

conGRADulation!



It is that time of the year in Mount Saint Charles Academy--graduation. Being part of the school community since freshman year, I have always thought being a senior is a far away thing. After this graduation, I will officially become a senior; Isn't this crazy? Just as it is in Korea, graduation is a very special ceremony for all. It not only means students are moving on to the college, but also means they are officially becoming independent. In fact, lots of my friends are going to college out of the state meaning they are leaving home and will see their family and friends only during holidays. Part of the national honor society member and to celebrate my friends' graduation, I attended to class of 2018 graduation in June 10th, 2018.



Graduation in our school is little special and meaningful as it also celebrates 50 year reunion together with the graduation ceremony. Before giving out the diplomas to the graduating students, they call out the alumnis and recognize them publicly. I think this is what makes our

school different with others. I don't know what I would be doing 50 years from now, but I would love to make to my 50 year reunion and see all of my friends with grandma, grandpa faces. After the 50 year reunion, recognition of top 3 follows. Valedictorian then gives a speech and everyone was very touched by it. I was a close friend with the valedictorian, Julia Dispirito as we ran cross



country together and she often helped with school. I was very proud of her and all of her achievements. What made her speech so moving was her honest story that might have been hard to share. She have told what gave her the hardest time throughout high school was having a self-confidence, which surprised me because she is one of the most gorgeous people in our school in my opinion. She always thought she is not good enough which made me sad to hear about but she emphasized how important is to "be yourself." She reinforced the fact that we are all very pre-

scious and therefore, nothing should be on the way of being "you." I agree with her and I believe this is one of the hardest things we often struggle in our society. Everyone wants to get "accepted" to their peers and as it is a positive social interaction, also has lots of consequences. I will try not to forget how important to be Jiwoo Jeong, so no regrets will be left when graduating next year.

The ceremony was about an hour long and I was sad that next year I wouldn't be able to see any of them during the day. Saying goodbye is always the hardest thing to me and I tried not to cry. Most depressing of all is that I was not able to attend to any of the grad parties I was invited because I left the next day to Korea. I wish all of them a best luck and thank for making my experience in United States even more meaningful. Congratulations!

-15기 정지우



My Best Homecoming Week Ever



Conwell-Egan Catholic High school had the Homecoming week. Homecoming is the event that we celebrate to coming back to the home, which is school. For this homecoming week, Student Council planned the stuff to do during the homecoming week. These plans are the plans which every student enjoyed. On Monday, we changed the songs during lunch times. When students pay 50 cents for a song, then we play the songs that are requested and enjoyed the songs. Everyone one having a fun time.

On Tuesday, we had a Tangled Hair Tuesday. The craziest hair in every lunch gets 5 dollars of gif card. Some freshmen and sophomores made crazy

hairs and enjoyed!

On Wednesday, we had the Movie Day. At the Movie day, we turned our Spirit Night dances. Also, the fresh popcorns were sold for a dollar.

On Thursday, we had the Student Council Induction Mass. All of the new Student Councils, including class representative, class president, international representative, etc. were nominated to the stage and got the badges. After getting the badges, all of the Student Council took the pictures.

On Friday, we had the Dress Down day and the Homecoming dance. For the dress down day, we wore the Conwell-Egan Catholic stuff such as CEC hoodie are shirts. Also, we had the homecoming

dance. At this homecoming dance, more freshmen and other students participated in the dance. Everyone was having fun and enjoying the dance.

On Saturday, we had the homecoming football game. Our school is the UNDEFEATED team. And 1st in the district. Conwell-Egan Eagles won the Bonner & Prendie Friars by 55 to 6. It was a really huge win. Conwell-Egan Eagles will make the playoffs this season.

-15기 신원종

School Sports



Being academically successful is very important, but keeping yourself fit and being healthy is another important part of life for everyone, especially for students. The high school that I attend to has a variety of sports for students to play. There are different sports for fall, winter, and spring, which gives students an opportunity to experience different kinds of sports.

I am part of the varsity cheerleading team, which cheers for the varsity football team. Since football is a fall sport, cheerleading is considered a fall sport. We cheer on the sidelines at the football games, and perform on the field during half time. There are football games almost every Friday or Saturday during Fall. In order to be accomplished cheerleaders, we have practice after school, 3 days a week as a team. We are required to be at every practice, unless we have an acceptable excuse, so that we can become a stronger team. I enjoy this sport because I used to be a gymnast and currently am a dancer. I am very pleased that my school has a sport that fits my interest.

