



#BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL



HUMANS OF BFS





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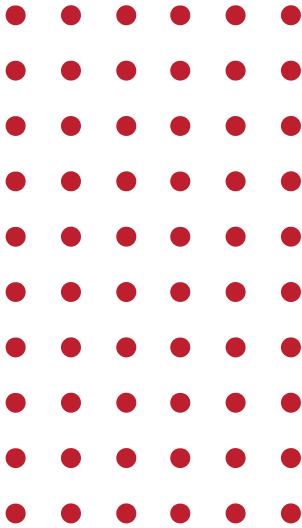
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# NASTYA KIM



BY WENDELL BEASLEY

"It might sound a bit cheesy, but my goal right now is to grow as an individual. These days I'm investing loads of time learning about self-development. I've been focusing on books, blogs, and people. Studying and working on college apps have taken up a lot of my time at the moment, but afterward, I want get back to focusing on who I am.

One of my long term goals is beginning a project that can one day leave a mark on the world. I don't care if it's business or a more specific niche or passion, I just want to leave a mark.

These days I often imagine traveling to Italy to learn about business in fashion or working with one of my friends when we both gain experience about the world so that we can influence others. So far, I'm hopeful that I will achieve my goals in the near future. But, who knows?"

# MS. MEGHAN LELAND



BY WENDELL BEASLEY

"I think, in my adult life, moving to Korea has been the biggest influence of my life. I grew in Bozeman, Montana. It was a pretty small town - very white. Everyone looked like me and there wasn't a lot of diversity.

I knew a lot of things in theory, but I had never lived them. I had never experienced them; so, they resonated with me on a deeper level. When I moved to Korea, it was the first time that all the norms that I knew didn't apply anymore. It was the first time that I was distinctly different, and everyone knew that. It made me emotionally connect with the idea of being and looking different.

It also made me question what it means to be a White American. All the beliefs and values that I held because it was a habit. It was something that I was taught and something that I was always around. I had to constantly ask myself, "Do I believe this" and "Is this me or is this just what I've learned"? It was a lot of doing "that" for my first several years of living abroad.

I thought I was open-minded before. I thought I was progressive; then I realized how many of my views were still so limited. With both Ms. Boyle and Ms. Wiehe, we would sit and have hour-long conversations about what we were going through and how that made us think about the beliefs that we held and how we were growing. It was always us challenging each other to grow more and to get at the root of who we wanted to be as people."

# HAMMAD SHAIKH



BY WENDELL BEASLEY

"It's better now, but when I first arrived here, I felt pretty lonely. Yeah, I had my brother; yet, it felt like I stood out from everyone else at the school. I've gone to a good amount of other schools and this is the only one where there isn't a decent Middle Eastern population.

I was able to find a family by joining the basketball team. It's a sport that I've always been interested in and being able to find other students that enjoyed the sport was my first step into being involved at this school. At first, I would only talk to people in practice. That eventually expanded to talking to my teammates outside of the gym. Now, have no issues speaking with anyone in my classes. I guess I just found my place in this school and I'm pretty content with it.

The only downside I can think of now is the fact that I'm the only one on the bus now. Both my brother and all the other people from Geoje Island went back to the United States while I stayed here. Now, it's just me and the bus driver for the hour and a half long trip. But, being able to talk to some people when I make it to school makes it bearable."

# STEVEN CHOI



BY MICHAEL CHOI

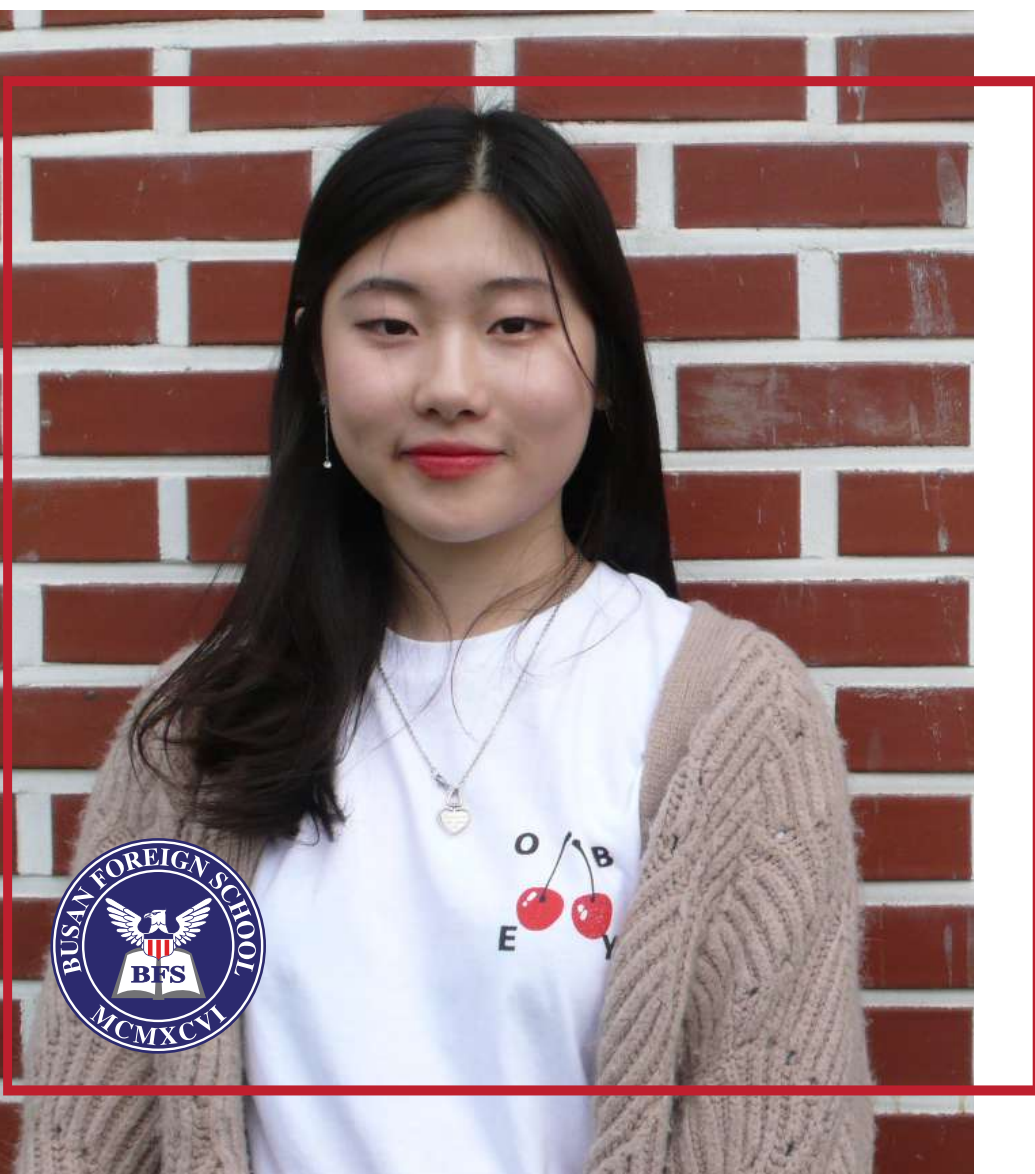
"One accomplishment that I am really proud of is the fact that I finished Grades 1 through 8 ABRSM.

