

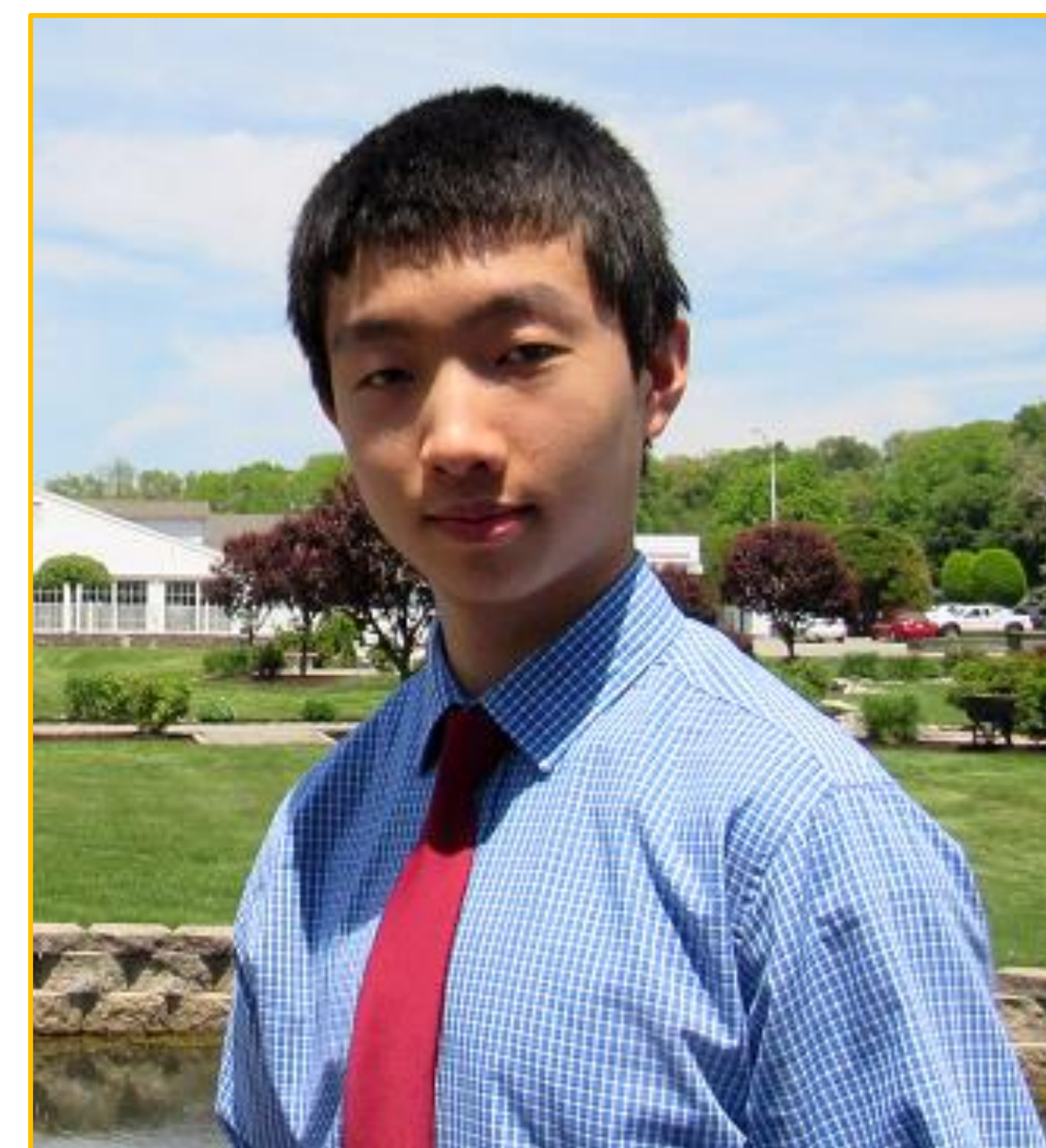
“SCCS is an invaluable platform for cultivating lifetime ideologies of learning, and it has given me a uniquely rewarding way to serve my community.” -----Andrew

“after being an SCCS teacher for several years, I benefited greatly from the language, learning, teaching, management, and leadership skills” -----Hanna

Teaching at SCCS has been an unparalleled opportunity for me to exercise my communication, teamwork, and leadership skills while taking part in the education of the younger members of our community. By carefully crafting lesson plans and homework each week and introducing new mathematical concepts during class, I took personal responsibility for cultivating my students’ knowledge and curiosity. Teaching is demanding, but also extremely gratifying; seeing the students light up with excitement when they finally grasp a mathematical concept is reason enough to drag me out of bed on a Sunday morning to explain how to multiply fractions.

