **Jessica:** Work faster, because I realized 24hour a day is not enough; sleep schedule late. More interactions with people because of CAS and team study.
- **Angel:** Just like studying a bit of Spanish everyday
  - Not cramming
  - Forcing myself to participate that helped because now I'm participating a lot in Emory Spanish class the teacher now knows me well

# What it meant to do the Diploma

- **Jessica:** Lots of works! It's a challenge. I am awesome!
- **Jennifer:**
  - Challenge of my ability to handle stress, and manage time.
  - Challenge to see if I am strong willed enough to make it.
  - And heard it helps during college, it's college style.
  - Colleges would see the rigor of courses you take to see you challenge yourself.
  - Because mom said so.

# What it meant to do the Diploma

- **Angel:**
- IB really prepared me well. I am breezing through my chem and bio classes at Emory. And we're also writing a lot of lab reports, so that's very IB style. I was well prepared for the advanced Spanish class at Emory, too.
- My Spanish teacher really emphasized participation, reading, and writing, so that's really a lot like IB Spanish, Sr. Graña's class.
- I don't find college homework that time-consuming. I start my classes at 8:30am, return to the dorm at 10:30pm, skype/facebook chat with people for an hour or two, and can still finish all my homework for the next day.
- I'm glad I did the Diploma. It wasn't the outcome that mattered. It was the fact that I challenged myself and made the most out of the best resources and programs KAS could offer that made me the most happy.

# What it meant to do the Diploma

- **Me:**
- **To get IB diploma is not everything, it's an option.**
- **To get it or not?**
- **Value it first.**
- **Encourage to keep their strong will**
- **Sit back and watch them suffer, be supportive.**
- **Encourage them contact with who go for the diplomas.**
- **Thank you!**