To talk about ABRSM, ABRSM is a music test that tests your skills in music, and each grade has an additional music piece you have to memorize and each part of the ABRSM requires you to play two music pieces so that the person who is grading it, can look at how good I am, and give points based on how well I do. I have done this for almost half my life, and I am really glad that I finished.

It is a really hard test that you need to practice a lot for, and I feel like the practice that I did paid off in the end.

Believe it or not, it helps in the college applications, so I am using my achievement as a type of award to put into my application form for college."

# JENA LEE



BY MICHAEL CHOI

"I want to get used to meeting people more naturally. Because I'm not an extrovert, I don't know what to say to people, and even though I want to continue the conversation, I run out of things to say, and sometimes that makes the people that want to talk to me very awkward and it makes me awkward. Looking at other people who have ongoing conversations makes me wonder how they can keep the conversation going.

On the first day of school, when you meet new people, especially when you are not surrounded by the people you are close with, then you get really uncomfortable, and then you have those times when you share your memories and get to know other people, but I don't know how to keep the conversation going, and when other people are making friends, I am just there, not able to."

# KIRILL LEE



BY MICHAEL CHOI

"This is a hard question because I have siblings and I have my parents, but I would say, my sister, Diana because she always helped me when I had hard moments and she would help me on what to wear and give me tips and advice for school life or just social life and how to have more friends.

Two months ago, she left. Then about a month ago, it really hit me and I realized that I kind of took her for granted. I expected to see her every day when I came back from school, but then when I didn't see her it was very weird. Yeah, I miss her a lot.

I would definitely hang around with her, go to Karaoke, eat a lot of food and stuff. We would be always together when we were young. When she went to kindergarten and I was a baby I would always miss her. We would go to the same school, we would walk together, we almost did everything together, so it is really weird being apart for once.

A special memory of her would be when we just had fun together."

# LUKE SEOL



BY EDWARD HWANG

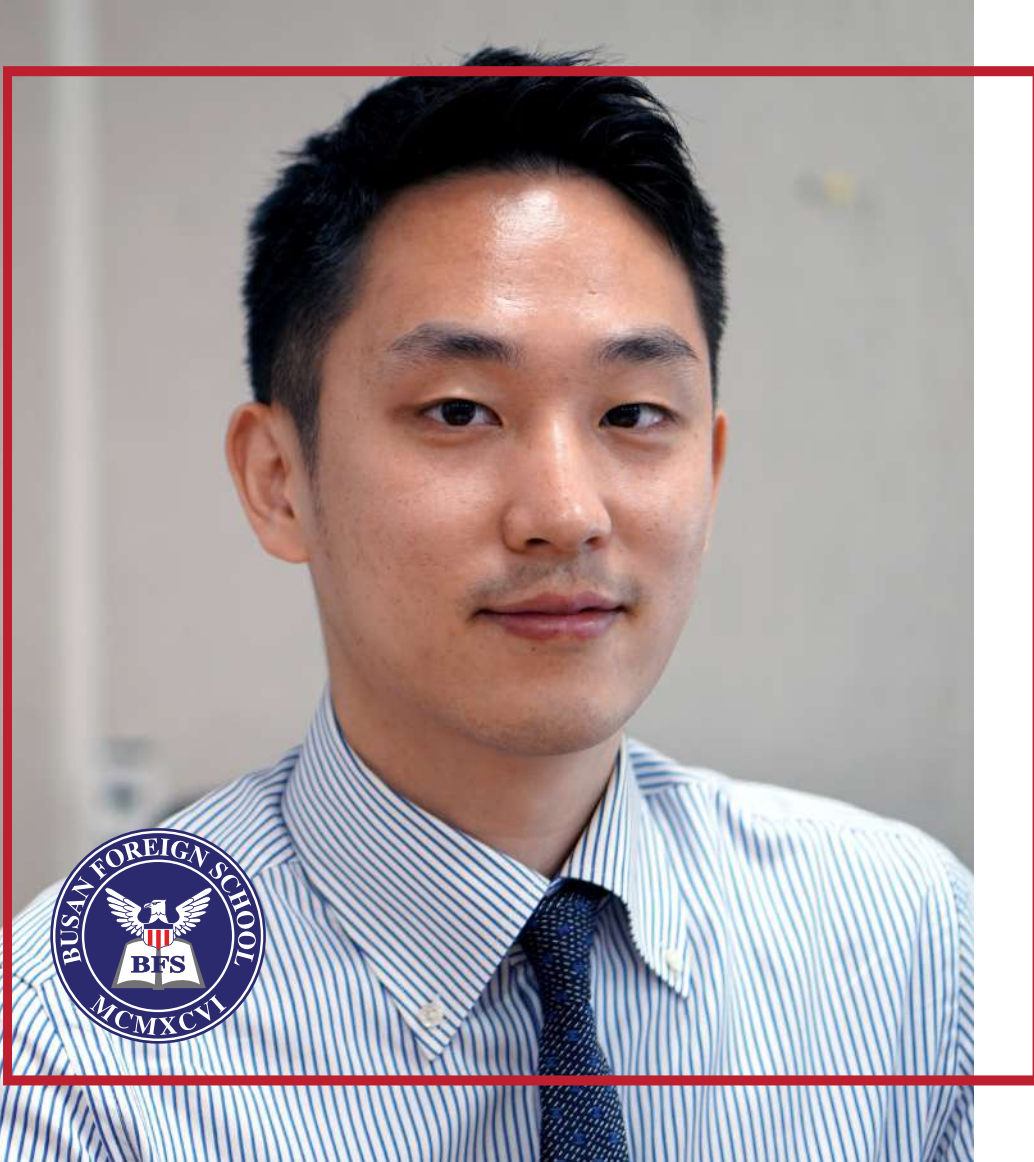
“My grades have been really stressing me out lately. I am a Junior now, so I should be studying and working hard. But in my opinion, I don’t consider myself as the hardest worker. And I think my grades really reflect that. So they aren’t the type of grades that would impress others. When I see my grades, I get sad. I don’t think I am struggling but I think I am lacking effort. I can solve this easily by just changing myself, but I feel like it is not easy.

I guess I’m also stressed out because of myself. I’m bad at managing time, and I’m always late to class. This has been a problem ever since I was in middle school.

I played professional soccer when I was in middle school, and after I quit, everything seemed really easy. I stopped caring about school, and didn’t really put any attention to things going on around me. I know I have to start changing, but I can’t and that really gets me mad.

I like to have fun and being stressed out is something I hate to be in a state of. When I get stressed out, I just chill. I hangout with friends and try to have fun. I go see my friends, listen to music, and play games just so that I can forget about everything stressing me out.”

# MR. JOE YANG



BY EDWARD HWANG

"I faced my biggest obstacle when I was in elementary school. Up until fifth grade, I lived in Russia and Thailand. And at the end of fifth grade, I came back to Korea.

