

FRESHMAN CAMPFIRE

an advice column for the students, by the students

How do I connect with my teachers?

"Talk to them, it sounds very obvious but actually get to know your teachers. They are humans just like the rest of us." Riley Johnson [12]

"I would tell them to engage in class discussions, it would help the teachers learn more about them and vice versa. Also, send emails if you have any questions to your teachers. They will learn your name and feel closer to you." – Sanaya Ahuja [10]

"Show you care—participate in class, do your homework, and be creative with projects." – Meredith Clopper [12]

"Don't be afraid to ask when they're free! If you ever get stuck on something in class or just want to get to know them, their free periods are the best times to do so." – Natalie Tan [12]

"There's so much more to learn from your teachers than the content in class. When you get to work or talk with your teachers, you also get the opportunity to learn about life from them. Whether that includes life skills or life lessons, every teacher I've worked with has impacted me as a human, not just as a student. I encourage freshman to not be afraid to have normal conversations with their teachers, because those conversations can teach you a million things! Also, as you get to know your teachers, you'll realize you have a lot in common with them, and that's what makes IA such a tight-knit community." – Reema Mistry [12]

"Ask questions, engage in conversations with them, and express interest in the subject!" – Tina Azarm [12]

"I think being approachable and being prepared is an advice I can give to freshmen since it's important to give respect and expect the same respect from your teachers, and that being prepared is also a sign of readiness and respect to a teachers and classes time and also is efficient for study :)" – Neilanjan Matkar [12]

"If I had to give a freshmen one piece of advice it would be to just be polite. I feel like teachers are always dealing with some tricky students so being a student that ask questions, participates, shows enthusiasm, and is simply respectful is one of the most important ways to start a positive connection with a teacher." – Hadeel Abosoud [IA Class of 2024]

"I would advise them to truly understand their teachers' interests and see what commonalities they have with their teachers!" -Siddarth Suresh, [11]

"Connecting with teachers is really important. Some tips would be to be polite and ask your teacher 'How was your weekend?', 'How has your day been?' Also, greet them in the beginning of class and say goodbye as you leave. Making connections with teachers helps you adjust better to your classes and potentially find teachers you can trust even after you have left their class." - Bhargavi Kaartigeyen [12]

"Find common interests and ask then about clubs/organizations they might be involved in." – Krishna Chaugule [IA Class of 2024]

"Ask them for help and laugh at their jokes." – Gabrielle Siegel [12]

"I'd definitely say going that extra mile and doing the extra practices, putting your maximum effort into every assignment you do, even if it's just a practice grade. I'd also say engage in class and try your best to answer questions even if you might not be sure of the answer, it's all a learning process. Lastly, I'd encourage freshmen to maybe stay after class even if it's just for 2-3 minutes and let the teacher know of what they thought of the lesson or something they found really intriguing or something they are still trying to figure out. This really helps freshmen get more comfortable having a more informal conversation with the teacher and building that connection and comfortability in the class." – Romina Azarm [12]

"Don't be afraid to ask for help, because chances are you're going to need it eventually and asking questions and for help when it's little things makes it easier when you need to do it for big things" –Andrea Sellam [12]

"Do not to be afraid to reach out and talk to them! Sometimes taking the first step can be the hardest, but once you take time to connect with them it makes school a lot more enjoyable!" – Avni Marya, [12]

"Find a common interest with your teacher, sometimes talking about things you both like can help you know more from a different perspective and also them getting to know you! As a student, the best thing you can do is be curious." – Cristina Marcano-Alvarez [12]

"I think that over time you can naturally connect with teachers and that usually comes by talking about comon interests." - Jeet Kohli [10]

"Ask them questions after class, and engage in conversations with them outside of class time too!" – Samanyu Venkata Bhupalam [12]

"I would tell them that I understand feeling anxious about how awkward it would be, but even if it's still awkward the second, third, or hundredth time, the relationship is still worth making. It'll get a lot easier as you keep talking, and especially if you talk to teachers you're already comfortable with or particularly like." – Candace Braganza [12]

"Always say hello when entering and class and tell them to have a good day when leaving. Wave to them in the halls. And then if you're comfortable talking in class then that is a good idea." – Kirthana (Kai) Golla [12]