Our school has a lot of other various sports that would fit many students' interests. For example, if you like running, you can join the track team, or if you like ice skating, you can join the ice hockey team. I think that the opportunity given for sports is convenient because you get to do what you like to do while keeping yourself in shape. Also, it is a good chance for

you to tryout and learn the sport that you have never played before!

All these sports played by high school students show the culture difference between Korea and America. In Korea, most students are very competitive with their academics and they do not keep up with sports. If a Korean student chooses to be an athlete, they will put all their effort in being the best at the sport and not focus on academics as much. On the other hand, American students focus on their academics and try to keep up with sports, but they are not as competitive with either. I think both, the Korean and American, way of doing things have advantages and disadvantages but they are definitely different. If you are ever attending a school in America, you should participate in sports to experience their cultures and have fun while you are keeping yourself healthy.

-15기 노지수

Amazingly Fascinating TV Show For You To Watch



Riverdale has been an incredible hit for teenagers in the United States. This crime, high-teen, mystery and romance tv show has amazingly interesting storylines and extremely attractive and diverse characters. The season three of this show has just started, and everyone has access to the show through the Netflix. Each season talks about a different incident. The first season's plot follows like this: 'The quiet little town of Riverdale is turned upside down after it is struck with the mysterious death of Jason Blossom, a popular high school student and member of the most powerful family in town. Archie and his friends explore the struggles of everyday life in a small town whilst taking on the haunting case of Jason Blossom. In order to solve this mystery, the rag tag group of friends must first unlock the secrets that lie buried deep beneath the surface of their hometown. Riverdale may not be as innocent as it appears'.

Although they promoted like the entire

seasons are going to be about the death of Jason Blossom, but season two is based on a completely different story. It picks up where the first season is left off, but season two is focused on the black hood incident, who tries to kill all the sinners in the town. As the plot suggests, the town is full of mysteries and secrets. All the characters are hiding secrets that are dangerous, incriminating and destructively evil. Black hood, executor of sinners in town, tries to murder anyone who he thinks has corrupted the morality of the town. As protagonists search for the identity of this man, the secrets of the town are getting revealed, which is an extremely interesting part of this show.

At the end of the season two, the identity of the black hood is getting revealed, and the season three picks up from that scene, and explains the aftermath of these two incidents. The season three actually just started a week ago, therefore it is really worth trying to watch the show at this very moment, because we

all can enjoy finding out what happens next every week - This is the whole point of watching a mystery genre tv show.

Not only Riverdale is an amazingly fun show to watch, watching American tv shows helps international students to be exposed to American culture and conventional English speaking. Especially high-teen shows like this help them to learn what kind of languages and expressions American high school students tend to use often, and what kind of things they do with their friends, which are necessary things for us to know to assimilate into the new culture and environment and acquire the best out of this privilege of studying abroad. We have to keep our identity, but we need to learn America once we come here.

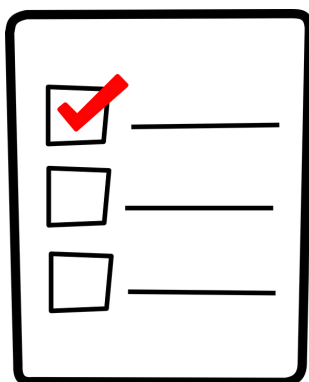
I strongly recommend you to watch the show and find out all these for yourself!

Letter from a self-claimed packing expert



Whenever I am going on a trip-long or short- I always spend the most time on packing. I am a person who always jumble my suitcases with random things just so that I can prepare for every possible scenarios I might face. Traveling back and forth to Korea and US numerous times for past 5 years, I can say that I got somewhat closer to the level of "packing expert." Today, I would like to share some of my very useful tips to everyone :).

To be honest, packing for US was probably one of the hardest challenges I went through as I had to make sure I was not leaving anything behind. To begin with my very first tip, create a list. Even before you open the gigantic baggages, spend some time to make a list of things you need. To be more specific, categorizing is the key to success. I always divide my list into three chunks- school, home, and food. This may look too simple but I did not had any troubles so far with those three.