When I first came to Korea, I was very shocked I guess. It was a cultural shock for me. That was my first reaction. I was just sad. I wanted to go back to Thailand and meet my old friends. I spoke better English than Korean back then. So it was really hard for me to fit in with my peers. Often times, I was ostracized, and I just stayed in class.

I didn't do much to overcome it. My life got better after elementary school. I moved to another school near my house after graduating from elementary and met a new group of people. By the time when I met this new group of people, I spoke much better Korean, and I understood Korean culture better. It was a gradual process for me, so I didn't really feel anything in the process. My life just got better over time and I started to feel happier and more comfortable living in Korea."

# SAMUEL YANG



BY EDWARD HWANG

"I started growing hair on my armpit and I was freaking out because I was afraid that people will see it. I considered this event as tragic and traumatizing. I lost my childhood. I don't like hair. Have you seen my dad? He's super hairy.

I used to think that I was normal. I wasn't too tall, too fat, too short, nor too thin either. But as soon as I started growing hair and my friends started noticing, it was really awkward—super awkward. Most of them didn't have it, so I thought I was different. I think my life became harder after this because I was busy hiding the fact that I was different from everybody when in fact, I wasn't different at all."

# MR. SCOTT CRESSEY



BY ALEX JUNG

"I am motivated by my children's future. My children's future, Ethan and Noah, inspires me and motivates me to be a better me and do a better everything. That, in turn, makes me realize that all my students are other people's children, which also motivates me.

I find that I am a better dad when I am having fun. I feel like if we are all enjoying it, I find we are all reaching and inching towards the same goal, whatever the goal is. I think that I bring that into the classroom. Sometimes, if you are not enjoying it, you are not learning. I see that in my own children too. If they are not having fun, they are not taking advantage of what we are trying to do.

I taught without kids and I took a break from teaching when we had children. When I came back, I loved teaching as much as I did before but it was a little bit different. It was different teaching as a parent versus just previously teaching without a child. I probably realized this change right when I came back from having kids. Having children is a blast. I got to be honest, I never realized how involved I would be. Right from the get-go I thought I was gonna be this crazy, silly, happy dad and then I realized I was responsible for these little guys. That'll hit you like a mack truck. I mean children are great - easy and resilient. But at the same time, you realize you are fully responsible for two human beings, which is a big revelation."

# INAH JUNG



BY ALEX JUNG

"I miss Izzy, who is from Hong Kong, the most. Izzy and I met her four years ago at Fay Summer camp and we met at Fay as new students. Fay was at a boarding school and we spent a lot of our time together. We would see each other every morning and evening. Even before we went to bed, I would see her and talk to her. We would eat junk food, order out, and do every single thing with each other. At night, we weren't supposed to do it but we would go to each other's room and we would sometimes get caught by our dorm parents. She's one of my closest friends. She is really understanding.

She visited Korea last summer. We hung out every single day. We went to Lotte World, we went to Han River. It was just amazing. My favorite memory of her was when we were in Central Park. We ate ice cream together and we just relaxed. It might not seem special but it is a very precious memory to me.

One thing I love about her is that she accepts the serious Inah. A lot of people don't really like and has not seen the serious Inah. But, she was always by my side when I was going through the hardest moments in my life, and she was very understanding. She always cheered me up. Just in general, she made me proud of who I am and worthy as a person."

# ANDREW LEE



BY ALEX JUNG

"The worst thing that happened to me is when I injured my ACL at my knee while playing basketball. It is going to affect me for two or three more months.

I jumped and Edward jumped. His knee was bent and mine was straight and we collided. I put this cast-like thing on and I had to use crutches for like three months, and I started walking without crutches about a month and a half ago.

I didn't need mental help, I needed physical help. There was so many things that could have happened to prevent it. I could have gone to the restroom, he could have not passed. I think my parents were worried but not sad. Maybe they were, I don't know. My grades were fine, my mental wellness was fine, but I lost all my muscles on my leg. I technically can play sports but that would be going against doctor's orders.

Why do you play?  
Because it's fun."

# MS. MEGAN BOYLE



BY CHLOE JUNG

I think the most important people in my life are my two siblings. I have a brother who's 27 and a sister who just turned 25. They have always been very supportive of everything I've done. My parents weren't very thrilled when I told them I wanted to leave America and move to Korea. Or that I wanted to travel to certain places or do certain things or live alone. It was another point of contention. But my siblings have always been very supportive. They came to visit me. My brother even stayed with me for a whole month a few years ago in Korea. And I know I can always look to them for support. But they will also tell me if I'm wrong. They know me so well that they can be very straightforward. And I know it'll come from a place of love. Never mean but they will always be honest. I really appreciate all those things about them.

I wasn't really close with my siblings until I hit my 20s because they're younger than me. My sister was always very dramatic and thought the world revolved around her - like the typical youngest child. My brother was the middle child, always kind of crazy. He was constantly in the hospital and would try to break into my room and scare me while my sister would come in and take all my stuff. So when I was in high school I was like, "Oh they're so annoying. I want them to go away. I want to live on my own. I want to not have people screaming all the time or eating all my food." So I just dreamed about the day I could live on my own and buy whatever cereal I wanted to. But once they went to college and started graduating from college, they became a lot more mature. We had a lot more in common. We like to travel and have all the same hobbies that our parents don't necessarily have. And so as adults we bonded but as children we weren't very close. In my adult life, they're definitely the most important people in my life. I don't know what I would do without them.

There's a lot of memories. Most recently this summer, my whole family went to Ireland. We spent the whole week touring around Ireland and there were crazy times. My sister was trying to kiss the Blarney Stone then fell and had a panic attack. My brother went to Paris afterward and he was just crazy in Paris. One of our first big trips was when we drove across America. We drove for about 5 days to go to Montana. My sister got really bad food poisoning. Then she was in a bad mood for 5 days and we all still like to mock her about it even if it was 20 years ago. So traveling really brings out our best selves.

It was my sister's birthday yesterday. I want to say to them, "Happy Birthday Emily. I miss you guys and I'm excited to see you all for Christmas!"

# #HUMANS OF BFS

## EWON KIM



BY CHLOE JUNG

The biggest change I had to overcome in my life was when I first started attending a foreign school.

I used to go to a Korean school in elementary. I think it was in fourth grade. I came down to Ulsan from Seoul and started going to HFS, a foreign school in Ulsan. It was weird. I wasn't used to learning or speaking English on a day-to-day basis. But now I had to, so it was really awkward and nerve-wracking, but also interesting.

At first I didn't like it because I had to leave all my friends in Seoul and come down to Ulsan, which is 5 hours away by car. But it wasn't as bad as I expected because there were nice new friends there. Also, the English speaking part wasn't that difficult, which was surprising. I mean, like thinking of it now from my current perspective, I think that was a good choice.

I guess I really relied on my sister during this change because she had to go through a similar experience and was obviously more mature than me.

Changing schools had an influence on me. I guess my culture changed the most. Now I can speak English fluently and I'm really unfamiliar with the Korean school culture. I don't really feel Korean. I mean I am Korean, but culturally I don't feel that Korean.