The best way to benefit society is to infuse young minds with the desire to learn and discover. And every lesson I teach my students is also a lesson for me: I have learned to be flexible—for I must adapt to the needs of my students even when that means abandoning the lesson plan. I have learned to relay my thoughts clearly and concisely—for long lectures would surely put a room full of drowsy middle schoolers to sleep. I have surmounted new challenges in staying organized—when my students deposit handfuls of wrinkled, nameless sheets of homework

on my binder, I must sort, grade, and return these documents quickly yet carefully. SCCS is an invaluable platform for cultivating lifetime ideologies of learning, and it has given me a uniquely rewarding way to serve my community.



Andrew Zhang
Graduated ELHS June 2018
Math Teacher at SCCS:
2016-2018



Hanna Hong
Dance Class Teacher
20??-Present

I have been a student at Southeast Connecticut Chinese School for about ten years, and a teacher for four years. Over the years, the Chinese School has taught me leadership and teaching skills. Through my experience as a student in Chinese classes, I gained valuable knowledge. By learning Chinese, I gained a better understanding of Chinese culture and my heritage, as well as the ability to better communicate with and understand my extended family.

At SCCS, I also took a public speaking and leadership course. I learned many ways to improve my speaking, and had a lot of practice during the class that helped me greatly. Since public speaking is a necessary skill for many, if not all, people, I found that this course actively aided me whenever I had to give a presentation or speak in front of a group. Additionally, from this course, I emerged with a better understanding of what leadership truly was and how to be a more effective leader.

Lastly, my time teaching dance classes at SCCS significantly improved my teaching and leadership. I learned how to handle a classroom so the students learned efficiently, wouldn’t be too disruptive, and could retain what they had learned. I improved my teaching so that eventually, it was easier for them to pick up the steps I had taught them and they finished my class with a basic knowledge of dance terminology.

Overall, after being an SCCS teacher for several years and an SCCS student even longer, I benefited greatly from the language, learning, teaching, management, and leadership skills I learned there.



Hanna and Caitlyn Liu
Performed “Jasmine Flower”
2011 SCCS Talent Show



Hanna and Her Students on Stage
2015 Chinese New Year Celebration.



Hanna and Her Students on Stage
2018 Chinese New Year Celebration



Hanna and Peiran Li
Performed “Little Swallow”
in 2009



Hanna’s Students
in the Classroom



“the SCCS experience has helped to shape me as a student, leader, and a true Asian-American .”