This is based solely on my opinion, but I think Korea makes the better school needs. Within less than 1km, most people can easily find stationery store to basically "shop" their school supplies. You have so much to choose from. They are usually a reasonable price too. In United States, there are very limited in design and made in low quality-- my notebook cover fell off after two weeks I purchased it. Unless you want to see the magic of having identical school supplies with all of your friends- 98 cent black marble composition notebook and five star folders- shop few school supplies before you leave to America. If you have a time, buy some extra stuffs and give it to your friends as a gift! My friends always ask where I buy my notebooks and pens so I bought some as a gift last time and they loved it. Especially when you are girl, this can be a great opportunity to get closer with your friends!



I would recommend not packing too much of living supplies unless you are going to live in the dorm-where it is hard to leave to do errands- because you can find pretty much everything in stores like Target, Walmart, Stop and Shop... If there is a typical thing that you are not sure whether they have it in the US, bring it but I never pack things like shampoo, body wash, and other basic things. There are so many different kinds of shampoos for example and I like to experiment buying different shampoo every time to find my best one-and I did.

You might not agree with me with this last category-food- but make sure you pack some Korean foods. One of my happiest moments is eating and I enjoy American food but sometimes they are too cheesy or I simply miss taste of home. I am sure there is going to be at least one time where you just want to shove Kimchi or gochujang into your mouth after eating Mac and Cheese 7 days a week.



I hope you guys found my real-life tips useful and I am happy for those going on a new journey to live in the US. Prioritize your essential needs and have a great packing!

-15기 정지우



Six hour drive to an American University Football game



American football is huge in American culture. After attending several football games, I noticed how passionate Americans are when it comes to football. Among the crowds, there were many of whom who had been supporting for that one team for years. And then, you get me, who got confused of which team I was supporting for.

My host family and I went on a week-end trip to Iowa City to watch a university football game that was sold out three weeks before the game. Since I am not entirely interested in football, and do not know rules of football, I can not say I was super excited to go especially after being told that it was going to be a six-hour drive to the game.

With an overly packed bag, and a tired body, I got myself into the back of the car where I would be spending the next six hours. I hoped to get some sleep, but my mind was too fully awake. I listened to my newly added playlist on Apple Music and watched the crop fields as we drove pass by. It was a beautiful day with fluffy clouds in the sky.



Have you ever heard of 'Chinese fire drill'? I had no idea what it was until my hostmom had to explain it to me. Basically, it is a prank where the car stops as soon as someone shouts out, "Chinese fire drill!", then everyone gets out of the car to find a different seat that is not your original seat. We did it twice on the way to Iowa City. It was not fun for me because I was enjoying my original seat at the back.

Arriving at the stadium, I swear I had never seen so many people in America gathered in one place. It was almost shocking to see how many people were there. It was a stadium with 70,585 seats in total, and it was sold out! We were color coded in yellow for supporting Iowa Hawkeyes, and the opposing team wore purple.

The game was about three hours long, and as a person who has no idea what was going on on the field, the time seemed to have stopped. One minute felt like an hour to me. Finally, the game was over by 10 pm. Our supporting team had won, and the crowd was cheering like wild animals. I could not



be happier when the game was over, my mind was already in bed.

Next day, we got into the car to drive back home. It took another six hours with a several bathroom breaks. Total of 12 hours in the car made me sick with runny nose, constant sneeze, and a sore throat. I was extremely happy when I got home and I could finally sleep in my own bed, and I was too sick to go to school the next day. We had made another unforgettable memory together. Living with a crazy host family is fun and exciting! My life in America is never once boring with my host family..

-15기 박미성

Family visits Family



Visiting a new country can be one of the biggest turning points for any international student who studies abroad in various countries. For sure, it was also a huge life changing moment for me. Among many different stories that I'm going to share this year, the first one is about my two beloved families.

Before I start my actual story, I want to briefly share about the relationship between my host family and me. I came to the United States in the beginning of 2016 and I have been staying with the same host family since then. All of us never expected our relationship to be this solid before we met each other. However, here we are! To become one family, all of us tried hard. We always try to have at least one meal together every day and do various things together such as bowling, playing sports, or watching TV! At this point, the most important thing that I want to emphasize is your mindset. Opening your mind is important but don't just stop from there! Try to step up and come up with activities that may help you to become closer with them.

