

Graduation



Finally, I am not a high school student anymore. I am an adult! Graduation ceremony gave me a flashback of my four years in the high school. I met so many awesome people. Host families, friends from schools, friends from academies and all the others helped me to get through this. For three and half years of my high school experience in America, I learned so much and experience so many grateful things.

The night before the graduation, we went to Baccalaureate, which is a special mass for graduating seniors and their families. The mass was held in Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter and Paul, which is located in Philadelphia. It was such a wondrous place that it made me feel so special and proud when I walked in. After the mass, all students walked to the huge fountain and jumped into it. The water was freezing, but it was fun to take lots of pictures with friends there.

The graduation ceremony was at Villanova university. Everyone looked



excited for being mature adults and overwhelmed at the fact that they are not high school students anymore. It was such an emotional moments. While I was marching, I was so worried about my steps because I did not want to embarrass myself tri pping. However, nothing happened and I could enjoy the moment without any mistake. Also, speeches were

moving and grateful. They gave me three lessons: do not be afraid of the future, be proud and be grateful.

After the ceremony, I could take a few pictures with people. My host family brought me to a traditional Italian restaurant. It was a lovely place with classical music and delicious food. I also received the gifts from my Nacel coordinator and host family. It was very nice of them. It was such a short day, but I learned important things. I realized that now I am an adult who is fully responsible for her choice and behavior. Also, I learned that I am out of my parents' wings. For last 18 years, mostly my parents chose what do I should do for me. Now it is my sole accountability to take care of myself. My high school taught me so many great things, and I shall not forget them. Farewell, O'Hara.

-12기 정은교

Final



It is end of the school year and all the students are all ready for the summer. BUT, there is a very important mission to be completed before we get off to fun stage. It is called, "FINAL EXAMS". Yayyyy!

I am a full IB candidate which means I take three Standard Level of IB classes and three Higher Level of IB classes. Yes, I did have a lot of pressure since all the classes I am taking are such a hard course but did that make me to start studying ahead? Hmmmm, well, the answer is no and I realized how good I am at cramping and procrastinating.

The first day of the final days, I had English and Spanish. They are not so hard if you study a little bit. I did study the day before the test day and I think I did pretty well. Then the second day, it was the HARDEST AND WORST DAY. I had Computer Science and Math. Usually Math comes quicker to me so I did not really worry about it. However, Computer Science is the hardest class I've ever took so far so I was really concerned. The CS class had a study session on Sunday (the day before the exam day). Then I studied furthermore after wise. So I felt I was ready. And yes, I did pretty well. However, I did so badly on Math. I probably spent too much time on CS but I am glad I did that because that way my grades are evened out. Then the last day was a don't wanna talk about it day. I had Physics and ITGS. ITGS is so easy that you don't even have to really study for. However, Physics, I just did not know what to do on the test. It is not that I didn't



study. I spent the whole 6 hours with my friend studying. But it was hard.

Anyways, no matter how bad or how well we did on the tests, my friends and I were so happy that we all are done with the JUNIOR school year. We spent about an hour with talking about next year (SENIOR!!!) and College.

-12기 김예나

Semi – Formal dance on Friday the 13th



Only a week left! 3 more days! It is tonight! Everyone in our grade was counting down for the Semi- Formal dance since a month ago. Some of the girls got asked to the dance, and it was very sweet of the boys being brave and asking them. Also, someone created MountSaintCharles semi dresses account in Instagram, so we can prevent showing up with wearing same dresses. I had a cute white dress that I brought from Korea, and I planned to wear it to one of the dances so it worked out perfect. It was kind of school traditional thing that freshman and junior wears short dresses and sophomore and senior wears long dresses, so they can kind of mix it up. After Semi was week left, I realized that it was actually on Friday the 13th. I was shocked. I told my friends and they got freaked out more than I did because the place we were having Semi was crystal lake golf club, and apparently the crystal lake was the setting of the movie Friday the 13th. To some of you guys that might not know about the movie Friday the 13th, I will give a brief summary of it.