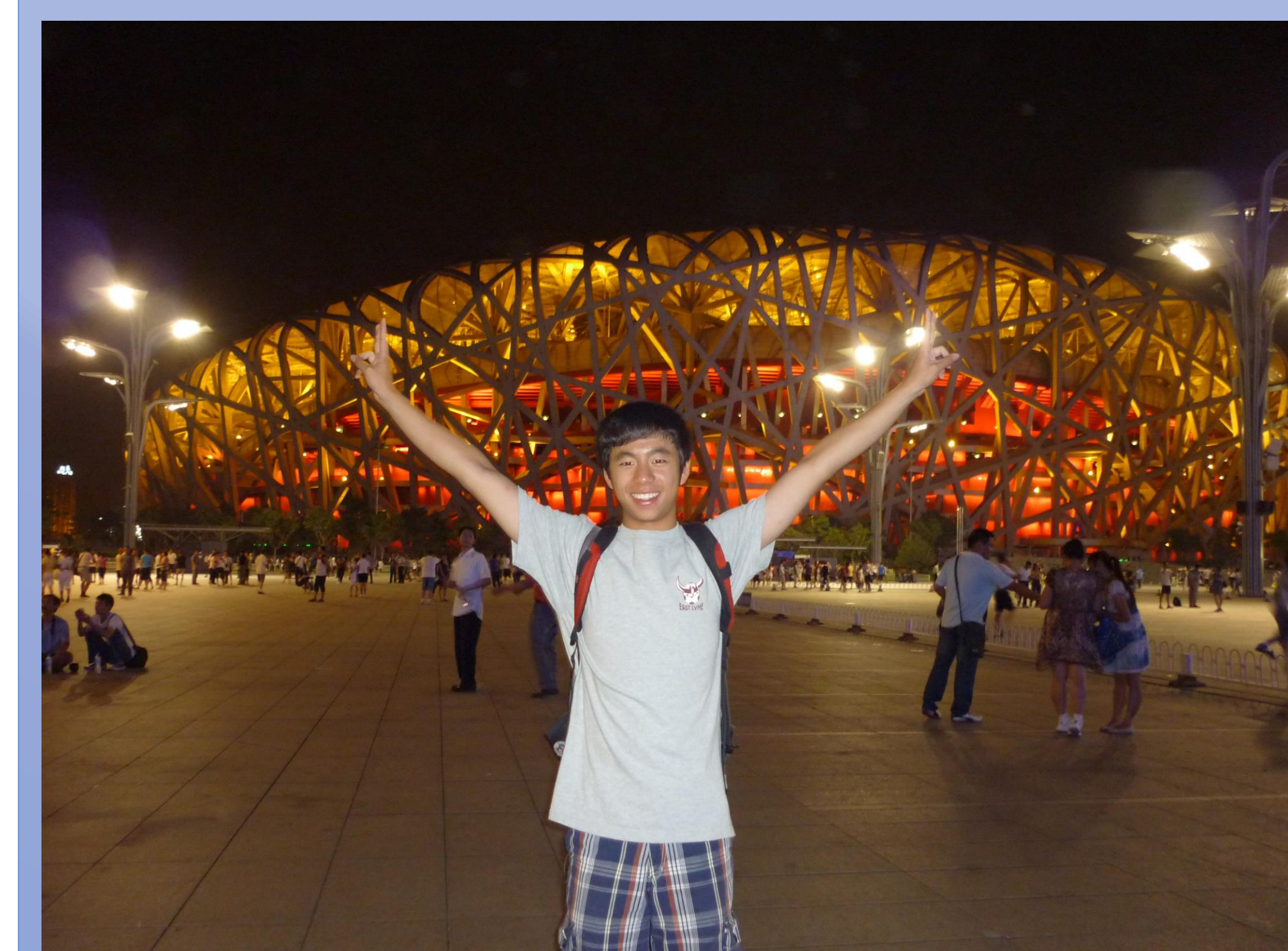
----- Matt

“Running around with the next generation of SCCS students, while tiring, made me smile knowing that they could also have fun at SCCS”

