

# OUR SCHOLARS

If I were to pick one characteristic that a school ought to have, it would be this – it would have students who love to enter its gates.

My journey began in the Philippines, on a Lasallian Leadership Training Camp. The purpose of this camp was quite clear. We saw first-hand the communities who are last in line when it comes to opportunities. We met boys and girls who are lost; their circumstances do not allow them to have dreams. And it was in Bagac, where I spent a night with a family living in a small hut, that I realized just what it means to have the least. They are the Last, the Lost and the Least, and yet happiness and contentment are not absent from their lives. From this experience, I gained something that I am quite sure life would not have otherwise shown me – the realization that maybe privilege is not found in having more, but instead in appreciating the little that we have.



When it comes to school, no doubt, IB is challenging. IB is challenging because there is recognition that realistically, life is not easy. The bonds which I fostered with my friends have become the foundation upon which our tightly-knit IB cohort stands. This unity and comradery are crucial ingredients because you will soon realize that whether it be IB or life itself, it is so much more enriching to have people with whom you can share a journey and a purpose.

Your two-year journey will be in this special place – SJJIM. Not a week goes by without an exciting event or a performance led by our very own students. Firmly established in our student body is a common desire to contribute to the school and to our community. The 12-Hour-Run. The Lasallian Formation Camp. A dedicated assembly for every major festival of our country. Just recently, the Student Representative Council, of which I am a member, organized a beautiful singing performance of “You Raise Me Up” by the entire High School to show appreciation for all our teachers. All of these were initiated, led and organized by the Y12s and the rest of the student body. There is no limit to the initiative and experience from which you can grow.

On 25th July 2018, I received an email from SJJIM offering me the scholarship. I am sure all scholars will agree with me that the adrenaline at that moment cannot be put into words. You will start out being grateful for a scholarship, which is a great deal of money. But you will soon come to realize that a scholarship at SJJIM is much more than financial aid.

It is an opportunity to find family in friendship that you can depend on.  
It is an opportunity to develop skills that will help you decide your path.  
It is an opportunity to realize priorities, direction and purpose in life.

Every school ought to have students who love to enter its gates. And at SJJIM, I am one of those students.

John Marcus Liew Jin  
2018/2019 SJJIM IBDP Scholar

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I am very grateful to have been offered a scholarship to further pursue my studies in SJIIM. It does not only provide me with the opportunity to study the vigorous yet prestigious IB Diploma Programme, but has also given me a chance to continue being a part of this warm community.

Throughout my years in SJIIM since its founding year, I have witnessed the growth of this school in many ways, including the building of an inclusive Lasallian community. At SJIIM, teachers are patient and passionate whereas students are personable and polite. We treat each other as if we are all a part of one big family. This has helped form a friendly environment for students to learn. For example, as a volleyball player, I am often absent from school due to my involvement in competitions outside of school. However, my teachers never failed to guide me through the work that I have missed in class and they made sure that I am always on track. My peers have also helped me a lot when I am at times of need.



Most of the activities in this school are also student-led and we, as Year 12s, play a major role in helping to organize these events, even if it is only a minute part. Besides augmenting our responsibility as students, these activities has also strengthened the bonds between us. For instance, on Teachers' Appreciation Day, a lot of preparation have to be made before that and some of the Year 12s who are not a part of the organization team did not hesitate to pull a helping hand to help, even though they do not know each other well.

SJIIM has also provided me with a lot of opportunities to learn skills that cannot be learnt outside of school. For example, in the first term of Year 12, students get to represent our school to compete in the South East Asia Math Competition held in Jakarta. Even though I did not win, I have gained a lot from this competition, such as different mathematical concepts and their applications in real life. Moreover, as a part of CAS, we get to do service projects outside of school. My service project was to teach Myanmar refugees English and Maths every Saturday. Through this project, I get to experience the importance of giving back to the society and truly understand the meaning of 'Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve'.

Aristotle once said, 'the roots of education is bitter, but the fruit is sweet'. Nonetheless, SJIIM has provided me with enough sugar to make my education experience a fruitful yet memorable one.

Ter Shin Huey  
2018/2019 SJIIM IBDP Scholar

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I am extremely grateful to be a recipient of the SJIIM IB scholarship because it has given me the chance to challenge myself and study this rigorous programme, while giving me a platform to develop my character and be a part of this warm Lasallian family.