Anyway, due to this wonderful connection, my host parents and I ended up visiting my family back in Korea. Everyone was so surprised about this and I'm pretty sure that most of them

wanted to join us. We started planning three months before we visited Korea. As you know, one of the best parts of your travel is when you start to search where you want to visit. All three of us were so excited. It was definitely a unique experience for me to be a tour guide in my own country and also for my host parents to travel some place that they've never been before.

The flight back to Korea was not long at all this year. Being three was better than being all by myself. I was really touched when my family and my host parents hugged each other at the airport. That was one of the best memories that I'll keep forever. Anyway, as soon as we arrived and till the last day of our visit, we did so many things together. We went to Seoul, Gangneung (one of the famous ocean city in Korea), Jeju island, and many other places near our house. Also, I was able to show my graduate schools to my host parents. Translating two languages at the same time was pretty tough, but it was worth it.

13 days weren't long enough at all. Actually, my family moved 2 days before we went to Korea. Compared to when my host parents and I visited, they are more settled in now. So my families are still asking my host family to revisit



my host parents are asking my parents to visit the U.S. It's not easy to deal with these two energetic families, but I will never get tired of this because I love them so much. Hope all of you had a great summer like I had and have a great year with your host families:)

-15기 박지수



Conwell Egan Catholic High school Sadie Hawkins Dance 2018



Conwell Egan Catholic had a welcome back dance on September 14th. The dance's name was the Sadie Hawkins Dance. Sadie Hawkins Back-To-School dance is not that formal dance. Boys can wear the shorts and girls can wear the rompers. The Sadie Hawkins Back-To-School dance was held in the school cafeteria. The theme of the Sadie Hawkins Back-To-School dance was the "Under the Stars."

Before the Sadie Hawkins Back-To-School dance, we had the dress down day at that day. The theme was "Impress Yourself," which was we have to be ready to show people who ourselves are. This theme choice was pretty good that we can show the people what themselves are.

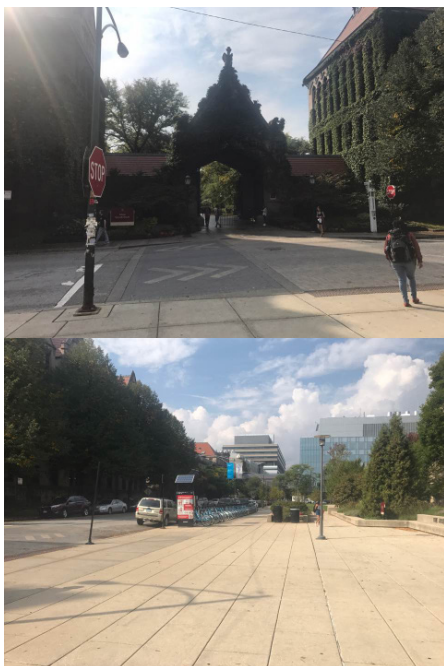
I am in the Student Council, so we were decorating the cafeteria before the dance. We made the photo booth which was perfectly connected to the theme. We made the glowing crescent and glowing stars at the background. These backgrounds made the picture so perfect. Also, we decorated another photo booth which the blue background and silver stars.

The Sadie Hawkins Back-To-School dance was so fun. Every sophomore, juniors, seniors were hyped up and enjoyed the dance. We made a circle around the people who danced really well. Then we yelled and cheered the people. Everyone was enjoying the dance. Also, there was a Sadie's Queen and King announcement. Hunter Gartland and Caitlin Wickham are the Sadie's King and Queen.

-15기 신원종



College Visit To University Of Chicago



Last week, I was able to go to Chicago for a week to visit my friend who is a graduate student at the University of Chicago to visit UChicago. My initial aspiration for University of Chicago began with the encounter with my lover. University of Chicago is one of the most competitive, highly selective college in the United States, and famous for its unique approach to educations - narrow focus on the pure and fundamental disciplines. Many students have a stereotype of University of Chicago being extremely nerdy school - there is a famous maxim about University of Chicago, saying 'It's where fun goes to die'. I was not sure if I really wanted to attend this school for the person whom I love, however, the school had much more values and fascinating characteristics.