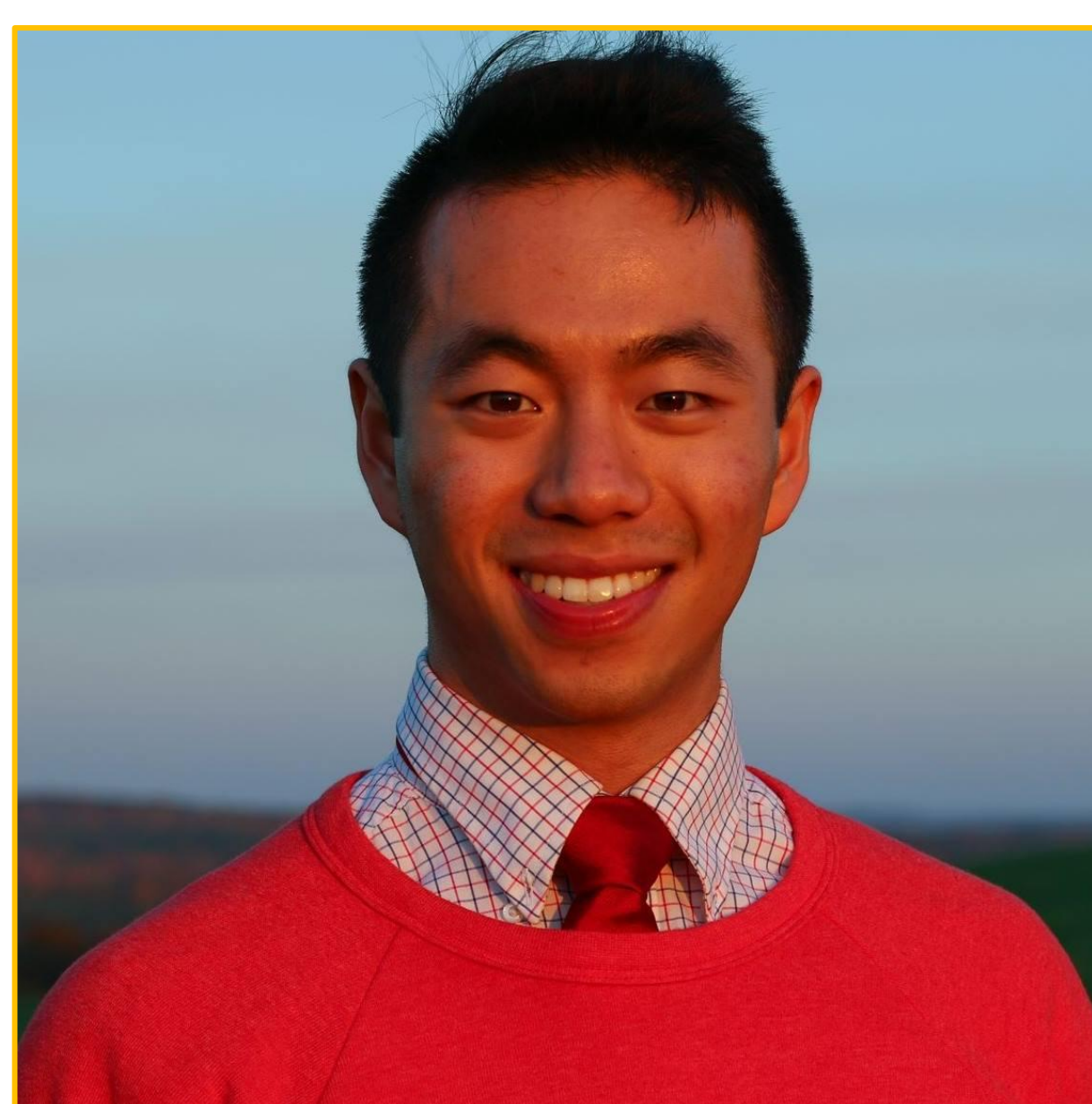


05/13/2007

Hosting talent show as an grandpa



Visiting Olympic Park in Beijing 2009

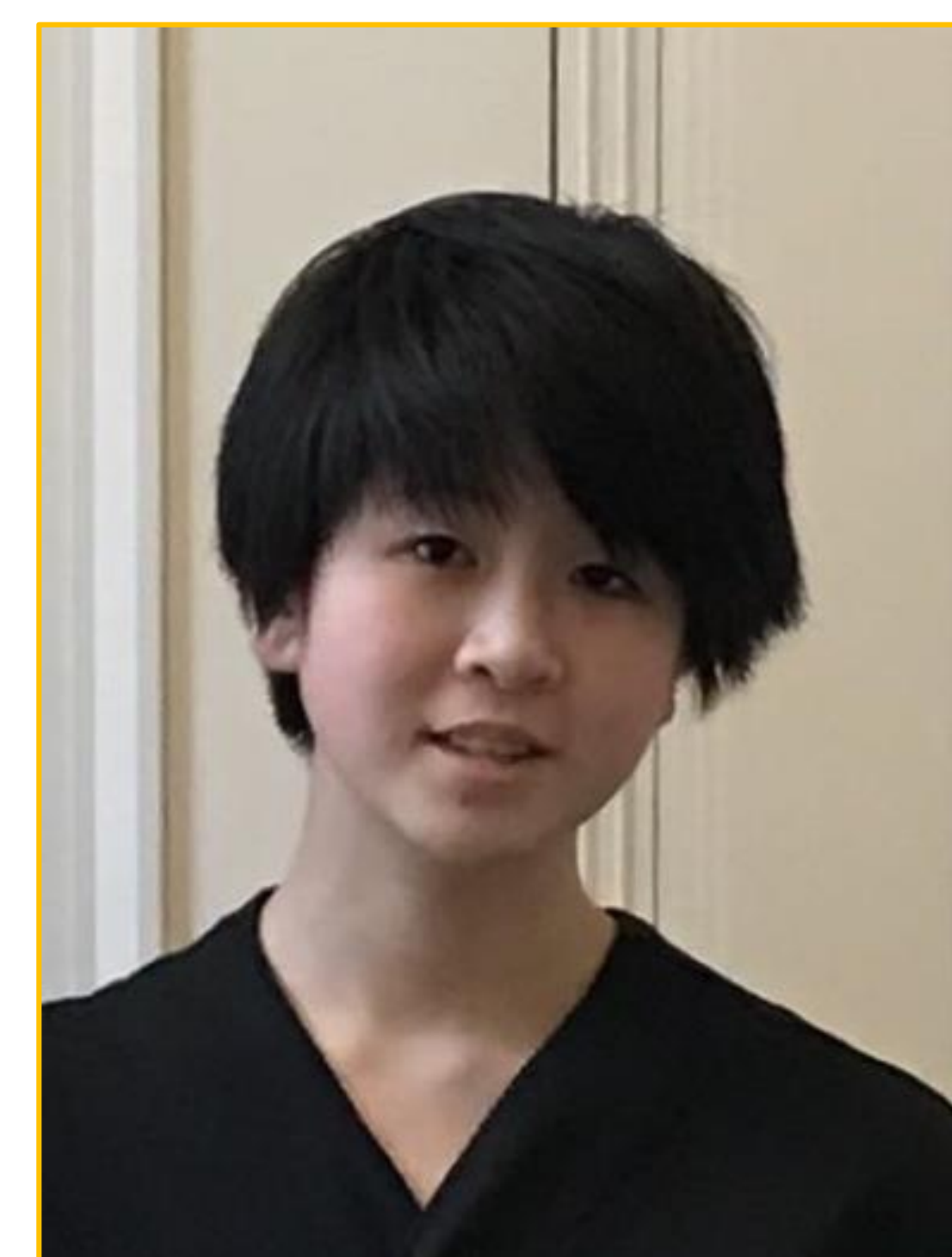


Matthew Lin
Graduated ELHS 2014
Basketball Coach at SCCS
2012-2014

While it may seem strange to the onlooker that us American-born Chinese children attend yet more school on the weekend, the SCCS experience has helped to shape me as a student, leader, and a true Asian-American. Growing up in an affluent area in Connecticut by and large did not expose me to my Chinese heritage outside of the walls of my house. However, sitting in classes where we read old Chinese fables, listening and watching stories of clever generals, tricky foxes, and wise villagers opened up the landscape of rich Chinese culture heritage. And it made the undeniably difficult task of learning the language, culture, and history vastly more interesting. As it went along, bondage developed with my fun-loving fellow Chinese American kids, “tiger moms and lion dads” and my caring and devoting teachers. As I got older, instead of leaving SCCS like many others, I stayed on but in a different role. I coached a basketball class. This put me center court in front of high-energy kids – the very same ones that just sat through their language, math, and other academic classes – where I had to devise strategies to both corral and pass on basic basketball skills. Running around with the next generation of SCCS students, while tiring, made me smile knowing that they could also have fun at SCCS. These formative experiences have made an indelible mark in me, reminding me of my ancestry, connecting me to generations of thinkers and artists who made a mark on human history. Best of all, I can joke around with my cousins and grandparents, order great food in Chinese, and feel proud that I am Chinese.