The movie "Friday the 13th" is a 1980 American slasher horror film directed by Sean S. Cunningham and written by Victor Miller. The film tells the story of a group of teenagers who are murdered one by one while attempting to re-open an abandoned campground and it is considered as one of the first "true" slasher movies. I am a big fan of horror movies, so I had to watch this. So, I watched it right away on the day that I realized the semi was on the Friday the 13th. I think this was the worst thing I could've ever done, because I was so scared for a whole week.

The day that we had Semi, everyone was so pumped that no one could concentrate to the classes. We also had early dismissal. This is one thing that I love about America. In

Korea, we don't have any formal dances in school, but also they wouldn't let us go home early because we have dance party after. I enjoyed very much. After we all got early dismissed, my friends head to the hair salons, and makeup places. I wanted to go to those places, but unfortunately, my host mom had after schedules, so she couldn't bring me there. So, I planned out what I am going to do with my hair and makeup by watching many beauty videos.

3 hours of work, I was ready to head to Semi. Before I head to Semi, I had to stop by my friend's house so we could do the pictures. Everyone looked so nice, and I was ready to dance tonight. After spending few hours taking pictures and hanging out, we head to the Crystal Lake golf club. One thing that it was so amazing was that my friend's mom called limousine, so the driver drove us to the place. It was



little embarrassing because everyone was looking at us, but it also was so funny and grateful experience too. Dance started at 6 and went till 11. The fun night ended with having sleep over party with my friends. I love parties!

-12기 정지우

Welcome to Maggie's Place



My host mother, Sharon Cloran, is from England and has an awesome relationship with her husband's family. So mom and I would go to family gatherings every holiday. In Cloran family, there are Grandma, Aunt Teresa and Uncle Daryl, their sons Daryl and Bret, Aunt Hellen and Uncle Mike, their two daughters Nikki, and Christi, Aunt Mary-Ann and Uncle Ray, their children Kate, Pat, and Maddie, and Uncle Denny. Aunt Teresa and Uncle Daryl have a house in Newport, New Jersey, and mom and I were invited to spend the Memorial Day weekend in Newport. The house is called Maggie's Place and is the oldest house in the town. Aunt Teresa and Uncle Daryl bought the house 15 years ago and added more rooms but kept some parts too. Newport is in the area where your phone has no internet, no service, and people live an old-fashioned way of life.

On Saturday morning, we drove to Newport with the GPS acting up. So we took a route where we have never driven before. After making a few circles, we finally got to the Maggie's Place. Strangely, when we got there, it looked like no one was home. At first, we thought maybe they weren't up yet, but it was already 11'o clock. So we just took a walk, assuming that they are out for a brunch. Mom, Sharon, took me around



the house and showed the place: a chapel Uncle Daryl built, a Love Shack that was originally a bedroom of the house, an old truck from Uncle Daryl's father, a swing hung from a tree, a hammock hung in between two trees, and Aunt Teresa's Potting Shed. By the time we were done touring the place, Aunt Teresa and Uncle Daryl came back home. Then Aunt Teresa showed me inside of the house: old stove you need a match to start a fire, vintage refrigerator, spiral steps Uncle Daryl added to, and the second floor bedroom with balcony.

Then we went on a bike ride around the neighborhood. We stopped at Aunt Teresa's neighbor's house where they sell homemade cakes and flowers and got some good carrot cakes and flowers. While we were gone out for a bike ride, Uncle Daryl put the boat out because he has heard that I have never been on a boat before. After we had got back home, we all cleaned the boat together to get ready for tomorrow. Once the cleaning was done, we took a break and lunch: wraps with chicken salad, avocado, and tomato, pasta salad, coleslaw, potato salad, and some chips on the side. Because we were constantly doing something since the morning, we decided to relax for a minute, me laying on the hammock, mom and Aunt Teresa sitting on the balcony, and Uncle Daryl taking a nap. A few minutes later, I saw mom and Aunt Teresa coming down, so I asked what was wrong. They said bugs were keep bothering them and even biting them. Bugs. They were the trouble ever since we came down. They kept following us and trying to suck the blood. Even if we spray bug repellent all over us, they would still try to eat us alive.