Overall, I'm really glad I had the chance to experience this change because it really is the biggest turning point in my life and I am really glad that I'm living my life as it is right now.

# ESTHER YANG



BY CHLOE JUNG

"This lady in her early 30's came up to me, and she looked like she was like, "Oh my god! Your hair's so pretty!" and she was touching it. But all of a sudden, she tugged at it strongly. I looked at her surprised, not knowing what to say. A tear fell from my eyes. I said, "Huh?" And then she tried to steal my phone from me and I cried out, "What's wrong with you?" Then her face changed and she said, "Just go." I should have called the police! Why did I cry and run away?"

I'm not sorry for her. I'm angry at her because she made me very scared. And I cried a lot. And then I was trying to walk home that day and I couldn't even walk home that day because I was so scared.

I'll just realize her existence and not go near her next time. I wouldn't cry. I would just stand up and leave right away."

# KATHERINE KIM



BY KACY KIM

"When I die I want to be remembered as a person who worked hard for everything, especially in art because I want to major in art and I wanna be an art director.

I want to be remembered as a famous art director because I love art and I can contribute a lot to art management, so I want to be remembered as an art director with a famous company. I don't have a role model as an art director but I have like an artist that I really love because I really just love painting and watching how art management works.

My favorite famous artists are Vincent Van Gogh and René Magritte. I went to the Louvre Museum in France and also the Bim Projecting Museum in Jeju. It was very inspiring."

# JADE SHON



BY KACY KIM

"My grandma helped me the most throughout my difficult times. Because when I was young my parents use to be busy because my dad used to be in a different country and my mom was working so she couldn't take care of me so that helped me through the difficult times. I think that she also took her time to look after me when I used to live with her. I think she might have have some difficulties because I was a little kid.

I think that my grandma helped me out the most because without her my childhood would be lonely because I would have no one to take care of me nor I would have a babysitter, but since I had someone close to me and take care of me, I think she really helped me."

# MS. HOLLY WILLIAMS



BY KACY KIM

"My family and friends because they bring joy into my life and make me laugh everyday. My family and friends bring out the meaning of life for me on a constant basis.

Ever since I was attending school, my family and friends were everything to me. Inside school and outside of school, they were the heart of my world. If they didn't help me through a hard time in my life, I wouldn't be where I am in life right now.

After I finish teaching, when I see my family, it lights me up. They are the reason I smile everyday and I wouldn't be able to live without them."

# LUCY PARK



BY REE NHA KIM

"When I was younger, my mom because she had my brother. My dad went to work, which meant that I was alone, so my grandma used to take care of me, and I always went to her house. I remember this a lot because I have a lot of experiences and memories from her house that I still remember. I remember going to the playground near my grandmother's house, and when I go there now, I still remember what I did, and it was awesome.

Oh, my grandfather, he taught me how to ride the swing and until now I still use the method that he taught me, and it's really good. I always wanted to ride the swing but I was never able to ride the swings before he taught me how to actually ride the swing high up the correct way."

# JASMIN SLOOTWEG



BY REE NHA KIM

"One of my worst fears is disappointing my parents. My parents are both very successful people. My dad graduated a year early from high school. He always puts on the pressure, "You know this, you are smart, I know you can do this!"

I don't really feel that way, I feel like I can't do things as easily as him. I have more difficulties with things that shouldn't be. Things that should be easy for me are hard. I feel just a little different conflicting feelings. But then I also feel like both of my parents wanted me to get into an outstanding career.

However, I don't know what I want my career to be. I know I don't want to get into these big jobs where you become a lawyer or doctor. I want to follow that I am passionate about, like a dream, and I want to be able to show my parents that I can make something out of it. If I can't, well, that would be embarrassing."

# SHIOU-BIN WANG



BY REE NHA KIM

"My dream is to become a President because if I can be a president, then I can change the whole world. I want to be the American president. I want to make everybody happy and better. I would not cause any pollution, and I wouldn't let people throw away trash anywhere.

America is huge, and I think America is fantastic because everybody visits America and appreciates America. I want to be appreciated. There is no-one I want to become like, because I want to be the best person in the world. Once I saw people throwing trash in the ocean, and I thought it was terrible. I thought that the president can stop this. Even though I want to stop the pollution, I still want to become president instead of being one of the environmental supporters because the president has more power and can strengthen the laws.

The president can do bigger things than just stopping pollution. People always throw trash everywhere, and I want to change the law that when they litter, then other people who saw the crime scene would call the police and make the criminal get in big trouble. Big trouble, hmm, I wasn't thinking about the big troubles but, maybe making the criminal pay 50,000 won? The criminal is going to get in huge trouble so that they would never litter again."

# ALEX JUNG



BY ANDREW LEE

"I believe that my saddest memory was when I injured my head. I saw other kids go up the slide during lunch and being a pre-kindergartener, I thought that it looked cool, so I wanted to try it out.

I started climbing up the slide and at that moment Erika was coming down the slide, so we crashed into each other and I got thrown off the slide and fell head-first onto the brick floor, so it technically is my fault. I'm pretty sure I remember it correctly that I was going up the slide not down. I don't remember how bad it hurt that well.

My memory is faint but I think I got stitches in my head. I can't remember how long it took to get better because it was so long ago and I was young. I think that looking at my current performance in school grades, I would be a genius if I didn't lose so much brain cells that day."

# LAUREN LEE



BY ANDREW LEE

"I do like our school. I like our school since there are a lot of good teachers, students, and friends and I get to learn in a very fun way. I like the cafeteria the most since I get to socialize with my friends and eat. My favorite subject is probably math because I just like math.

I like Mr. Yang and Mr. Cressey the most since Mr. Yang is very kind to us and Mr. Cressey is very comical. Everyone at school makes being at school more enjoyable, but if I had to choose, my friends would be the main people who make the school a better place."

# ANIKA CHO



BY JENA LEE

Since I am a senior now, this school year really feels different because I really have the feeling that I am becoming an adult. As I am writing my college applications, I am becoming more aware that I am actually going off to college. I realize that I have to be more responsible for my actions and words and be more independent. I feel excited but at the same time, I also feel very nervous.

I think a challenge that I will have is getting used to the new environment. I have never been to a boarding school and it is the first time I am going to live without my parents. There were times when both of my parents were gone for business trips but I stayed in my grandparents' house where everything is familiar. But the idea that I am going somewhere that I am unfamiliar with feels like a challenge for me.

This is a piece of advice that the previous seniors always used to say, but for the upcoming seniors, don't procrastinate on college applications. Write essays and ask teachers for recommendation letters as soon as possible so that you don't rush everything at the last minute.

During that one quarter when the seniors can chill as we wait for acceptance, I want to travel with my friends. Since BFS is a small school and I have been here since middle school, I have known my friends for at least four years and I want to spend meaningful time with them. A goal I wish to accomplish is to get accepted to a college that I want to go and try to figure out what I really want to major in and pursue in the future.

