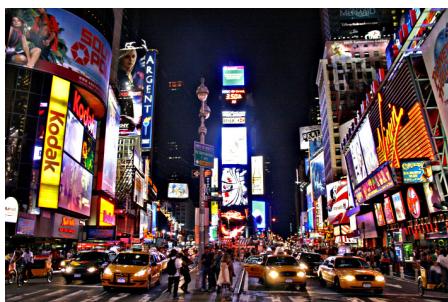


The city that never sleeps - NYC



Astonishingly tall and eye catching extraordinary buildings. I am now walking down the street of the city that never sleeps- New York. Congested with people, the streets are constantly changing filled heavy atmosphere with different people exploring and living their lives.

I recall my first impression of America being very disappointing as quiet and relaxed Chesapeake neighborhood greeted me. I have fell in love with America through watching shows like Gossip Girl, Friends, and How I met your mother where New York is depicted as the main setting so it was quite shocking to realize that United States literally meant "united" states where each states carry its own characteristics and New York is just one of them. However, I have always wished one day to walk around the New York city being like my favorite show characters and unbelievably, starting high school in Rhode Island made my dream come true.

New York is about 3 hours away from where I am. Some might think this as long distance but there are various ways to travel which makes the journey easier. I usually prefer taking an amtrak train that would connect you directly to the Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan, New York from Providence, Rhode Island. I was able to visit New York couple times going on a tour with my friends but this time was special as I was able to spend time with my dad planning my

own schedule and get to explore what I have specifically wanted.

My dad came to America for business as he works for SBS and the significant conference between President Trump and Moon was held couple weeks ago. He planned to visit me and go on a trip to New York while he is in the States and I was so happy to visit my favorite place with favorite person.



The first thing we did in New York was to go on a college tour. As lots of people are aware, New York is not only the most popular city but where majority of famous colleges and their heritages are rooted. My dad and I visited colleges based on my interests which were New York University, Columbia University, Fashion Institute of Technology, and Parsons School of Design. Touring through the campuses made me motivated and gave me reasons why I should work hard. It made me to dream about being part of this amazing community one day.

I was so glad that I was able to visit



Museum of Modern Art where I have always wanted to go. I have been one in Boston but as an art lover, museums are never the same. Every museum contains its own color. MOMA exhibited from first to sixth floor and we spent hours appreciating the master pieces. I highly recommend everyone who are planning to visit to stop by MOMA and take time to enjoy the marvelous artworks.

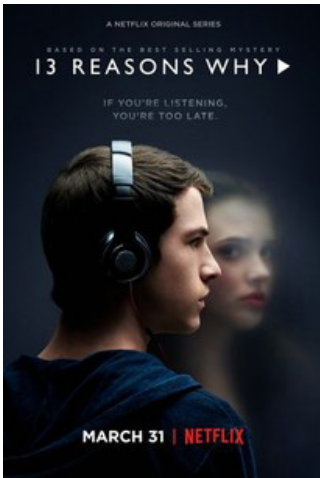
I believe one of the best things that New York City can provide to people is the Broadway Musical. Our family have seen King and I in past but I have always wanted to see the Phantom of the Opera and we were able to fit that into our schedule. The show was beyond



the word and overly impressive. What I love the most about the Opera is the broad range of emotions it offers to the audience and its intensity. You are able to feel real passion, sorrow, despair, love..... everything. I would never forget this. If not already, New York City is where your dream comes true. Come visit and live the life you have always imagined!

-14기 정지우

The Show Thirteen Reasons Why Challenges the Responsibility that Counselors Take



The show called ‘Thirteen Reasons Why’ has been watched by millions of teenagers and people all over the country. The new season has just been released three weeks ago. While delivering very controversial topics, the show has been very successful at conveying right message for troubled and suffering kids carefully. The original series and its subsequent second series provides a critical overview

of American High School culture. The central character is a seventeen year old high school student, Clay Jensen, and his deceased female friend Hannah Baker, who has committed suicide after failing to cope with the culture, gossip and lack of support from her friends and her school. A box of cassette tapes recorded by Hannah in the lead up to her suicide details thirteen reasons why she ended her life.