“I gained the public speaking skills ..., the self confidence needed to carry myself in my day to day life. For that, I am grateful to Lyme Light”

-----Victoria



Victoria Chen
Graduated ELHS 2018
Flute Teacher at SCCS
2015-2018

Probably one of the most valuable extracurricular experiences that I have undertaken during my middle school and high school careers has been the Lyme Light Performance group, a volunteer entertainment group organized through the Southeastern Connecticut Chinese School that gives its members the opportunity to travel to different senior centers and rehabilitation homes across Connecticut and play music for the residents there. Originally, I fought tooth and nail against attending these various performances, for one massive, seemingly insurmountable (to my young, shy, middle-school mind) reason: I had terrible performance anxiety. The thought of getting up in front of a crowd and playing a solo piece on my flute, or worse, doing any form of public speaking, rendered me terrified. Even the two sentences of introduction I had to give before playing each piece proved to horrify me so much that I would sit in anxious silence for every piece and performer before me, and then in an appalled, shameful silence after. I was too shy and too afraid to perform, and for a very long time I felt that it would be better for everyone involved (including those poor senior citizens who had to sit through my admittedly dreadful flute performance) if I quit Lyme Light. However, as time went on and I was continuously exposed to these stage-like scenarios, I started to develop vital social skills almost against my will. I gained the public speaking skills I had so lacked my entire life, performance capability that I had always envied in my friends, and most importantly, the self confidence needed to carry myself in my day to day life. For that, I am grateful to Lyme Light.