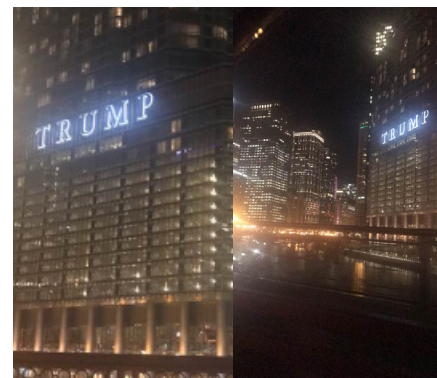
I was lucky to enter the class and hear the lecture of this graduate student psychology and political theory class, taught by Mr. Nasbaum at the Kent Hall in University of Chicago. The lecture was merely about the perspectives in social science analysis. As the puzzling title

of the class suggests, the context of this lecture was extremely complicated and difficult, although the way professor taught was incredibly straightforward and concise. All the students there would not talk and go to the bathroom for two hours, and engage in the class by asking many questions, writing down notes and commenting on what they think about while researching topics and contexts related to the subject on Google at the same time, which really inspired me. The maxim saying UChicago students being extremely smart and hardworking was true, but there was more to it - they were sincerely eager to learn more and more to pursue their desires.



Then, I was able to study with my lover in the silent study hall in the library. Connected through the narrow hallway that is covered with glasses, the library had a ceiling that is made out of transparent glasses with a beautiful pattern that allowed sunlights to come into the building and let students to observe the beautiful weather and architectures around the library. There was not a single person talking, and the library was a space of full silent. Everyone was working insanely hard, and I was thinking, 'This is the place that could affect me become who I want to be in the future by forcing me to get the best out of me with the most competitive, hardworking and intelligent classmates around me.

In addition to all these, University of Chicago is located close to the down-



town of Chicago, which gave me an access to go and see famous attractions at Chicago such as the Willis Tower or Trump Tower. Chicago is famous for its amazing night views with many organized and concentrated skyscrapers. Besides, the university was founded very long time ago, thus each building of university is extremely antique and classic, which pleased me all along the trip. If you have not thought about applying for University of Chicago, I strongly recommend you research and visit the school, because it was one of the best suited college for me I could find!

-15기 곽현우



My first visit to a farm



Did everyone have a great summer vacation? I hope you all did:) My summer was too short but at the same time it was great. After coming back to the states from Korea, I was able to do lots of different activities besides studying. One of the activities that I'm going to share is about my visit to a FARM.

It's really easy to see wide farmlands that have various live-stock in the United States. Since I was young, I always dreamt of running all around the grassy farmland and having a big bite from the fresh fruits which I cultivated by myself. Luckily, I was able to achieve part of my dream this August. I received the invitation from Mr. Kirby to visit his farm and pick up some peaches! For your information, Mr. Kirby is one of the board members from my high school. He helps international students to express concerns or thoughts to the school without having any trouble.

I first met him in the middle of school last year. He set up the meeting with international students to see if there were any comments or concerns that we wanted to discuss about our high school. He paid attention to each one of us and promised to make sure this discussion passed down to the school board members so it can be discussed during their meeting. All of us

were really thankful and he ended up inviting us to his farm during the summer.

I was really surprised when he actually called me to let me know that I can come over with my host family. Since he told me that I can pick as many peaches as I wanted, I was all ready for it. However, when we actually got there, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby greeted us with a huge hug and a whole bunch of different fruits and vegetables that they had already picked for us! They also gave us a dozen eggs that were newly-laid that morning. All three of us were full-handed when we came back home. Before they gave us all of these amazing gifts, Mr. Kirby also showed us around his farm. He had black cows, chickens, and various fruit trees. I got another invitation from him to visit again when apples are in season in October.

Since it rained a lot this year, the fruits were so sweet and juicy. Of course, it was great to receive all of those gifts, but I was more thankful that I was able to get to know a little more about Mr. Kirby. I can't wait to re-visit him again this October.

Red Gala



Red Gala is an event held by a sorority group at University of South Dakota. My host sister belongs to that sorority group. This year was our second year attending the gala since she is a sophomore at the university. Just like the name of the gala, we were all supposed to wear red. However, since I did not own a red dress, I decided to wear a dress that had a hint of red in it.

Everyone at the gala looked fabulous. It looked like a Hollywood event because almost all the girls in the sorority group looked like blonde Hollywood actresses. The event's cause is to raise money for the ones with heart disease. Therefore, they do numbers of live auction events and things like that to raise money. It was interesting to witness the live auction because the prices went up so fast like crazy.