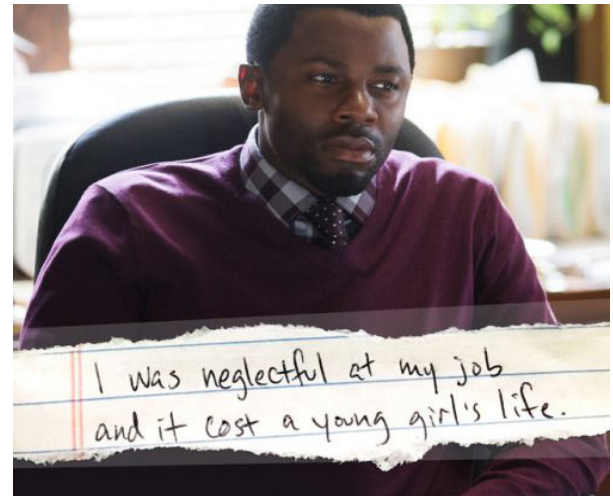
Since the show became hit, many issues arose. The show carefully speaks social issues related to teenagers and high school from drug addiction, abuses from home, gossips, bullyings, sexual assaults and ultimately to responsibilities of adults such



as parents and school faculties to take care of children under their care. In the last episode of the first season, Hannah is sexually assaulted by one of her classmate. She asks her guidance counselor for help. She failed to specifically mention that she had been raped by another student, however she indicated several times that she had intimate sexual relationship with another male student that was not consented.

Nevertheless, the guidance counselor was negligent and careless. He did not do further to resolve the case. He did not let her talk to female counselor although he knew that she was uncomfortable talking to him. He heard that she wanted to end her life, but he let her walk out his room. Consequently, she committed suicide on the same day.

Afterwards, many debates regarding the responsibility of guidance counselors to protect these kids and counsel with their problem correctly and safely arose. To hear right response, I decided to interview my guidance counselor, Mrs. Bonn. She



has been guidance counselor at my school for over thirty years. She has been my favorite teacher at the school and we have maintained very close relationship. She is retiring next year, thus I figured that it was perfect time to interview her with this question and get to know her better before she embarks.

She said counselors’ responsibility is to help students to be safe. She said that her job gets really hard when students are hesitant

to tell her the truth, feeling afraid of being retaliated by telling on them. She said she praises those students who stand up and report the bullies and abuses that she or he was experiencing, because she is aware that



they are uncomfortable because they feel like they are afraid of losing relationship by telling about it and it takes lots of courage to share the story with another person. After watching the show, she said she did not understand the action of the counselor on the show. She said that it is mandatory to tell the supervisor, administrations, and involve parents immediately after hearing something like that – suicide attempt. She said she has to do that by law if she hears any kind of words assuming the report of abuse. She was angry at the action of him, and she said she would do anything she can do to protect students and never let them walk away without any solutions.

-14기 곽현우

FTK! For the Kids!



After the long and intensive preparation, my school, Pope John Paul II High School, accomplished a successful Mini-THON. For those who are not familiar with Mini-THON, Mini-THON is a interactive event for students of all ages that are benefactored by Penn State Health Children's Hospital. This inspires the youth and young adults to be part of a community service that helps kids to conquer childhood cancer. Mini-THON is such a significant and influential event for our society that has been making a difference in the lives of childhood cancer patients and their families since 1993.

Our school has been part of the Mini-THON family since 2015-2016 school year. Due to the fabulous work, PJP raised \$53,775.14 in the first year. Definitely it was an amazing amount of fundraising but guess how much we raised this year! Thanks to the PJP community, we raised \$60,881.32 this year. On the day of the THON, many different things were prepared for the students to participate in: volleyball game, senior hand printing, face painting, moon bounce, dinner, snack and a VIP room!

I attended the Thon as an executive board member this year. It wasn't easy at all to be an executive board member because this year was my first year experiencing the Thon. We started preparing for it since the beginning of this year. To be honest, if somebody asks me about the most memorable moment during the day of THON, my answer will be blowing up the balloons for the decoration. (It took forever!) However, I

won't complain about it because it was all for the kids who are going through hard times. If I need to do that again for the kids, I will definitely go through that again. When we raised the amount we collected up high at the end of the THON, I was so proud of myself.