We Are Stage Brother and Sisters
SCCS Talent Show 2018



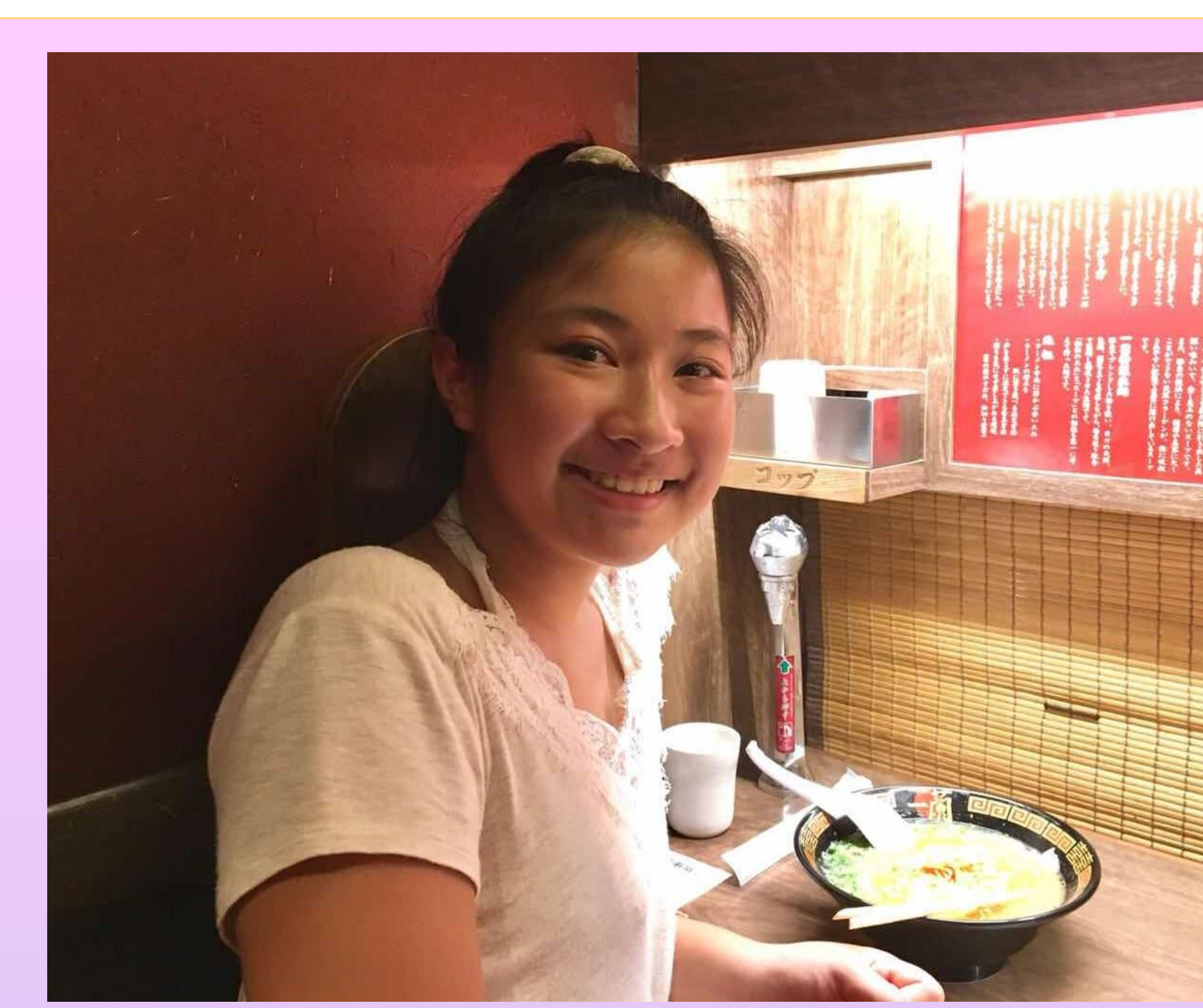
Years of Hard Training
Smile at the End



First Day in A College Bookstore

Every single teacher I had was a blessing to me, not just for their ability to create structured classes and present interesting material, but also for their tireless efforts to help each student that sits in their class.” ----- Connor

“Without this experience at SCCS, I would have never gotten the chance to see myself as a leader and as the person that many other people see in me.” ----- Alissa