At the Red Gala, they have waiters walking around with small desserts. That night, I ended up eating more than six small cups of chocolate cheesecake. I felt so good after that though. I also ate some of the pork belly buns, which was as good as the chocolate cheesecake. All the students ran towards the food section after the gala was over because they were not allowed to eat during the gala. I joined their little food party afterwards.

My host family and I went to the waterfalls that is in the city. It was freezing as if the winter was just around the corner. I had to walk in barefoot since the shoes I wore to the gala was hurting me. We had a short photoshoot by ourselves. Then we drove home singing to Ed Sheeran's "Perfect".



Spending quality time with your host family is as important as doing well at school because spending time with American host family means experiencing new culture. Depending on the host family you have, you may not go out as much as the other host family, but you still need to appreciate them.

I have been lucky enough to be with a host family that loves to do things. I get to go out more often than other friends that I know. Sometimes they can be too active, but I try my best to fit in. I can't wait for the days ahead.

-15기 박미성



How to have fun in high school



It is true that everyone likes to have fun. As a high school student, it might be hard to find a balance between having fun and focusing on academics. I am going to give a few tips on how to find this balance since I found the balance that works well.

It is very important for students to keep good grades, but it is also important for students to have a break from school work and have fun. During week days, you should focus on getting all your homework done, and studying for tests and quizzes. But for weekends, you can make fun plans! For example, you can see if there are any events going on at your school or county that you can attend to. School shows or musicals are always an fun option, and county fairs and carnivals are very entertaining! You can ask your friends to go with. If there aren't anything going on, you can still plan sleepovers and such with your friends. You can go watch a movie, go bowling, go to a trampoline park, and many other options. This allows you

to enjoy your life, and also gives you an opportunity to get closer with your friends.

After your amusing weekend, you need to get yourself back together and get ready for another school week. Make sure that you did all of your homework, and be prepared for your classes. Keep up with your grades by constantly checking them, and if you need to bring your grade up, talk to your teachers and ask how you can bring it up. Planning your own life and choosing how to spend your own time is the key. You should know what you have to do, but also what makes you happy. It might be hard to accomplish doing all the work and having fun, but once you find the balance and get use to it, it will make your life easier.



제 15기 통신원 자기소개서



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Hello. My name is Jiwoo Jeong. I have been studying in US since 8th grade and in couple of days I will become a senior--yes, time flies. I go to Mount Saint Charles Academy in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Rhode Island is part of New England and a great area as one of the best art institutes--RISD--and Ivy league colleges--Brown University-- are located. I love to write and I hope my stories can contribute to your learning about American culture and life. I will try my best to reflect my experience thoroughly and in as detailed as possible. I am thankful to my parents who have opened up a whole new world for me and studying in US has allowed me to view things in a broader perspective. For anyone who is wondering about anything regarding studying in America, don't hesitate to ask me questions :) Thank you.



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통신원 일을 함으로서 미국에서의 생활을 사람들에게 더욱더 알려줄 수 있는 좋은 기회라고 생각된다. 내가 하고 싶은 일은 신약개발이다. 이런 경험은 훗날 나에게 내가 개발한 약에 대한 저널을 작성하거나 무언가를 글을 작성할 때 도움을 줄 것이다. 좋은 기회를 접하게 되어서 매우 기쁘다.



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취미/특기 댄스, 치어리딩
장래희망 확실하지는 않지만 수학, 과학 쪽 또는 변호사

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이름 박미성 (Misung Park)

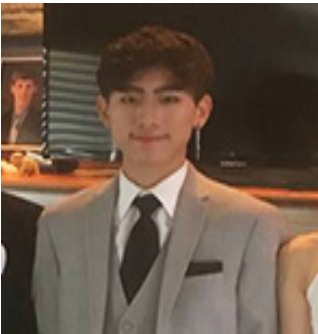
학년 12학년

학교 O'Gorman High School

취미/특기 Singing , watching Netflix and taking photographs

장래희망 Designer-Dream college is Fashion Institute of Technology in New York

As I have communicated with other exchange students at my school, I have found common challenges being international students. No matter where you are from it can be difficult. I would like to share my experiences in America for other students to be able to receive new information.



이름 Hyunwoo (Daniel) Kwak **학년** 12th grade **학교** Notre Dame High school CT

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