



International Baccalaureate IB Students Achieve More Than Exams



July marked the end of a journey for 80,000 students around the world who received their IB exam results. More importantly than just completing their exams, these students have completed a *program of education* which emphasizes high academic standards, international-mindedness and the development of life-long learning skills. As one GF senior noted, "For the first time in my life, I didn't just give a fact as an answer—instead I explained *why* I gave that fact and *what makes it an answer*. My IB courses made me think in a different way."

We would like to thank all of the students, parents, and teachers for making the four-year partnership memorable. We look forward to seeing all of you again on January 4th for the awarding of the official IB Diplomas and Certificates.

DR. BRENDA AIKEN APPOINTED HEAD OF SCHOOL AT GAR-FIELD HIGH SCHOOL

We'd like to welcome Dr. Brenda Aiken, who was appointed Principal of GFHS in June. Dr. Aiken received her Bachelor of Science in general science and psychology from Fordham University in the Bronx, New York, her Master of Arts in teaching biology from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, and her Doctorate of Education in administration from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

she served as the coordinator for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and was an International Baccalaureate committee member.

Welcome, Dr. Aiken!



She began teaching in 1982 as a high school biology teacher in Charleston, South Carolina and later moved to Greenbelt, Maryland, where she taught at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School of Science and Technology. Most recently, Dr. Aiken taught at Annandale High School in Annandale, Virginia, a fellow IB World School. While at Annandale

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

WELCOME NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES

Each year, the GFHS faculty says good-bye to students and families with whom we have worked for several years. We often look at each other and say, "That will be a tough group to beat!" While each graduating class is special and unique, all of them have been united by a common challenge, which has tested their discipline, maturity, fortitude, and ethics. It is neither college credit nor IB exam scores that provide the ultimate measure of our students' success; rather it is the depth of character students developed as they sought to meet the goals outlined by the *IB Learner Profile*, which says that students should be:

Inquirers	Open-minded
Knowledgeable	Caring
Thinkers	Risk-takers
Communicators	Balanced
Principled	Reflective

A strong focus on these learner outcomes creates students who are well-prepared for the rigors of college. Most graduates begin to feel the impact of this focus during their first few weeks at college, when they compare their skills and high school experience with those of their peers. As Maura DiRicco (Gar-Field '03, William & Mary '07) noted, "Even though IB was a tough and demanding program, I feel that it was the best preparation for college I could have received. Now, writing extensive papers, completing essay tests, dealing with a lot of work at one time, and thinking creatively on projects comes much more easily. But what makes the Gar-Field program so wonderful is the support system behind you every step of the way--your fellow IB peers, your teachers, your IB coordinator. Each of these groups and individuals is there to make sure you succeed, and through the process you develop personal relationships that carry through in your life. IB was a challenging venture, but definitely worth the time and commitment."

The level of IB participation varies for each student, but when you finally leave Gar-Field, "the amount of IB you walk out with" will not be measured by the number of IB courses on your transcript. Instead it will be measured by the skills you've acquired and the intangible qualities you've developed in the process of choosing and completing a challenging and rigorous course of study. So whether you are new to Gar Field or returning for your senior year, always remember to *make the most of the opportunities before you*.

We welcome all our new and returning students and look forward to seeing you all become active participants in your classes and in the IB Program this year.

Brian Bassett
Administrative Coordinator for IB

Calendar

August 24th & 25th, 2007

Freshman Fair

September 6th, 2007

Back to School Night

October 6th, 2007

Field Trip: Green Festival
Washington D.C. Convention Center
<http://www.greenfestivals.org/>

October 17th, 2007

PSAT given to all 10th & 11th graders

October 21st, 2007

Field Trip: ALS Walk - Washington D.C.
www.als.org/walk

November 8th, 2007

Gar-Field IB Info Night

November 16th - 18th, 2007

Field Trip: William & Mary Model UN
Conference
<http://www.wmhsun.org/>

January 4th, 2008

IB Diploma and Certificate Award
Ceremony

January 8th, 2008

Gar-Field IB Info Night

January 11th - 12th, 2008

IB MARC Model UN Conference
(Gar-Field is the host school)

February 27th, 2008

PWCS Fall Classy Awards

February 29th, 2008

Field Trip: Just World Conference
Annandale High School

April 8th, 2008

Personal Project Display and IB Art
Show

May 5th - 30th, 2008

IB Exams

May 29th, 2008

PWCS Spring Classy Awards

June 7th, 2008

Field Trip: Clean the Bay
Mason Neck or Leesylvania State Park



Introducing the new IB community theme - *Sharing our humanity*

The IB community now includes more than 2000 schools, and 500,000 students, teachers, parents, staff, examiners, and other colleagues in more than 125 countries. In an effort to strengthen this large and growing community and our shared IB mission, the IB has initiated an exciting new project— **the IB community theme**.

We will be encouraging teachers to integrate activities around this theme into school life.

The theme, lasting three years, is intended to serve as a focus for the IB and IB World Schools, to capture the excellent initiatives that are already underway in many schools and encourage and inspire new activities, in and out of the classroom, around the following topics:

- The fight against poverty
- Peace-keeping, conflict prevention, and combating terrorism
- Education for all
- Global infectious disease
- Digital divide
- Natural disaster prevention and mitigation.



GF students visiting a school in China this summer.

(High Noon” by J.F Rischard, 2002)

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GAR-FIELD STUDENTS BUSY THIS SUMMER!

Governor’s School

Academics

Nicole Beck
 John Craig-Lee
 Saaleaha Faruk
 Jonathan Heins
 Sydney Hodge
 Jennifer Hoskins
 Andrea Madu

Kevin O’Shea
 Malia Pereyra
 Ashley Prescott
 Ashley Scott
 Vietvuong Vo
 Amy Yoon
 Yi Zhao

Boys State

Phillip Lecky
 Wilberg Rivera
 John Craig-Lee

Girls State

Desirah Mulvihill
 Stacy Graves
 Morgan Watts