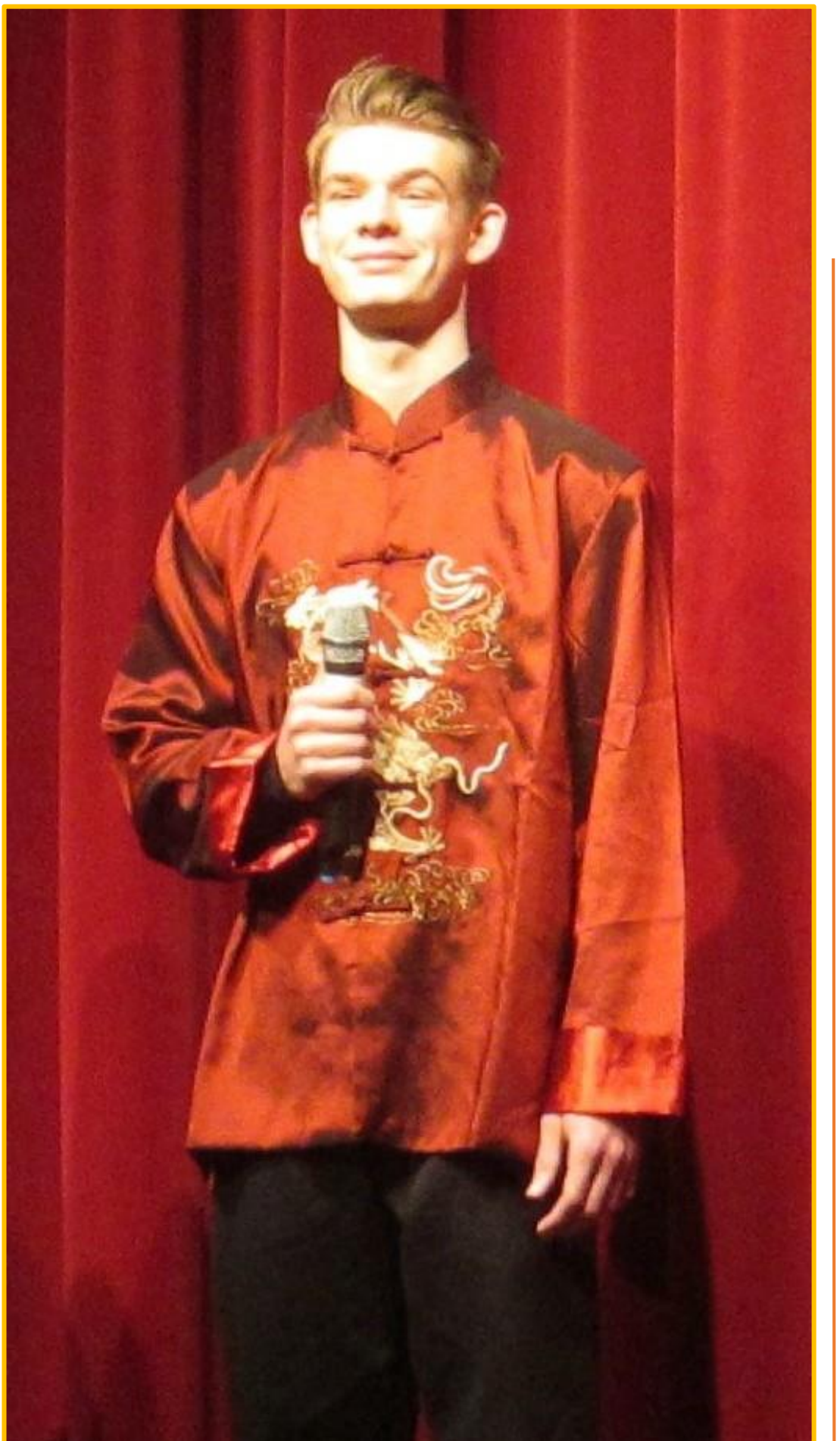


Alissa Enjoys One Of The World's #1 Ramen In Osaka



With Cohosts After the Show

When I came back from China in the winter of 2010, I remember my mom searching everywhere for a place to send me which would allow me to continue learning and practicing Chinese. When I first attended SCCS, I felt extremely self-conscious, I was afraid there would be a significant ethnic barrier between my peers and me. However, as time went on, I came to understand just how valuable SCCS was to me.



Connor Riordan
SCCS Student and
Event Host

As a child, my parents and my teachers would complement me saying that I knew how to organize a group well or how to keep people on task. But I never felt like I was good at these sorts of things until I started to help teach dance lessons at SCCS. Not only does this school have a fantastic Chinese language program, it also has many different activities that children can experience while still sticking to Chinese traditions. For example, this dance class that I help assist incorporates Chinese style into the dances that are taught to the kids. It is through this class that I truly saw my improvement as a leader to people. It taught me how to be strict but gentle at the same time. How to teach yet make lessons fun. I learnt how to encourage kids into doing what they love while teaching them something new. Without this experience at SCCS, I would have never gotten the chance to see myself as a leader and as the person that many other people see in me.

This class also helps young children learn things they wouldn't be able to learn at a regular dance class. They learn dances that many dance schools in the area don't teach. Additionally, these children are able to perform their dances for their community. This gives them exposure to not only Chinese dances as well as how it feels to perform for large crowds. With the opportunity it provides for young people and the impact it has had on me, SCCS is without a doubt, a great school.



Alissa Li
Dance Class Teacher at SCCS
2016-Present



Alissa And Her Brother Alex
In Suzhou, China

Every single teacher I had was a blessing to me, not just for their ability to create structured classes and present interesting material, but also for their tireless efforts to help each student that sits in their class. Their endless outpouring of support inspired some of my best efforts. Because of SCCS, I have not only retained my Chinese ability, but have also improved my dedication and commitment to my studies. These are skills that I apply to all aspects of my life – I certainly owe a significant amount of my conventional academic success to SCCS.

One of my proudest moments was of hosting the Chinese New Year Talent Show . It was an honor to be given the chance to host, given the fact that I came from a different background and culture . The rehearsals could not have gone more smoothly. 罗老师 was absolutely incredible, and she made sure to always offer me extra time to go over my lines, which I was able to do both in person and over the phone. With role models like 罗老师, I found it within myself to become not just a better student, but a better person as well.

If I had to summarize my experience at SCCS, I could only call it “life changing.” I have become a better student, a better friend, and a better son.



I could never have co-hosted the Festival without 罗老师, her constant support and willingness to go the extra mile to help me prepare was incredibly helpful



I was so proud to stand on stage with the incredibly talented performers and hosts of the SCCS New Years Festival.



Alissa and Hanna
with Their Students Backstage



In Art Class 2015



My Trophies from Talent Show 2015



Class Performance 2016



Chinese New Year Celebration 2018

“Chinese school holds amazing stuff like talent shows and speech contests. I have performed every single show school offered since I started there”. ----- Katherine

Hi my name is Katherine Zhang. I'm 9 year old. I've been to Chinese school for five years. Chinese school is such an awesome school to learn Chinese, and a lot more others. Let me tell you why....

Chinese school teachers are so kind and awesome! They choose the best ways to help us learn Chinese. The teachers give prizes. Once in awhile, we would get a cool looking pencil or some awesome toys.