As we wandered around the back yard, we found a rubber tube that can be connected to the boat. They were under a pile of other things and Aunt Teresa thought it was stuck and was impossible to get it. As soon as she said that, mom and I lifted them up and got the tube and said: "Nothing is impossible!" Because the tube was under the pile, it was deflated, but we couldn't find an air pump. Then mom had a brilliant idea of using the vacuum cleaner that was used to clean the boat earlier to fill the air in the tube. Again, Aunt Teresa said that is impossible and walked away. To prove that she was wrong, mom and I worked as a team and did fill the tube with air. Aunt Teresa could not believe it, and the face she had was the funniest thing.

After blowing the tube, playing badminton, and having some wine with snacks, we went to Uncle Daryl's friend Kenny's restaurant which was originally a barn.



At the restaurant, all the tables were full, and we went up to this old man named Paul who was sitting by himself and started a conversation. Aunt Teresa and mom asked if we can join, he said sure. We started talking to him and instantly became friends. This restaurant was known for seafood like crabs, scalps, and shrimps, so I got fried shrimp with old bay seasoned fries. While we were waiting for the food to come out, we saw a bald eagle wandering around to find food. It kept making a circle and coming back to one particular spot. It eventually caught something and flew away, but I was amazed to see such a moment like that. After the dinner, Kenny came out, and we talked and stayed at the restaurant till 12. In the corner of the restaurant, they had a dark board and dart pins. Since I had never played darts, I gave it a try and of course, I didn't even make it to the board. After practicing a little while, Aunt Teresa and mom joined me, and we all took turns. When it was my turn, I mumbled and said if I get a bullseye, it will make my day, and then I got a bullseye. With the excitement, we came home and stayed outside a little to enjoy the sky full of stars.

On the next day, we went to a marina restaurant called Higbee's for brunch. I got two eggs, sausage, potatoes with onions, and a toasted rye bread. After the brunch, we stopped by to see some horseshoe crabs near the restaurant and came back home to get ready to go out to the Maurice River. The sky was beautiful, the weather was perfect, and we were all ready to go. We went down to the start of a bay, saw the lighthouse,

and turned around to go back to where we started. On our way back, the motor was acting up, because the boat wasn't used for two years, but we stayed calm and had lunch. Fortunately, the motor went back on after lunch, so we were able to come back to the dock. On our way home, Uncle Daryl put some 80's music, and we were all jamming all the way home. Because there was a news forecast that there might be a storm coming during the night, we put everything back as soon as we got back home. Then we ordered pizza and Aunt Teresa made some salad to eat before the pizza came. After dinner, mom and I got to meet Aunt Teresa and Uncle Daryl's neighbor, MaryLu. While they had some wine, I fell asleep on the couch.

Mom and I left the house on Monday morning before the traffic goes crazy. We took our selfie in front of the house and hugged each other as a final good-bye. As we pull over, I remembered what mom said about this place before we came. She said, "I don't know, that place is magical. You feel so relaxed and never want to leave." Before I came down, I didn't fully understand what she meant by magical. But now I knew what she meant. I was truly myself and enjoyed every single moment of it. It is like a stress-free zone where you never want to leave. If you feel tired from all those stressful jobs, school, or whatsoever, come to Maggie's Place.

-12기 이지원

College



College was my ultimate reason to study in America. It was the reason for me to go to a high school in the US. So I spend four years here, and learned many things. As an ordinary international student who tried, yet did not push herself to a limit, I give you some pieces of advice from my own experience. I do regret a few things that make me wish to turn back in time. I do not want other students to make the same mistakes I made. For the future seniors who will go through what I went through, here are some tips.

