

My Experience with AP



If you are planning on attending schools in the states or are already attending one, I bet you are familiar with AP. AP, Advanced Placement, is a program created by College Board which offers college-level courses and exams to high school students. If you pass the exams, you may be granted college credits. Currently, there are 38 courses and exams available through the AP Program. As a student who wanted to be competitive, I took three AP courses this year. Starting now, I will tell you all about my experiences with AP, and what I felt during the course of preparing for the exams.

I'll start with the hardest AP course among the three I took: AP U.S. History. I decided to take this course because a lot of my friends who took this course told me it was a very easy and interesting class. Since I was not so sure about my ability to excel in an advanced history course, I was skeptical about my decision. Well, it turns out that I was right. It was obviously true that the course is interesting, however, it was not easy. It required a lot of memorization, a great reading skill, and a high-level writing. While I was highly confident on my writing abilities, I was not so confident on my reading skills. In the beginning, I struggled with understanding and interpreting various original documents which date back to 1400s. It took me a while to get used to Old-English and to be able to draw answers to questions from the passages. If you are not confident in your reading and writing skills, you might want to reconsider taking this course because the test score highly depends on your ability to read and write.

However, if you are interested in history and are willing to go through all the hard works required to excel in the exam, I highly recommend this course for you.

Another AP course that I took is AP English Language and Composition. This course can basically be considered as an advanced American Literature class, plus learning how to write three specific types of essays. The primary skill required to do well on this course is the skill to analyze documents, in terms of the rhetorical devices used in the documents. Although it is not easy to casually read the passage and determine which rhetorical devices are used, you can make this easy by practicing. If you like to read books and you think you are a tiny bit talented in language, you can definitely do well in this course. Therefore, I think it is a great idea to take this course as far as your school allows you to take it.

Finally, it comes to AP Calculus. As you probably know, Asians are generally more likely to do well in Math courses than others. I want to say that AP Calc is easy enough for all of you guys to take it, even if you were not so great at Math when you were in Korea. I was not good at Math at all in Korea. However, I could maintain straight As in this course. In the process of college admission, Asian students are expected to be good at math. Hence, in order to be more competitive and to be able to prove your intelligence to the colleges, you should definitely take AP Calculus.

To sum up, I want to say that it is better if you start as early as possible. If you start early, you will be able to take more AP courses. Taking a lot of AP courses and getting good scores on the exams is basically paving your way to great schools that are highly selective, such as Ivy League Schools.

-13기 강민아

Student Election Day



Every year, student school chose their leaders and give some authority. We call student election. This year, I was involved in student council and executive board. The meaning of executive meaning is Group of directors appointed to act on behalf of, and within the powers granted to them by, the board of directors. Typically it consists of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. So make their own place and give authority and responsibility to little amount of person. So I have some responsibility to school advertising and promotion our reputation and serve their service or volunteer services for school so like sacrifice with responsibility. For example school events like a homecoming and sadies hawkins day. During in the school season you have to chose theme and decorate

things with executive board members. Before to chose theme we have to qualified form student life officer. After qualified we are going to start mail to every class representatives to support decorating. However some representatives not coming out. We making strike system, so if some representative not coming out for helping and they get strike and if over three, they are kicked out. So when you got in class representatives please helping student council members so they don't need to feel unfair. Anyway, this year I elected to vice president in Conwell-egan. It is really pride and responsibility to me because it is more weight positions to working for the school, and have a lots of job with faculties. However, it is good for your future because you can make your college application more unique and qualified so it

going to more helpful to emphasize my attitude like a sacrificing and leadership, so if some international students get chance to student council election, I'm highly recommend to trying executive board. It is a little bit annoying to filled out register form, making speech, and campaign stuff, but it is really helpful to your experience. Thank you and have a great summer.

-13기 김창재

My School

My school is awesome, I have a lot of friends and many great teachers. I have studied in Bible Baptist Christian School for about five months now, and my experience there is going pretty good so far. Studying was a little bit hard at first, but I got used to everything some time later, and I appreciate the time my teachers gave me to explain their lessons, even after school, so I am truly grateful for their effort. My classmates are really smart and they always make me laugh.

