

## **Testimonial from a former IB Diploma graduate**

I am forever grateful for my time in the IB program at East.

My name is Nick Johnston and I'm a recent college graduate where I pursued a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with a Minor in Leadership Studies and a Minor in Outdoor Physical Education.

I was a Full Diploma Candidate and Diploma recipient in 2016.

Due to the preparedness for collegiate rigor, and entering undergrad as a Sophomore, I was able to finish my Major and Two minors in seven semesters. IB curriculum gave me the study habits and work ethic to be successful in college and manage my time effectively. While in university, I was a full time student, worked roughly 25 hours/week, and mentored high school students regularly. I was capable of doing this because of skills taken away from the Diploma program.

One of the greatest takeaways from the program for me was enhancing my writing skills. Each 'Internal Assessment' in the core classes, and an 'Extended Essay' in the subject area of your choice gives you practical training in creating high quality written content. Undeniably, this gave me an edge in college. It also revealed to me a strength and passion for Writing and Cultivating Ideas.

I've continued to craft my work, and am in the drafting stages of writing a book that takes an Existential approach on Theology and the modern church; evaluating human behaviors, political climates and biblical history.

I currently work and live in Northern Michigan for a Non-profit camp property called Timber Wolf Lake, run by the Organization 'Younglife.' In this position I'm learning the Hospitality, Operations and Guest Service of keeping a facility that serves thousands of visitors each year. It's been humbling and a great learning opportunity.

In the future I hope to pursue a Masters in Experiential Education, with plans of working in Higher Education Student Recreation, or Environmental Sciences with non-traditional schools or Parks Services.

I also anticipate pursuing further studies in Philosophy or World Religions.

Much of how I think about the world was built on the Framework set by the IB program and I'm grateful for how it set me up for success in undergrad but also for lifelong learning.