I was first welcomed into SJIIM as a founding student and have enjoyed my school years with helpful classmates and dedicated teachers from different backgrounds. As a new school, there are many opportunities to help the school develop and each year, the improvements are tremendous and we now have a wide variety of extra curricular activities ranging from sports to academic clubs and even field trips and camps.

However, it was being an IB scholar that has developed me as a person even further and really prepared me for studying the IBDP at SJIIM. This is because we attended a leadership camp in the Philippines which exposed us to the less privileged. We were given the opportunity to sympathise with their struggles by staying with them in their homes and played local games with them such as Chinese Garter. This experience was eye-opening for me as I was amazed by their raw talent and also moved by their happy attitude in life and their willingness to welcome us. It was them who inspired me to give back to the community and in turn inspire other people as well.

This made me realise how small actions can spark a passion and I can really see this in SJIIM. With dedicated students who take on various leadership roles in school to organise events or movements to contribute back and make a difference, life in school is busy yet extremely fulfilling. Some of these leadership roles could be with the Student Representative Council, Lasallian Youth Movement, being the House Captains and more. Not only that, we also have volunteer programmes for the IBDP students and self-led activities for the high school such as Project Hello and the Eco-brick building sessions.

Although SJIIM is full of events and activities, I can testify to the fact that we are still an academic based school with quality teachers and constant support from the IBDP Coordinator and the University Counsellor. Resources is something that does not run out in SJIIM and I believe that since the aims of the IBDP is in line with the school's which is to grow holistically and be more internationally minded and caring, SJIIM is definitely tailored for the IBDP programme.

Finally, I would also like to say that anyone can be a potential scholar with SJIIM and we just have to take that leap of faith and apply for the scholarship. Just like me during the start of 2019 who had no idea that I would become a scholar and have the privilege to study the IBDP here. Without a doubt, this is one of the best choices I have made and I am thankful for all the students, teachers and staff of the school who have made my school life in SJIIM so memorably amazing.

Ng Siew Zhang (Emily)  
2019/20 SJIIM IBDP Scholar

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I can proudly claim that the past few months have been one of the most enlightening times of my life and in just such a short span of time, I feel that I have grown and developed as a person. I am ever so grateful to have been awarded a scholarship to pursue the rigorous course that is the IBDP programme here in SJJIM. Yes, the IBDP is no doubt challenging but I, and every other IBDP student here at SJJIM can testify that the learning outcomes obtained from pursuing the IBDP heavily outweighs any possible downsides of the programme. SJJIM focuses not just on pure academics but also on extracurricular activities that promote a more holistic form of learning that will give birth to an all-round student. The school also incorporates Lasallian Values into the learning process which really helps to consolidate the academia part of the syllabus together with the character development of an individual student.

By joining SJJIM, I am blessed with the most rewarding gift of being able to practice and preach the Lasallian Values to people around me who believe in the same values as I do. When I first met my cohort in August of 2019 during the Lasallian Leadership Camp in the Philippines, I was astonished by the sheer passion and ardour as well as the warm hospitality shown to us by the Lasallians in the Philippines. My batch mates and I bonded instantly during the camp and we knew that the friendships we fostered will be with us for life.

The best thing about my schooling life here at SJJIM is the fact that my cohort and I are always looking forward for the next day of school. The excellent, affable teachers here and state-of-the-art facilities create such a conducive learning environment for us students. I have never experienced a 'boring' day at school and I'm sure this is the case for all the students here as well. Isn't this the goal all schools want for their students - enjoyable learning?

As a student leader of the school, my batch mates and I have been offered so many opportunities to lead and organise events for the school. A great example would be the Character Camp held in October 2019. I was put with the Year 7s and we went to Janda Baik, Pahang. In that week itself, I learnt so much about service and what it means to serve- it truly made me grasp our school motto is 'Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve'. Helping the Rohingya refugees and witnessing the Year 7s put their heart into serving the refugees truly opened my eyes to the wonders that we Lasallians, are capable of achieving.

I've always wanted to pursue the IBDP programme and SJJIM granted me with the opportunity to do so with this scholarship. I know that my 2-year-journey here will definitely be an incredible one, thanks to my friends and my amazing teachers. My time here at SJJIM has been so fruitful and I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world.

Bryan Tan Chee Koon  
2019/2020 SJJIM IBDP Scholar