To reach the goal (which was at least over last year's record or getting over \$55,000) there were many efforts behind the scene not only from the regular participant but also from our executive board members. I was glad to work with our best THON Director, Mrs. Quinlan and this is a short interview that I had with her after the THON.

Q. How do you feel about the THON? Do you think it was successful?

I do think that the thon was successful. We reached our goal and the students had a good time.

Q. Were there any difficulties that make you struggle during the preparation? If there were any, what were they?

There were no major difficulties this year. The executive board worked very well together. They attended meetings, set goals and met them in a timely manner. They were amazing.

Q. What was your best or worst part of the THON?

For me personally, the best part of thon was working with the executive board. They were awesome. This was my first time working with thon. They were extremely helpful to me. The worst part was working many late hours. But the very best part, is being able to help the kids that struggle with cancer. They go through so much. If we can help them with their fight, it is all worth it.

Q. Is there any expectations for the new executive board members next year?

I hope that next years executive board works well together and that they are motivated to put on another successful thon.

Q. Do you want to say anything to the students who didn't participate in the THON this year?

To the students who did not make it to thon, I hope that they are able to join us next year. It's a fun night out and all for a great cause.

As my director mentioned, Thon is such a great event for our society. If any of your schools has this wonderful event, please don't hesitate to attend!

-14기 박지수





Pura Vida Costa Rica !



When I first told my parents about the Costa Rica trip a year ago, they seemed confused. Being in Mount Saint Charles Academy for past 3 years, I have never got out of country, in fact, the farthest I traveled with my classmates was to Boston which is only an hour away from the school. One of the amazing things that our school offer is various traveling options -either in States or abroad- and I have always looked forward for 2018 my junior year to go on one of them. If you decide to take spanish as your foreign language, juniors and seniors would normally travel to Spain or to other spanish speaking countries but since our school have been going to Europe for quite a long time, they decided start a new tradition-Costa Rica trip. When I first heard that Spain is no longer an option for this year, I was little upset because I wanted to experience the culture where the language I am learning was derived. I have, however, could not hide my excitement when I skimmed through the new brochure. The trip was not only held where everyone speaks Spanish but also where I could experience one of the well-preserved part of our beautiful Earth. Lots of people immediately fell in love with this trip but since only 40 people could travel, the competition to sign up was crazy and I



was lucky enough to become a last person who made it to travel to Costa Rica during April break of 2018.

I was so shocked how fast time flies. I still remember impatiently waiting for April to come last year and Costa Rica trip came up even before I have realized. Stressing myself preparing for AP exams and school work, I could have not been more happy to spend time in Costa Rica with my friends listening to spanish music and eating local foods. The hardest part was waking up at 4am to meet with sheparons and friends in school before we go to the airport. Everyone seemed so tired but we were all so ready to just get away from busy life. The flight itself was not long except we stopped in Panama before we entered to Costa Rica and layover was annoying. The airport had a poor air conditioning and being so close to the equator made my body exhausted. I was glad that we are only hour away from Costa Rica.



I first felt little nervous because 10 days is a long time to be together with friends even though we are all very close to each other. I am, however, so grateful for this trip as I was able to become true friends with others and we all suffered together through heat and giant spiders crawling on the floor becoming even closer than before.

Landing in San José, we were greeted by the local tour director Mario and I believe he have made the trip more meaningful as he taught us so much things. Listening to his stories during bus rides, I dreamed one day to come back to Costa Rica with my own family and share



these amazing sceneries and the stories behind them. The trip contained of diverse and unique activities such as visiting to the Poás volcanos, going white water rafting in Sarapiquí river, visiting hot springs, touring local villages near Arenal region, ziplining, planting a tree, kayaking, and walking through the rainforest and Manuel Antonio national park.....There was no time to even think about being bored. We started our days up early in 7am every day but it was totally worth it as I was eager to explore every part of this amazing country Costa Rica and see how beautiful and amazing our planet Earth is.