First, study regularly. As all know, doing something regularly is the simplest, best way to accomplish something, yet the hardest rule to keep. Although you decide to do such a small amount of work, doing it every day will bring an amazing influence. For example, memorizing five words from SAT vocabulary every day seems like an easy task. However, doing

this regularly is quite demanding. Try to keep it up for at least two weeks, and you will unconsciously get used to it and take it as a new habit. This can bring a great change in your SAT or ACT score.

Second, choose a dream college. This will help to estimate your potential and to set your goal more specifically. After you choose, go to the website that analyzes the university and gives the general information about it. Then you can know what score you should get and how should you be prepared.

Third, join clubs as many as possible. This does not mean to push yourself to do everything. However, a few activities from schools or organizations will surely make your application more interesting.

When I wrote my application, I thanked God and myself for doing enough activities to fill up the activity section. Also, I could see a few students who regret not joining any club because they did



not have anything to put on the list. To prove that you are passion and involving, activities are the best way possible. Additionally, it is a wonderful opportunity to make lots of friends. I could meet many people through my activities such as band and Hi-Q.

Four years go surprisingly fast. Your time is precious, and I hope you use it much wiser than I did. Good luck.

-12기 정은교



Color Run 2K16



Usually when I hang out with my friends, we all get so bored because there is not much thing to do in Harrisburg, PA. All we do is going to creek, going to someone's house or eating. So probably in April, we all decided to sign up for Color Run in Hershey. It was something that no one ever had done before and it sounded like so much fun! Also, we thought it would be a great way to release our stress from all the school works.

On June 5th, my friends picked me up at 6 am and we all met at Hershey Park parking lot. It was a little bit rainy but no one cared since we were SO EXCITED!! Everyone there including adults, little kids and teenagers were all pumped up to run 5K with all the paints.

My friends and I were no the starting line with more excitement from funny DJs and got some free stuff that were thrown by DJs. Anyways it finally started. We stopped at the first color station which was pink! We were all covered with the pink powder paint. Then on the way to the second station, of course, I fell. It was on the downhill and I slipped. Everyone was laughing at me but it was still fun. There were five more stations so when we were done with it, we were all covered by the colors from head to toe.

However, it was still not over. The highlight of Color run – CONCERT – was waiting for us. We threw more paints to each other with loud music! IT WAS THE BEST PART OF COLOR RUN. We were so tired after Color Run but we are going to do it again next year. DEFINITELY. It would be more fun if there are more people so I think I will invite more people to come with us. If people concern because they are not really runners, they really should not. I HATE RUNNING but it was not tough at all.

–12기 김예나



Welcome to Prudence Island!



Welcome to the Narragansett Bay Research Reserve! With the big excitement with her voice, we could realize that we've arrived to the Prudence Island, the third largest island in Narragansett Bay in the U.S. state of Rhode Island. Prudence Island only has population of 88 and it was very interesting to peek into their island life. I was able to travel to Prudence Island because of my new host sister Zoey, who was part of the Girl Scout. Girl Scout had activities planned in Prudence Island and Zoey wanted me to go with her, and it was absolutely amazing experience. My real host family planned going to Spain during spring break, so I had to find someone to stay with. That's how I met Zoey, and I am so excited to spend rest of the week with her.

6 am, alarm clock rang. It was little early for vacation, but nothing mattered because I was pumped to go to the Prudence Island. The only thing we had to bring was our lunch and bug spray. I was worried about ticks because Zoey told me there were lots of ticks. So, I almost took a shower with a bug spray ;) We had to hurry because the ferry left at 8 am, and to the harbor was about an hour drive. Grabbing a breakfast from Dunkin, we were all ready.

It was colder than I thought, and I was so mad at myself because I left my sweat shirt at home. After 15 minutes of freezing cold, the ferry came. One thing that I thought interesting was that cars traveling on the ferry together. The woman welcomed us with big smile after we got off from ferry and my day was about to start. The woman wanted to show us all natural,

historical, and ecological features that are unique to Prudence Island so she planned out the route that we can walk along. It was about 6 miles of walking, and it went through most of the Southern part of island since Northern part was still very cold and wasn't easy to access.

