

Why Should I Do Work?

The Lack of Motivation Among Students: A Design Sprint



With the continuation of virtual learning, many students will have to balance their school workload with the added responsibilities that come with living at home. As a residential high school that focuses on student collaboration and inquiry, IMSA is known to have a rigorous school workload that centers around learning through discovery. However, **the combination of responsibilities and school work might lead to a lack of motivation in students**, creating a negative impact on the students' perception of education as a whole. Home or family obligations can further demotivate students as they create extra responsibilities and distractions, which aggravate this issue regarding

the lack of motivation even more.

A lack of motivation at IMSA would mean that students are likely not receiving the experience that might be in store for them to explore. Because of IMSA's traditionally residential environment, IMSA courses are designed so that students are given the opportunity to reach out to others and collaborate with their peers through living in a close proximity. While collaboration is achievable online, it is more difficult and will be especially difficult for incoming sophomores because they have yet to build meaningful relationships with their classmates like many upperclassmen have. Additionally, students will no longer have access to the opportunities, resources, or activities that are commonly available on IMSA campus, leading to an educational experience just focused on academics. The lack of interpersonal connections, coupled with the lack of access to opportunities, will cause the motivation of students to plummet. Although students will have many opportunities to find their niche through an in-person educational or co-curricular setting, the presence of virtual learning can lead many students to believe that there is no reason to continue school.

This problem can result in lower grades, decreased social and emotional wellness, lower levels of student engagement during class, decreased participation in other student functions (clubs, athletics, etc.), and confrontations with parents at home - all of which can lead to an increase in absences among IMSA's student body. In a worst case scenario, a lack of motivation could cause a student to either drop out of IMSA, move to a different school with better conditions (e.g. smaller workload, physical school as opposed to remote learning), or drop out of school altogether. Through its repercussions on the well-being of many students, a lack of motivation

can interfere with other areas of the students' lives as well, exacerbating the students' apathy in a significant way.

In order to respond to *this problem*, *IMSA does have a few groups and organizations at their disposal to understand the* concerns of the student body and take action. For example, Student Council collaborates with IMSA's Administration to address concerns through the Universal Submission Box and Town Hall Meetings, which involve students, faculty, and staff. In addition, Residential Student Leaders (RSLs) and Resident Counselors (RCs) have helped to provide experiences (such as interactive programs) to improve the mental health of students on campus. Although programs are currently offered to respond to the concerns of students, students may portray an apathetic attitude to these policies as well, and newer policies and projects can take several weeks to fully implement.

As the global pandemic continues, many are no longer receiving the same quality of education required to reach their personal career goals. This issue leads to a lack of motivation in students, as they believe that they are not offered the best experience from IMSA. This lack of motivation can impact the students' ability to perform well in a distance-learning environment, having consequences on other aspects of the students' lives. **Using your knowledge of the COVID-19 outbreak and online classroom environments, construct an action plan to aid students who may be affected by this problem.**