It is hard to pick a single best experience from the trip as I appreciated every moment but I think the most memorable time was the last day of our journey day 10 when we all went to the hot springs and hangout, go to the folklore dinner, learn the traditional dances and become friends with everybody dancing in local music. I will never forget how easily all of us became friends even though we aren't able to fully understand each other and keep in mind for rest of my life. Pura Vida !!

-14기 정지우



Marching in Washington DC on Memorial Day



Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the soldiers who died while serving in the military forces. The holiday is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May. This holiday is not only crucial for those whose family members passed away while serving for the country, but also for every fine citizen in this country who needs to be reminded of appreciation towards courageous and fearless soldiers who have fought for their country. To celebrate this holiday, many occasional and enjoyable events take place all around the nation. One of the most famous event is the parade held in the capital. It has been tradition for many years that the massive, fascinating parades of several talented bands and celebrities take place in Washington DC on the Memorial Day. Surprisingly, my school acquired an amazing lifetime opportunity to participate in this parade. My band school director is a dedicated, talented musician



who has devoured his entire life for my band. He always tries to find an incredible opportunities for us to improve ourselves and get exposed to something big. He sent an audition tape to the senator of the state of Connecticut. Nobody believed or even thought that my school had a shot. Nevertheless, the senator approved it, and as a representative of the entire state of Connecticut, my school band was able to march in the capital on Memorial Day in front of thousands of crowds, representing the school and the state.

The trip was truly amazing. The school administration was amused by this accomplishment, and decided to fund the trip. Thus, all the band members were able to go down to Washington DC for a day without any cost. The school paid for transportation, hotel, food, and everything. In addition to this, the school made contract with one of the tourist company, and we were able to go to many memorials located in Washington including Vietnam War Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and World War II Memorial. Some of my friends' families were involved in those battles and passed away while fighting for the



country. It was truly meaning experience for all of us to get a chance to see these memorials and even march in this national-level event.

For this parade, my band has practiced for months. Regardless of how cold or hot it had been, we always went outside to practice basic marching skills from



maintaining correct tempos and footsteps to holding instrument up at the same time all together. We memorized the whole music that we played so that we would not have to put music above our instruments. We played the song named Patriotic Parade Sequence for this parade. This composition of song includes 'America, the Beautiful', 'My Country, 'Tis of Thee (America)', and 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'. It had been extremely hard to memorize all the music correctly while take care of our footsteps, distances, and how we would look. Moreover, we had to march for thirty straight minutes without any stop, for more than two miles, in front of thousands of people and cameras keeping an eye on us. There was lots of pressure, and everyone was nervous. However, it was lifetime amazing opportunity for us to be able to represent the state and show our ability in front of the national crowds, and perform for those veterans.

-14기 곽현우

What kind of stories pop up into your mind when you hear the word 'medical drama'?



The main character has many struggles during their youth so he or she studies hard and is finally accepted into a big hospital. After all those hardships and sufferings and dealing with patients in the hospital, the main character succeeds in both work and love at last. Of course, it's a happy ending. I'm sure that all of you are used to these kinds of medical drama.

The Good Doctor, a tv show currently gaining popularity in the U.S., is breaking the mold of medical dramas. The main character, Shaun Murphy, is a little bit different than most people because he has autism and Savant syndrome. When Shaun was young, he had a little rabbit that he cherished a lot. One day his dad got mad at him for not being able to act normal and he killed the rabbit. Shaun got shocked and his brother, Steve, decided to leave the house with Shaun because he couldn't stand his dad's violence anymore. After they left, Steve died accidentally by falling off from a train on which they were playing. When Shaun was wandering on the street after the shock of Steve's death, he met the doctor who tried to save his rabbit. The doctor, Aaron Glassman, decided to take care of Shaun and because of Shaun's knowledge of the human body, he encouraged Shaun to become a surgeon at the hospital where he was the president. Because of Shaun's autism, other chairs from the hospital opposed Aaron, but Shaun became a surgeon and thus, the main story begins.

Because of the popularity, ABC decided to go with a full-season and extended the number of episodes from 12 to 18. As you can see, this drama is not simply illustrating a life in the hospital as well as the main character who has problems with socializing with others because of their personality. It deals with special situations involving a doctor who has autism.