A couple of weeks after I enrolled to BBCS, I made a great amount of friends, we usually like to gather up after school to chat and play games. Our school also lets students participate in various sports, such as: basketball, soccer, golf, volleyball, basketball, baseball and cheerleading, and I am planning to join a couple of sports during my next year. The cafeteria food is pretty good, they serve nachos, pizza, burgers, and fries. I usually bring my own lunch, sometimes my host mother makes me lunch and sometimes I make my own.



Our school has a little cozy library, gigantic gym, baseball and soccer field, and a big chapel. Lessons usually start at 8:00am and end at 3:20pm, then we have a 10 minute snack time and 20-30 minute lunch break. School uniform looks nice and is fairly comfortable, girls wear knee-long skirts in beige or dark color and polo shirts in various colors, like red, white, black or gray, and boys wear long pants in beige or neon blue color, and polo shirts. Classes are really fun, especially biology, we experiment a lot in there, like hatching chicken eggs which I later took to my house and raised, dissecting flowers, frogs and even fetal pigs!! That was my first time doing such fun and extreme experiments, and at the same time it was educational and useful since I want to become a surgeon in the future. History is also one of the best classes, our teacher teaches in her own special way, it almost feels like she is telling us a story or a fairy tale, she always adds funny or unique historical facts to her stories, that no other teacher will think of telling, I can't believe it myself, but I actually started to love history and my grades went up. Every Wednesday we go to the chapel, every week a new pastor comes to preach and teach us about bible. Sometimes the preachers come from different universities, and tell students about their university and allow student to learn more about university options.

-13기 김지선

For the kid, Mini THON

Since last year our school started a special fundraiser called Mini thon. This fundraiser is for the kids who have child cancer. This might sounds like a normal fundraiser but the way we raise money is very special. We can set our goal and raise money as much as we can by using online website. If each person raises 20 dollars they can get a ticket to join mini thon party. At the party we have a gym that plays the music the whole night so we can dance. We also have a food court that we can have drinks and snacks throughout the night. We play volley ball, basket ball, and other sports at the small gym. We also have karaoke and photo booth. One interesting thing about mini thon is that we can't sit through the whole party. We have to stay stand even when we eat. Some schools have the entire night thon but fortunately our mini thon was only for 6 hours. It is still a very long time but nobody complains about it because we are willing to do that. We raise money not only for the kid but also for our own good memory with friends.

Since last year was my first year I didn't have lots of friends so I didn't go to mini thon last year. However this year I met really good friends and I decided to go to mini thon. I got the mini thon t-shirts from school few days before party. We were allowed to wear it instead of school uniform on thon day. Thon started right after school on Friday. We danced, sang, and took pictures. I really had fun with my friends and it was very special experience for me. One of the senior donated his talent and did little rap concert. Everyone was so excited with that. We shout and jump all together. Even we were all enjoying the party we didn't forget what we were there for. We invited one family that has a child who had child cancer. Their son didn't make it but their speech taught us how important the mini thon is to them. How helpful it is and how thankful they are. We raised 53,775 dollars that night. I believe it was most impressive experience I ever did. If I ever get another chance to do it, I will definitely do it FTK, for the kid.

-13기 류문정

Stereotypes, True or False?



As students who are about to experience a totally different life, I bet you are both nervous and exciting. I'm assuming that you are imagining what it is going to be like in an American high school, and what the students are going to be like. Two years ago, I had the same thoughts as you did. Therefore, I will assess the validity of the two most common stereotypes, imaginations, and expectations that you have, as far as my experience.

1. American schools are easy and laid back.

Well, it depends. Some highly selective high schools are very hard and intense, and requires a lot of additional works to get good grades. However, in general, it is true that American schools are less intensive than Korean high schools. While a lot of Korean high schools require students to come as early as 7 in the morning and stay in the classrooms until 9 at night, American high schools usually end by 3. After regular school hours, students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities in various sports and clubs. It is definitely less "sitting in classrooms and studying" than Korean schools. However, you cannot classify American schools as easy schools. Korean high schools determine the students' grades only with the exam scores. On the contrary, American schools determine the students' grades not only with exam grades, but also overall quarter grades, which means that you have to maintain a good grade throughout the whole year to get a satisfying grade for the year. Therefore, even

if American schools are not as intensive as Korean schools, they are definitely not easy.