# MICHAEL CHOI



BY JENA LEE

"If I were to go back in time, I would go back in time to when I was in the US because it was a fun experience and my aunt my cousins were all there. It was a fun experience as I went to good restaurants, Chuck E Cheese, and Legoland. Some food places I liked had pizza. There were two very good pizza places. I would not change anything at that time even I was able to."

# MR. MICHAEL GATES



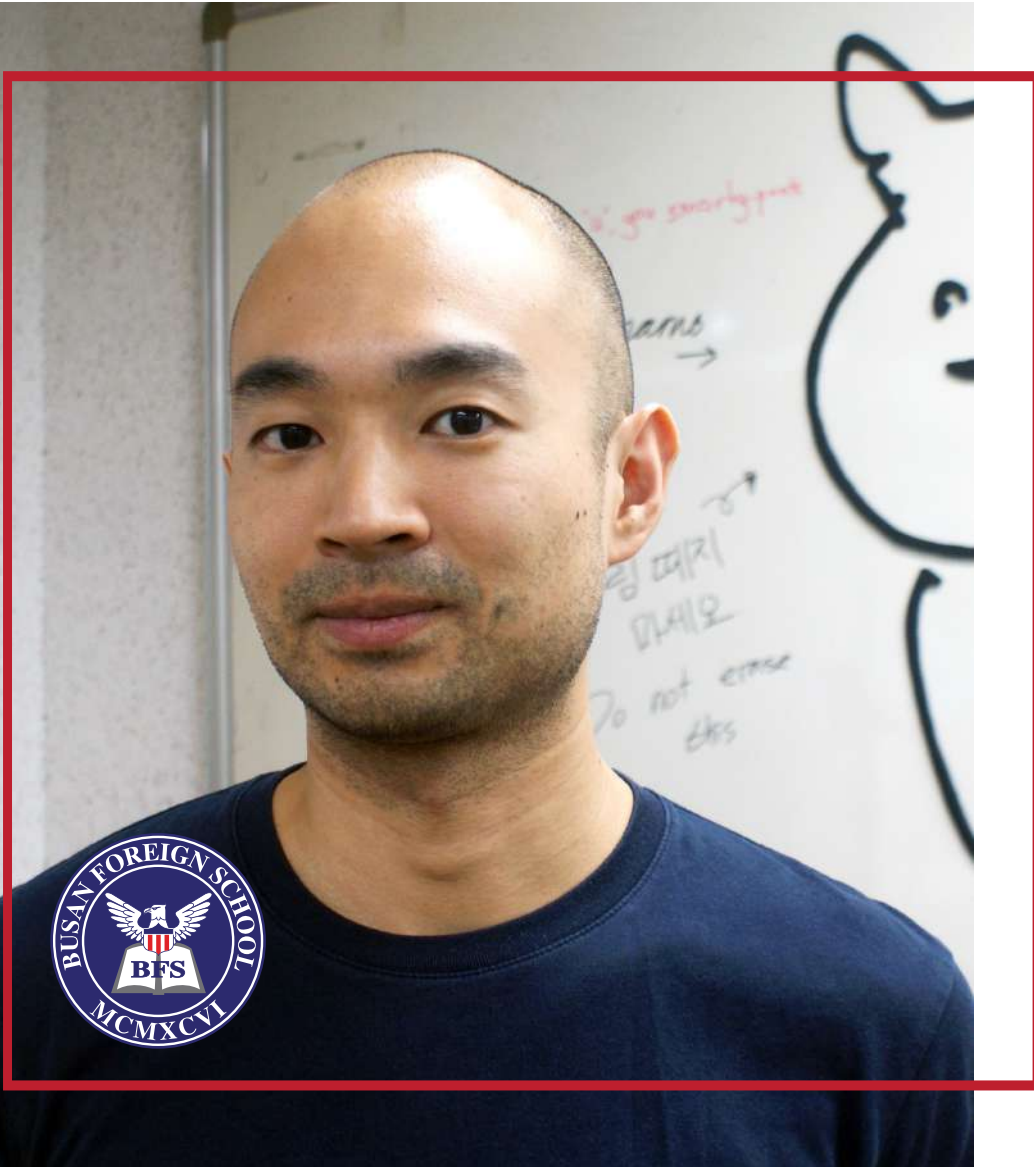
BY JENA LEE

One failure that I have experienced in my life was when I got into a car accident. The roads where I am from are not as narrow and busy as here in Busan. I was driving on a road with houses on the sides back to my apartment with my roommate. When I was driving, my phone that was initially on my legs fell off and I reached down to get it. At that moment, I must have turned the wheel a little bit, crashing into one of the parked cars on the side. Consequently, I lost my car and I paid a fine. After the accident, I felt like I was being a nuisance to people around me because I asked my friends and family for many rides and borrowed cars from my parents as there was no public transportation. I also felt shameful for parents for getting into this car accident which had cost around two thousand dollars.

A piece of advice I would give to people who would experience the same is to not use your phone while driving. Statistically, phones are much more dangerous and cause more accidents than drinking and driving or doing drugs. One thing that I have done since that accident is that first I put the phone in my pocket instead of putting it on my legs but I realized that when I felt it buzzing, I had the temptation to take it out and look at it. Now I actually put my phone in a place where I cannot reach it and be distracted.

Even if I had the opportunity to change anything on that day, I wouldn't because I think that it was a good thing that happened. If I didn't get into the accident that day, I would have continued to use my phone while driving and something worse could have happened. It was fortunate that I only hit a parked car instead of a person. It was definitely a lesson I learned, which helped me grow as a person.

# MR. SIMON LEE



BY ELLA PARK

My mother spent a lot of her time and effort in raising me. One of my mother's best characteristics is that she is a hard worker, and she cares for others. I think those traits also lead down to me. She raised me and my brother, and she sacrificed herself a lot to raise us.

My mom packed me lunch for school every day. And growing up, I always wished that, just like the other students I could have the school lunch or store-bought food. But during high school, I realized that my mom took the time and put so much effort into my lunch. I also realized that my food was more delicious than any of the other food that the other students would bring from the store or cafeteria. I miss it. I was bringing rice to school every day with banchan(Korean side dish) and leftover meat from the night before. But I enjoyed it a lot more.

I want to make her proud and make sure she's happy.

Back then, I was very shy, and I barely talked, and I hated presenting. But when I was in high school, I worked at a place called Kumon. There, I would tutor a lot of students in math. In university, I worked part-time as a kindergarten aid; I enjoyed that a lot. I started presenting a lot and I enjoyed it and doing a good job. And from there, I think I decided that I wanted to be a teacher.

I've had many great jobs in the past, and some of them were very fun, some were very easy, and some were relatively high salary, but teaching is the only job where I look forward to coming into work as much as I look forward to leaving work. It's also a job that I take pride in how hard I work. Although most of the best days of my life include when I was a teacher, most of the worst days of my life also include days when I was a teacher. Some of my best days have been seeing struggling students succeed, seeing students work hard, and seeing students be respectful, but some of my worst days have been seeing students cheat on tests or not work hard, and seeing students be disrespectful. I thought about quitting the teaching profession many times, but in the end, I never regretted the hours I put in to help those who I care about.