What makes the drama so special is watching Shaun grow as a good doctor and also how to relate to difficult situations. By watching his story, it gives hope to other people who may be in the same condition as Shaun. This message is the strength of The Good Doctor.

While watching this drama, I found out that it was based on the 2013 South Korean series of the same name. Of course, it was also popular in South Korea. It had a season finale a few weeks ago and I enjoyed watching it more than other shows because I was able to compare the two dramas, find differences and I was able to guess the ending of every episode. In my opinion, even though it's based on the original Korean show, I think the US version has its own unique storyline that strengthens the quality of the show.

One thing that I want to tell international students is that watching drama helps you to learn English. A lot of you heard about it already but still there is a difference between just knowing it and trying it. One of the huge benefits is that you can learn natural daily language. There are so many quotes that you can use in real life! If there are students who are willing to study abroad, I highly suggest to watch at least one type of drama series from that country.

So, was this convincing enough for you to get curious and interested about 'The Good Doctor'? Then why don't you try to start watching it?

-14기 박지수

School Choir trip



I'm part of CDS Vocal which is our school's choir. There are about 20 people in the choir. This is my second year in the choir. Last year, we didn't have a choir trip, but this year, our choir teacher decided to have choir trip and planned for it. We'd prepared for songs that we were going to sing during the choir trip. There were about 20 songs that we learned for this trip. Our choir teacher visited Pennsylvania during the summer and planned for the places that we can sing. Also, she searched for places that we can have fun and experience as well.

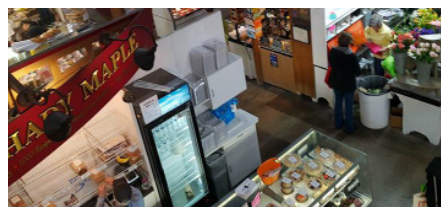
We met at the school at 8 in Thursday and left for Pennsylvania. It took 8 hours to get there. Since we used our small school bus to drive to there, it was really uncomfortable. However, I could talk with my friends on the bus and had lots of fun time there. On the way to Pennsylvania, we stopped at the Five Guys to eat something. After we had food, we sang a song at the restaurant. Even though there were only a few people at the restaurant, but I still felt a little bit embarrassed to sing in front of people. Finally, we got to the hotel where we were going to stay. The hotel was really nice. There was a swimming pool where we could have fun during our free time. Breakfast from the hotel was really good too.

The second day at Pennsylvania, in the morning, we went to the Christian school to sing for them. Since we are in the countryside, the school was pretty small. But, still, there were about 200

students, and we sang about 10 songs. My friends and I were so tired after we sang all songs because it was in the morning, and also the songs are pretty hard to sing. However, we were happy that we didn't make any mistakes. After we sang at the school, we went to see the pretzel market. They made pretzels for really long time. We could see how they made their pretzel, learned about the history of the pretzel and learned how to make the shape of the pretzel.



After that, we went to the chocolate factory and could buy some fresh chocolates that were really delicious. Then at night, we went to see the musical called Jesus. It was about the story of Jesus, and it was amazing. It was the best musical I have ever watched. They used lots of modern technology, and it was fantastic. Singers were really good, and everything was unbelievable.



In the third day, we went to the marketplace, and we sang there. A lot of people were there, and they enjoyed us singing. One of the sellers there really enjoyed our songs and gave us free glasses of milk to drink. It was original and fresh milk. After that, we went the place where we can see Amish stuff so learn about their culture and tradition.