2. Racism; is it still prevalent?

It is a lie if I say there is no racism towards Asians in the States. In some cities, racial discrimination might be more prevalent than it is in other states. In fact, there still are crimes related to racism throughout the country. However, I've never experienced racism in my school, nor around the community that I am in. I was expecting a little bit of discrimination and was getting ready to endure some of them. Well, my preparation was useless because I experienced no racism. None. I'd say that it totally depends on the region and community you live in.

Now that we've discussed the two most common, I hope you feel more comfortable with coming to the states and going to school.

-13기 강민아

My Host Family In United States



My family is super sweet and kind to me, the family consists of a mother and a son (and me now haha). We live in a big house with two floors, I live on the second floor in my own room, which already has a study table, bed, closet, shelf and an armchair. We have so many animals in our house, two turtles, two parrots and two big dogs in the back yard. The house is located in a very nice and peaceful neighborhood, so its not scary at all to live there. Our school is about twenty minutes away from our home, so we always take a car ride to school.

My host mom is the sweetest person I have ever met, she is always so kind to me, and treats me like her own daughter. She makes me and my host brother lunch for school almost everyday, and sometimes I like to make it myself.

My host brother is four years younger than I am, but we get along pretty well. He likes to play basketball, so we usually play basketball in our front yard. We go to the same school, so we always hangout together, before school, lunch time, and after school.

On the weekends we usually go out to eat, or go somewhere fun, like bowling, mini golf, arcade or trampolines. I remember we went to a race car track with my little brother, his cousin and his dad once,

and it was so much fun! We played a lot of arcade games, laser tag and of course we raced.

In our free time me and my host brother like to watch movies, play games or play basketball. It's a new experience for me to have a brother, since I am an only child in my real family. Sometimes we get into fights, but we make up almost instantly every time. Right now I am on summer vacation in Korea, it has been about two weeks now, and I already miss my host family so much.

I feel like I have become more responsible while living with my new family, I started doing laundry and assorting my clothes for the wash, trying out new recipes for cooking or baking, and getting up for school by myself. It is a very good life experience for me, it helps anyone to become independent and responsible. For me it is a super new life style, but I like it since I can learn a lot of new things from it.

-13기 김지선



How to prevent summer vacation

In American high schools have a long summer vacation. Some international students to preparing to go back their home country or not. However I want to tell you how to prevent summer vacation smartly.

First, when you are upcoming sophomore or freshman making a valuable memory with your parents and friends, and make a wish lists and filled out your check lists. Maybe some underclass students going to studying Toefl or SAT. I think that is good ideas too because you don't need to make any pressure in upper classman year. I'm start learning ACT in upcoming sophomore please choose perfect suitable standardized test for you. It was pretty good time to learn qualified english but I think that is a little bit wasting time for me. This is really not offense to other people, so I want to tell you about if you are underclass trying to making good memories to chat with your American friends and host family.



Second, if you are in a upperclass students, I think studying Toefl and SAT or ACT is best time for you and future. It going to be really boring and tired but it is helpful to your future and maybe present too because it will make your great reader and writer. I think it is going to be a toughest time to us studying different language test. It is really struggle to you and me. Especially SAT, I think it is depends on your effort. It is only to start one week studying but I feel tired and boring sometimes. However, sometimes I imagine myself to got in good college. It make me more vigorous and passionate to concentrate on study SAT and Toefl so don't feel frustrate it to studying believe yourself.

If someone read my article thank you so much and sorry about my poor writing skills have a great summer and good luck.

Soccer



I joined soccer in my freshmen year. I was young and I couldn't speak English well in that time. I mean it is kind of obvious that why I couldn't speak English that time. Anyway, it was a whole new experience to me. I did some sports when I was in Korea especial-



ly when I was young, but after I grew up, I wasn't really involved in any sports. It was hard for me to learn whole new sports but I did it because it was fun even though I don't know how to pass a ball right, or shoot a ball. I put my best effort to get better. Now, I am in my junior and I am getting some playing time. I get at least 20 minutes of the game playing. I mean part of the reason why I play a lot is because one of my friends got a concussion. But I am enjoying playing soccer a lot. I am in varsity soccer team but we had a JV game. In my school, we only have one soccer team because we don't have enough people to make two teams. So we just end up being one team and varsity team.