When I look back on a lot of things, I feel like I could've done a lot of things better in my life, and I'm regretful about that. But overall, I think I take after my mother, and I work hard and care for those around me. Because of that, I am proud of myself for the most part.

# MARTINA VILAR



BY ELLA PARK

I am Filipino. What I think of first is... I think of food. When I'm stressed, I want to eat. Because you need to savor the flavor. And it tastes good. It makes you happy; everything else just goes away when you eat food. Filipino food, it's delicious. I eat Filipino food every day. My mom, she cooks it.

I don't really have an explanation, though. It's part of me and relieves stress. I was 8 when I left the Philippines. I had to move, and it was kind of sad. I don't really remember, I was a small little child, a baby.

Honestly, I don't even remember the day I moved away. It was so long ago. Like 100 years ago. Well, I miss the days when I lived in the Philippines. I had a lot of friends and I was very close to them, but now I don't really talk to them.

When I go to visit, I can't talk to them. My cousins also. It's weird. I forgot the whole language. So they don't understand me. Technically they can, but still. I still feel connected to them though. Because we're all related. How did we go from stress to being Filipino?

# VERONIKA YUGUY



BY ELLA PARK

"Approaching someone first was my biggest obstacle. I'm a very shy person, so it's a very big challenge for me when I say hi to them first. I like meeting new people; I'm just very shy.

When you are talking to someone, you're always thinking of rejection, thinking that the person doesn't like you and that it might be a bad choice. So you're always scared to say hi first. I think that if they want to be friends with me they will say hi to me first. But you got to be the first one to say hi.

Every time I approach a new person, I feel like I get more confident, I get more comfortable greeting new people, and not as shy as I used to be. If I never tried greeting people at all, I'd probably be a loner. I have a big family, so I wouldn't be lonely without friends.

I am very proud of myself for challenging myself to greet new people."

# MICHAELA GOO



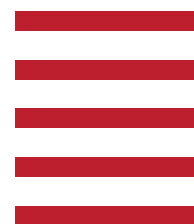
BY LUCY PARK

"One failure that I experienced was when I played volleyball in 6th grade. When I first joined the volleyball team, I couldn't bump or set. I didn't dare set to other people because I was so bad that they would stare at me. The ball would just go right through my fingers. I also wasn't that competitive because I was scared of the ball.

In tournaments, the coaches wouldn't even look at me to put me in the game and I was always on the bench waiting for my name to be called; but my name was never called. I felt like a failure. I thought that playing sports didn't fit me. I didn't quit the team though, because I don't like quitting when I start something new. I decided to just focus on one skill which was bumping because I always wanted to give a nice bump to others. Although it was not a perfect bump - I swung my arms, I didn't bend my knees - I still tried hard to give a nice bump although the techniques and the skills were all wrong. This was probably the first failure that I experienced and the first event that made me have a growth mindset.

I think one big essence in life is knowing that you need to try hard in order to face your weaknesses and obstacles. All the people say this but I think this is really important while living. I would tell all new volleyball players right now to try hard and focus. Start with baby steps and find a goal. That's how you improve."

# REE NHA KIM



BY ELLA PARK

"When I was in 6th grade, we had this science test and I was very nervous. I studied for five hours before I took it. We got our scores back and I got 70-something which was the lowest score that I received in my life.

I was very shocked and I thought 'Can I even go to a university?' I thought I will never get better grades. I think I found my way to study. After that test, I got better scores. I was able to overcome my failure. It affected my life positively because I was able to learn from my mistakes. When there is a failure now, I know how to react to it."

# JUN PARK



BY LUCY PARK

"When I first went to Canada, I was very shy and I didn't socialize with many friends. At school, I was alone. But later on, I met a friend named Holden. I met him in the playground after school and he was playing a game so I joined. He was very nice to me. Later, he invited me to his house and I got close to him. He made my personality more outgoing. He influenced my personality.

Before, I had no friends to talk to. I didn't fit in with anyone. My English was bad and I didn't understand anything. Holden made me feel included. He affected my life positively. I learned that I should become more active and talk to other friends first like how Holden did to me."

# KALE BARRER



BY HAMMAD SHAIKH

As a kid, I dreamed of being a police officer; I thought crime fighting and putting away bad guys was awesome. Now that I've grown up, I want to pursue programming because I feel like I'm good at it. I can put my programming skills into things like Javascript and Python.

It's too early to tell, I don't know if I'm going to succeed or not. You can't tell just from high school that you're going to succeed unless you're willing to put in all the work. To get there, I have to stop procrastinating, focus and start working harder; I'm still working on that. I really don't know what the future holds for me.

I wish that in the past couple of years, especially the 10th grade, I focused more on programming, I wish that at the end of the year I didn't slack off as much. I was like, 'I don't care.' I wish that period of my life wasn't so hectic for me.

General advice... do your work on time, there's always an excuse but don't use that excuse to get out of doing your work.

# WENDELL BEASLEY



BY HAMMAD SHAIKH

● ● ● Something I can't live without is my height. I actually take a lot of pride in my height, even though I'm pretty short, it's become a part of my personality and who I am.

● ● ● Because I kind of look at it athletically, it's like I do a lot of stuff that even people taller than me can't do: I can touch the rim and I can do all that kind of stuff and it sounds a lot better when a 5' 5" guy gets a block on someone 6 inches taller than them.

● ● ● I think I feel that way because basketball is a pretty huge part of my life, but actually American football is way more important to me. I've always been a football guy playing running back, quarterback all like the smaller positions on the field. Yeah some other memories I have (in regards to height) is with all my friends and when I went to elementary school I was always the short, quiet guy but still pretty easy going like I still am today.

● ● ● I'm not even sure how it works, but my mom is 5' 3" and my dad is actually 6 feet. So I'm just sitting here at 5' 5" wondering what happened but the thing is, my dad said when he graduated high school he was 5' 6" and then he went to the military, he turned 18 then he jumped up to 6 foot 2, so I don't even know ... maybe it's coming.

● ● ● If I could change my height, I would probably max myself at 5' 8"; that's all I want, I just want like 3 more inches as long as I can still jump.

# MR. MATT HANAWALT



BY HAMMAD SHAIKH

"I mean that's a tough one, I think in one sense you would say there's no reason to go back because anything I've done, my experiences, whether they've been positive or negative has shaped my outlook and led me to this point. I don't know, because often times people have regrets: it would be great to see your grandparents one more time, apply for a certain job, or going to a different college. In general, I would have to say that I'm mostly proud of the things I've done and happy with that I'm doing.

The only thing I would say, if I could do anything again, is I would've believed in myself more in high school, believed that I was more capable, and wish I had challenged myself with the college I went to.

I mean who's to say, I think going to the college I did has shaped me in certain ways, but I didn't know I would've ended up being a teacher. You can look back at any one thing and a decision here maybe could have led to something else, you have no idea. I did well in college, but I think I wasn't always surrounded by students that were as motivated as I was; I would have chosen to be surrounded by people who were more serious, but that being said, I'm very happy with where I am and what I'm doing.