I was very surprised when I saw the Prudence Island school house. It was one room building with cafeteria and playground outside. It was built during 1896 by Captain Halsey Chase, and it remained till today. The woman told us that there are only 6 students going to this school, and we might think this is so small but she told it actually is very many students. I wondered if they will learn same stuffs as us, and they did. They learned all same stuffs like Algebra, Chemistry, and such. Walking about a mile from the school, we arrived to the division wall. In the mid 1630's, a large boulder (division rock) was used as a survey point to divide the island in half, with Roger Williams owning the northern half and governor John Winthrop owning the southern half. That division rock that runs the length is now known as the division wall.

All of us wanted to do save natural features for the last (best for the last), and so finishing up with Farnham farm and historical cemetery, we head to our last step. Prudence Island is very purified place since not many people lives in. Also, approximately 85% of the island is protected from development. Even though the beach walk in Bay Avenue was about 2 miles of walking, I will say it was the best part of the day. It was my first time being this close to nature since I live in the city and everything I say there made me wordless. It was gorgeous. During the whole walking time, it was so hot and also hard to walk because of undeveloped roads, but I will never forget this awesome day in Prudence Island. Thanks Zoey!

-12기 김지수



Carnival



The season of a carnival is back! A lot of schools and malls set up the carnival, lasting for about a month. I have heard about the carnival, but wasn't interested and didn't even plan to go to any of it. However, this all changed when my Korean friend Jiyoung asked me if I want to go to a carnival with her. So I ended up going with a group of 4: Jiyoung, George, and Adrian. Since it was my first time going to the carnival, we walked around first and saw what was there. For those of you who don't exactly know what's there at a carnival, let me briefly explain some things you will see if you go.

First, all different kinds of rides. These rides might be the first you will see: Ferris wheel, Cliffhanger, fun slide, Hurricane, Mini roller coaster, Reverse bungees, Roter, Top Spin, Tornado, Turbo Drop, and so on. To ride them, you need tickets, which can be purchased at a ticket booth. One ticket is a dollar, but they sell 24 tickets for 20 dollars. So we got two packs of 24 tickets and split them up. Most of the time, one ride cost four tickets. So we went on to three rides total, Roter, Tornado, and Ferris wheel. A rotor is a ride that is a large upright barrel and rotates. As it spins, the riders feel stuck to the wall because of the force of friction due to centrifugal force. Because of that force, the riders might feel dizzy after getting off of the ride. A tornado is a ride that spins while the riders can also turn it using the

handle that is in the middle of the car. The center tilts at 20 degrees, moving the cars up and down. As soon as the ride started to move, we all spin the car so bad that our arms were all tired by the end of the ride. At last, we went on a Ferris wheel, a wheel with multiple passenger-carrying cars attached to the



rim so that as the wheel turns, the cars are upright. We waited to get dark, and then got on the Ferris wheel because up top, it looked beautiful.

Second, the games. Unlike the rides, you play games by paying in cash. Types of the game vary from throwing darts to shooting games. As we were walking down the street full of games, we decided to play a crossbow game. If we get a bullseye of the target, we can choose whatever stuffed animals or characters we want. We all went once, and Jiyoung and I almost got the target but missed it. It was a bit disappointing that it was so close, but we moved on. Then we went to a dart game. Adrian threw the dart and popped all the balloons he needed, so he got a little stuffed animal.

Going to the carnival was such a good idea for all four of us. We had so much fun: playing games, going on a ride, snacking, and enjoying the atmosphere of excitement. Normally, I would just hang out at the mall with my friends, but after going to the carnival, I learned that this truly is a perfect place to hang out and spend time with friends. We laughed a lot, took so many pictures together, and spent the best Friday night.

-12기 이지원