For the JV game, my coach Benji announced people who will play JV game. We already had couple JV games but this JV game was more exciting because we didn't really face the hard team to play. To start, I started with outside midfield player, which is not my usual position. When I first started soccer, Benji put me in forward or outside midfield position. However, as this year came around, I became a defender. So my point is, I didn't play this position for a long time. Game started and I wasn't really doing too hot out there. I made some passes and stuff but

those weren't really good. After half time, I asked my assistant coach to let me play in the middle field because that is my main position right now in the team and I enjoy doing that.

After half time and game started, I started with the middle field but more defensive position. I was really doing good and I was smiling the whole time. The score of the game was five to nothing and we won. My coach told us that we did good and we should be proud of us. After the game, as a team, we took a picture. I would say this is one of the best memories that I have out of whole soccer experiences. Everyone in the team played and enjoyed playing. In addition, I would say I like JV game better than varsity game because we have been losing most of our games for some reasons. But eventually, we will figure something out and finish this soccer year strong.

-13기 조영란

Prom 2k17

To me prom season is the most excited but stressful time to girls. We have to find the dress that we like. We have to make sure that none of the dresses is the same. If someone in school got the dress that I was about to get I have to choose another dress. Fortunately I already got my dress from Korea so I didn't have to worry about other girls. But dress is not the only one that girls need to take care of. We have to decide who to sit with at the prom. At prom you have your own table that you sit and eat together. So you have to make sure that you sit with your friends. But chairs in one table is very limited so you have to decide well who to sit with. Again I was very fortunate with this cause my friends assigned me to the table that I really wanted to sit. One thing that really made me angry and stressful was finding a date for myself and for my friend. Since I am in catholic school, my school is very strict with traditional stuffs. So to go to prom we have to have date. I thought this was not right because to me prom is not about date but having fun with my friends. I decided to go to prom with one of my male friend so I barely had problem with it. But my biggest problem was finding date for my friend. There was a one girl that I really wanted her to go to prom so that we can have fun. But nobody asked her and herself was not really into it. She said she is not going to go to prom unless someone ask her. Me and my another friend had to find a date for her. The whole process was really stressful and hard but we made it. We also had to decide where to go for picture taking before prom. I got several invitation for picture taking and it was really difficult to reject it. We, however, found a perfect place for us and we took beautiful pictures before prom.

Even with this whole complicated process, prom was really fun and time went so fast. I believe this whole process was really worth it. If you ever watch 'High school musical', you will remember the song 'Night to remember'. To me this prom was the perfect night to remember.

-13기 류문정

Prom!



Prom is always a precious day for Americans. Prom is usually around April or May. Usually, only seniors can attend prom. There is always exception such as private schools or schools that have not many students. Then, they let juniors or sometimes whole grades to come. Price is usually around 10 or 20 dollars, but it normally depends on dinner and how fancy dinner is. My school lets juniors and seniors come. The price of the prom ticket was 50 dollars, which is expensive compared to other schools; however, they provided dinner and it was really good.

Anyway, about my prom, it was April 20th, and it was a rainy day. I didn't have a date but I was bringing my host sister to my school prom, which was exciting. For more explanation, my host sister is going Fond du Lac High School and I am going St. Mary's Springs Academy. Before prom, we usually take a group picture at some place that is fancy. For last few dances, we have been taking pictures at my friend's



house because his house is brand new and it is big enough to fit everyone in our group and plus parents. Prom was 8 to 11 but dinner was 6 so we needed to hurry. We had a group chat for our prom group, so we arranged the time of the picture. We decided to do pictures at 4:30. Before we went to his house,

the couple of my friends came to my house and got ready. I did my friend's hair and I did my sister's hair. I didn't think I had enough time to do both hairs but I ended up doing it. After put hair, we started to put some makeup. It was really quick because we spent too much time on hair, but makeup turned out fine. After all, we went to my friend's house and took a bunch of pictures.

As a group, we hurried up and went Whispers Springs for dinner and dance. Dinner was great and here is the best part of the night comes. I danced the night away literary. It was so much fun. I wandered around a lot and found many people to dance with. I also danced with a boy even though I didn't have a date. I think this was the best part of the night. After the dance, we had post prom. Many schools have a post-prom after prom to prevent students from getting thing drunk and get involved in all kinds of troubles. At post-prom, there were many games that we could play and enjoy. My sister and I played Jenga, and we were really good at it even instructor was amazed by our skills. Overall, my prom night was so much fun and I will remember this for the rest of my life. Good thing I have next year to go another prom!

-13기 조영란