I would have told myself to not worry as much about things you can't control, everything is going to work out fine. Put your head down, work, and believe in yourself. Do what you can. All those kids in high school that teased you, who knows where they're at today. It's just not worth worrying about it."

# KACY KIM

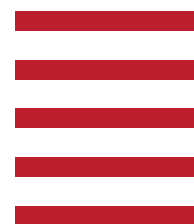


BY JADE SHON

"The most valuable item that I had received was a little blanket that my parents gifted me when I was young. However, to me it is not just an ordinary little blanket. This blanket has significant sentimental value because it is something that I have owned since I was a little kid, and have kept up until now. I would not sell it even if I could because it is important to me.

If I were to lose it, it would make me sad because it would be like losing a part of myself. Although it might be replaceable, it would never be the same. Replacing it would not be able to replace or recreate all the memories that came along with the original one."

# WILLIAM LEE



BY JADE SHON

"I am inspired by my dreams and aspirations. The reason I decide to work hard and diligently academically is because I want to make sure that I achieve my dreams later in life. To provide an example, I am looking forward to majoring in computer science or business in university. Therefore, it is imperative that I dedicate my time and effort to classes like AP Computer Science, so that I can be successful in the future when deciding to choose my career paths. I believe that we live in a society where hard work, with a mix of good luck, is intrinsic to one's academic and overall success in life."

# MR. TIMOTHY NEENO



BY JADE SHON

"I miss my friends back in Oregon, people that we used to hang out with. They are important to me because they are good friends, and we've known them for the last 20 years; Laura and I have been good friends with these people for a long time. If I could see them again right now, I would like to know about what they were doing, it's one of those things where it's nice to catch up with people, like how a lot of them have kids now. These people are very important to me—one of them even performed at our wedding ceremony, and we share a deep connection that goes way back when I worked with them.

I would like to really like to show them around Korea. That would be fun and immensely enjoyable, but my second choice would be to go to a place like Portland or Crater Lake, all fun, pleasant places. I think back to the good times we had: joking, hanging out; one friend even helped us move to Korea when we were finishing our time in USA by driving us to the airport at 3:00 AM. You know you can't beat that!"

# DR. DYLAN BARNES



BY YUJIN TATAR

"I played baseball. I distinctly remember winning the championship. I remember that my mom was always the loudest person in the stands, she was always cheering me on, she was like the mom that would always lead all the chants in the stands.

I was on the same team for 4 years and we were finally a really good team that fourth year. The previous 3 years we came close, we were in the playoffs, but we weren't quite good enough to win the championship. I have this red jacket at home, it's my championship jacket. It doesn't fit me anymore but I still have it.

My mom was at every game and always cheered me on and my dad couldn't make every single game, but he always made up for it. After he came home from work, we would play catch in the yard and work on our swing and he would take me to the batting cages. So the people that were the most influential in that time were definitely my parents.

We grew up in New Jersey so we would go see the Mets or the Yankees play. And we would sometimes drive all the way to Maryland to see the Baltimore Orioles play. In addition to seeing baseball games, my dad took the family to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

While baseball was the center of all these memories, it's the moments I got to share with my parents that I remember most."

# JOY LOPEZ



BY YUJIN TATAR

“When I’m happy is when I feel the most alive, and when I’m not stressed out. I want to be buried someplace I lived like Texas because that’s where a lot of my family is from, and I want to live until I’m like 80 because I don’t want to die too young.

When I die, I want to be remembered as someone people could always go to and get advice from and just be there for them. Also that I was good at sports and had a good personality, even though I tease people sometimes.

If I were a famous person that was already dead, I would have to say it would be Jackie Robinson because there’s a lot of history of him and there’s a past I would like to know more about.”

# NOAM TATAR



BY YUJIN TATAR

"The first time I met one of my best friends, I was playing soccer with my dad at the playground. It was in the afternoon and it was kind of gloomy. Suddenly, a tall kid walked towards us. He asked if he could join us. It was fun to play soccer with him. Later, we had to go home but we never knew each other's names. The next day, we met again at taekwondo and I found out that his name was Hyunseo. After that, we always hung out together.

We used to play with Pokemon cards, and because the cards I had were so bad, he gave me a really strong one called Zygarde ex. Because it's from him and he doesn't live next door to me anymore, I will always keep that card with me and take it wherever I go. I will always remember playing soccer and Brawl Stars with him at the playground that was right in front of our apartment. He helped me find better video games than what I used to play like Brawl Stars or Clash Royale. He also introduced me to a lot more friends that were also very good friends to me."

# #HUMANS OF BFS

## ELLA PARK



BY MARTINA VILAR

"I don't remember laughing hard recently but I remember when I was playing a game with my friend. We were playing this game that we had to kill zombies and it wasn't even funny but we laughed for no reason.

I don't know why we thought it was funny, but I like to be with my friends because they make me laugh and I make them laugh so I'm happy for some reason.

The whole time we were laughing when we were playing the game. My friend was laughing really hard too. I started crying afterward because when I laugh I just start to cry. I don't laugh thinking about because it was kind of pathetic for laughing at nothing but it's okay."

# YUJIN TATAR



BY MARTINA VILAR

"When my friend farted in class and blamed it on me. Okay, that was a lie, it was actually the other way around but I didn't want to expose myself. Everyone in the class started laughing and it was super embarrassing. Everyone started laughing because the fart sounded funny and I was super embarrassed and I was super red too. The whole class made me laugh too.

I used to laugh about it a lot but it was a few years go, so now I just smile about it. The whole class was laughing for at least five minutes and the teacher was not happy because she wanted to get the day's work done. I laughed so hard my stomach hurt and when it's funny I just usually tear up about it. When I try not to laugh it makes me laugh harder and more tears come out."

# ZACHARY VILAR



BY MARTINA VILAR

"My favorite hobby is to watch TV. It brings me joy because it's filled with happy stuff. Everything is so happy. I like it because it's funny. I watch a lot of people I like. My favorite people and people I want to be like when I grow up. I love to watch TV a lot.

I like to watch TV alone because I could watch whatever I want and people won't complain about what I watch, like Matilda, she's super annoying. I watch TV whenever I finish my homework and chores, it's my free time."

# CHLOE JUNG



BY ESTHER YANG

"I want to be remembered as someone who didn't waste their life. I want to be remembered this way because life is pretty short, and whenever I waste my day either sleeping or doing nothing, I always feel bad. I want to get something done but it doesn't always work that way. I get sad whenever I waste my day because I need to get that work done another day.

I want the people I care about to miss me the most, specifically my parents. I wouldn't really care about anyone else. I think there is a difference between caring about your family and caring about your friends because your friends have their own life, and I don't know how much I really mean to them. If I mean a lot, I would want to be remembered by them, but I don't know how they really feel about me."