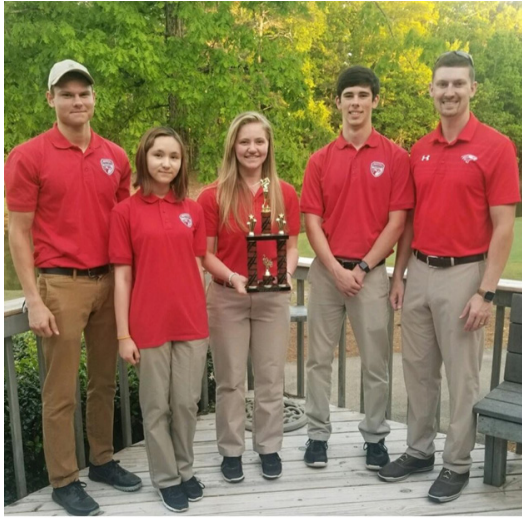


Amish are a group of the traditional Christian church who are separated from modern stuff. They don't even have TV or phone. They ride buggy with a horse instead of driving a car. It was really interesting. Then we visited Amish family for dinner. They served us really great food. All of them were delicious. We could experience riding buggy and could see lots of horses. Like I heard, they didn't have any modern things. All of them are dressed up same, and their hairstyle was same as well. We sang our songs, and they showed us their songs. It was great time to know them and their culture.

Sunday, we went to the church near our hotel. It was really the modern church. It was interesting to see this type of church. We ate lunch at the pizza restaurant. I didn't mention above, but we sang at every restaurant after we ate. Then at night, we visited rescue mission and sang in there. My friends shared their testimonies, and they were impressive. Our songs moved people's heart, and I could see it. I was happy. We could get to know each other with people in there and heard about their stories which are really sad.

Monday, we came back from Pennsylvania. I won't forget everything that I experienced in there, and it was a valuable time.

My life in America



April was a very fun month. During the month of April, we had a competition called GACS and previously I had entered in a competition against acrylic painters. The competition was very exciting and I got a second place in acrylic painting. Later that day I went to my Cheerleading coach's house and we had a girls night with the cheerleaders. We brought many snacks and we watched movies, And played with our coach's baby and her cat. A few weeks later everyone went to a competition called AACS, That competition was in Bob Jones University in North Carolina, Only a few people were left at school, and I was one of them. People who got 1st place in the GACS competition went to the a AACS competition. During the time when everyone were gone, the school seemed really peaceful and quiet and we didn't do any school work except for self studying. Those days seemed like holidays.

This month we also had a golf competition in the Lake Spivey Golf Course. Only three schools participated in it. Everyone in our team we're really excited to play. We played 9 holes in four hours, and we got 2nd place in both varsity and junior varsity. And after the golf game we went to a pizza buffet and celebrated our 1st ever golf tournament.

My local representative is the best, She always takes me to cool places, And we do our MCR there. One time she took me to her church with her family, And her church was so much fun and very Inspiring. After church we went to a mall, And ate lunch. After lunch we went to the shops and did some shopping with my local representative's daughter. We had so much fun together.

We also had a junior and senior banquet this month. I already bought a dress a few months ago and I was so excited to go to this junior and senior banquet. Our class earned money throughout the year by doing different types of fund raisers, like selling ice cream sundaes at school, doing car washes, and doing many other bake sales. So we earned enough money to invite our seniors to a restaurant, and serve them either steak or chicken. We made a presentation for our seniors and had lots of fun during the banquet. Everyone took many pictures during the banquet, so we can remember this day for our whole life.

-14기 김지선



Graduation



My second oldest host brother graduated the college. He attended Appalachian State University which was at Boone, North Carolina. To celebrate his graduation, my host grandparents, parents, brothers, and I went to Boone and stayed there for 4 days. We left on Thursday and came back on Sunday. We stayed in the nice hotel-pension. It was in the mountain. Since lots of people will stay there, it was pretty big. Also, it looked really nice.

My host brothers and I went hiking. There was a famous mountain called Grandfather Mountain. It's because the mountain looked like grandfather's face. I could see it too. It was interesting. We hiked up to the top of the mountain. The way to get to the top was pretty hard. Lots of rocks, lots of muds, and lots of leaves made it harder to get to the top. On the top of the mountain, I could see the really beautiful scenery. We stayed there for a while and appreciated the scenery.

On the graduation day, we went to the college and celebrated it. There were lots of people. I think about 200 students were graduating. Some students and professors gave speeches. After the speeches, they nominated every individual student and gave them awards. After the ceremony, we came outside and took pictures. At this time, I could look around the college. It was pretty.

It was a great time to spend time with my host family. Also, it was great to know how the graduation work.

-14기 심예균