# EJEW KIM

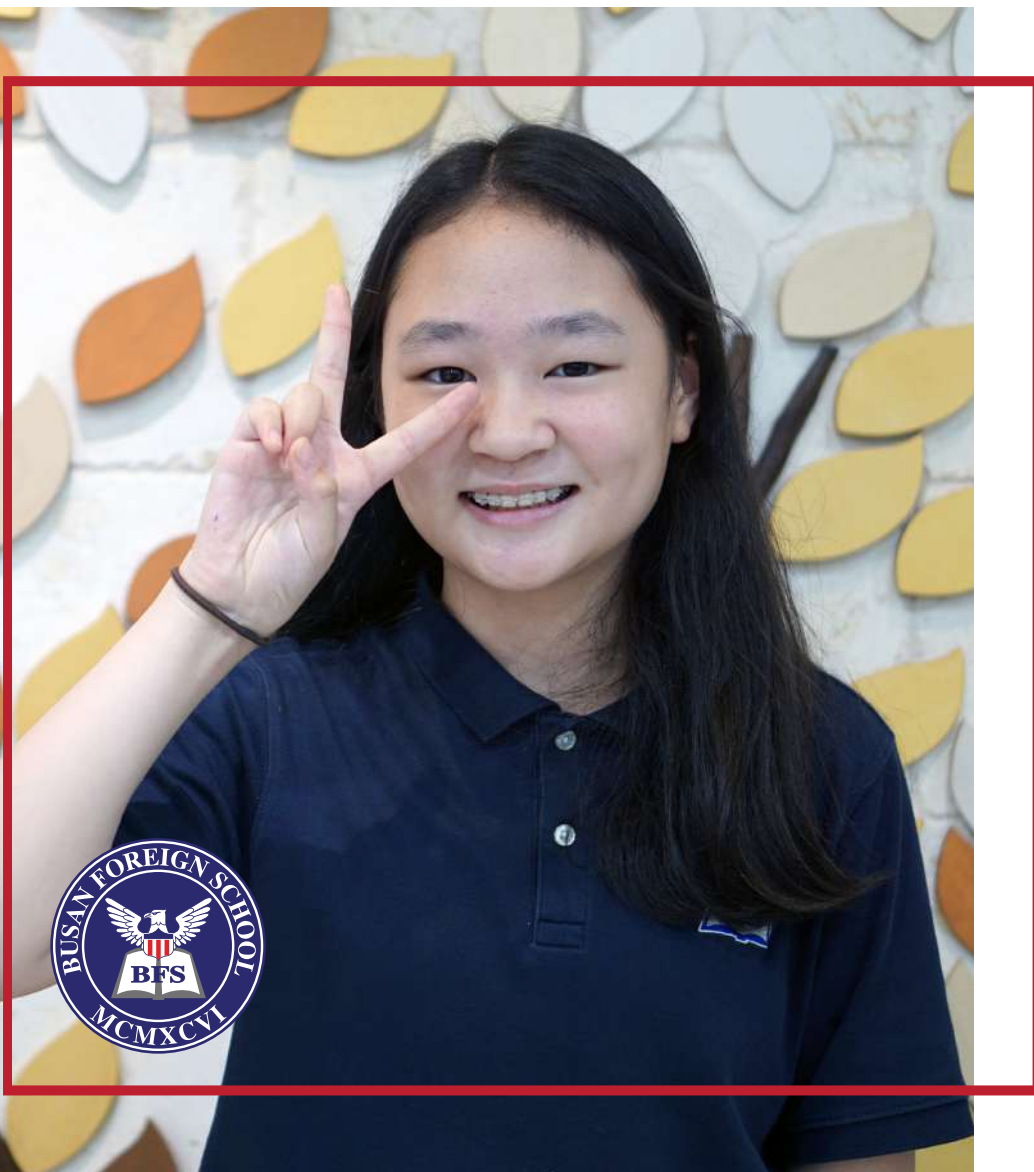


BY ESTHER YANG

"I am influenced by a wide range of people, but one of the most significant peers I've been influenced by is probably Jihong. Because whenever I don't want to do something, like something I have to do like homework and college apps, I think about how hard Jihong worked. And it motivates me that I am not working hard enough, and that I should push myself more. And she allowed me to stop procrastinating and become more focused in school.

She became a big part of my life since the first time I came to BFS, and witnessed how much she influenced different parts of the school. She influenced not only academics but also sports and volunteering. One day, I'd like to be someone else's influence, just like how Jihong is mine."

# ELIZABETH KIM



BY ESTHER YANG

"One of the memories that I remember during my childhood is the first day of middle school. This was a special moment to me because middle school was so much different than elementary school. It was like a new start , and making new friends was also thrilling. Since you stay in one homeroom class in elementary school, but it was not like that in middle school, so I liked all the differences.

I remember it being kind of hard to adapt to all of the new changes so quickly because there was much more homework and many more assessments compared to elementary school. My first day was very exciting and thrilling, like the start of every school year, but it was different to move from class to class with backpacks on and bringing your laptop around. It felt like middle school had more rights and privileges than elementary school. I didn't feel like being a baby anymore. "

# MR. CARL BRENNEMAN



BY SAMUEL YANG

"Definitely getting married. I was pretty happy. And then the birth of my two children. But if you had to make me go down to THE happiest moment...wow...uh....I'm going to say the birth of my son. Because that was my first child, and I never expected it to be as amazing as it was. I don't know what I was expecting, but not that amazing. I don't know, the coolness of that moment. That was probably it.

I have a son and a daughter. My daughter's birth was in Taiwan, and it was a little bit more stressful. My son was in America, and it was just a really nice environment and not as stressful.

Which one was more stressful?

My daughters in Taiwan, no question. Because the doctor we've been visiting couldn't come in for the birth. So they had a different doctor and the nurse was not allowing me into the room. I don't understand why. I had to push my way into the room, which by then, my daughter was already being born, and was just stressful. It was still amazing, but it was not really peaceful.

Was the first birth scary?

It was, yeah, it was, but we were pretty well prepared for it, and it was just wonderful. Yeah, I was really happy."

# EDWARD HWANG



BY SAMUEL YANG

"Rain brings back memories because I used to play with my older sister when it was raining outside. I lived in a place where it rained a lot and we would just go out and play outside. Whenever I see photos of boots, I remember my sister.

One moment when my life was changed forever is when I came to Korea. I lived in the States until I came to Korea three years ago. At that time, I would go out to like two places. I was in an area where you would have to drive fifteen min to go eat something. In Busan, you ride the subway or bus; there's a pc bang, restaurants are three minutes away.

I was really introverted. Now, I like to go to the karaoke and I like to go to new restaurants and try new food I can enjoy. Before, I was afraid of making new friends, but now that I lived here for a few years, I feel comfortable."

# CHIYEON LEE



BY SAMUEL YANG

"I think the hardest obstacles that I overcame were just managing my school life with my social life. School is fun and all because you get to interact with your friends, but there are some times where it's hard for me since I take two AP classes this year, AP Seminar and AP World History, so I don't really think I can meet with my friends outside my school, so it's hard. People recommend taking only one AP class.

What others do that makes me happy is when other people include me in things and just smile or talk to me. I think our character-building classes help build our school to be a more friendly school. We get to interact with our friends and talk to them actually, so it helps."





**#BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL**  
**HUMANS OF BFS**

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