Chinese school holds amazing stuff like talent show and



Katherine Zhang, 9 Current Student of SCCS

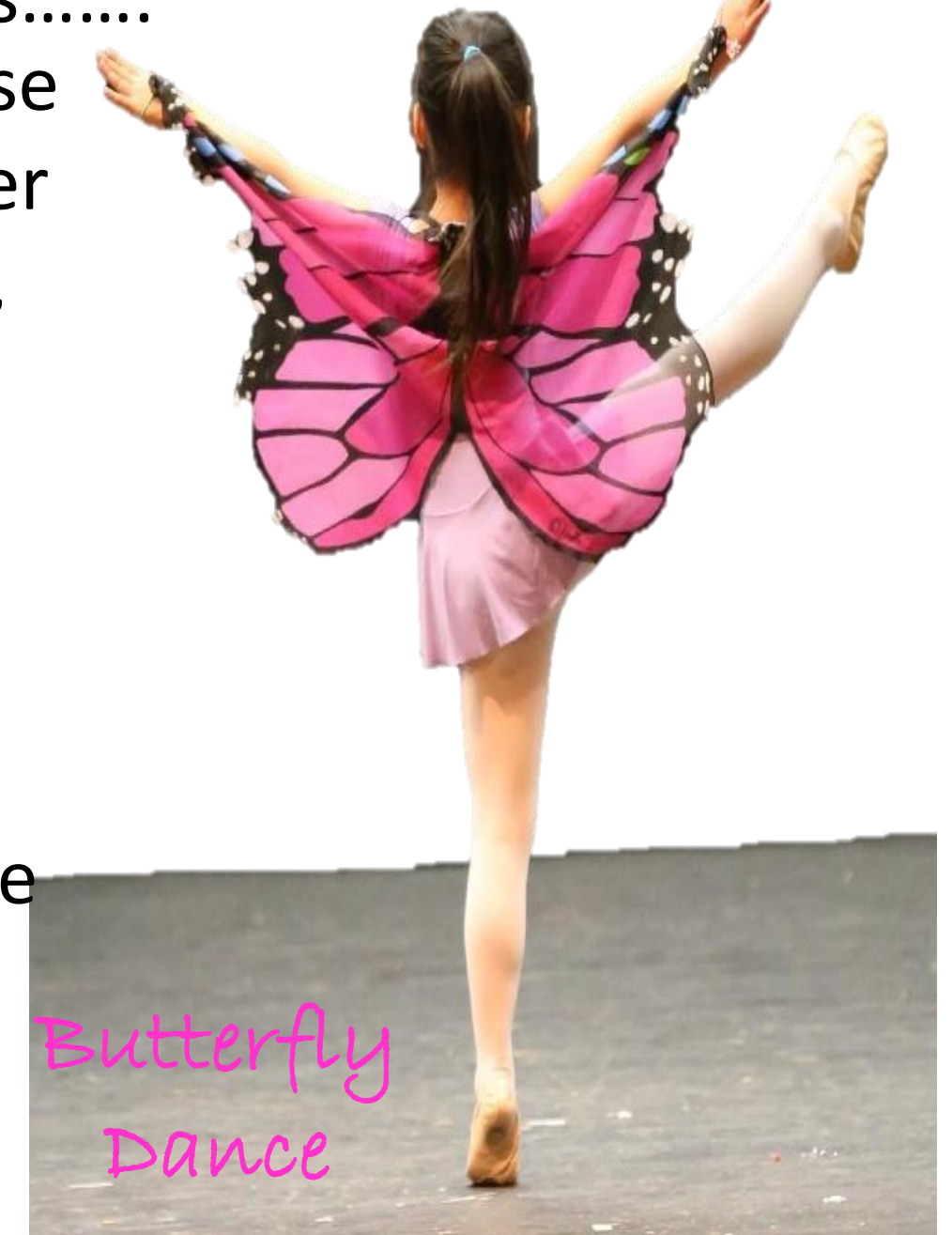
speech contests. I have performed every single show school offered since I started there. Normally I dance for talent shows. In the past a few years, I did a butterfly dance wearing a butterfly wing costume, a traditional Chinese dance wearing a Chinese dress with extra-long sleeves, a gypsy ballet dance with my friends etc. For speech

contest, I would write on a topic with my mom's help and tell the story in Chinese.All the performances take lots of time and hard work. I used many weekends even bedtime to practice and tried to make them perfect. Through the practices and performances, I understood more Chinese language and culture. At the beginning I was also very nervous to perform. I remember I was so scared when it was my first time performing. I cried before the show. But now after these wonderful fun years, I became comfortable on the big stage. I love to perform!

They also hold fun things like egg hunt on Easter weekend. In the egg hunt you have to find the special eggs to win a prize. Last year, I was one of the lucky ones to find a special egg. I won a big basket filled with treats.....

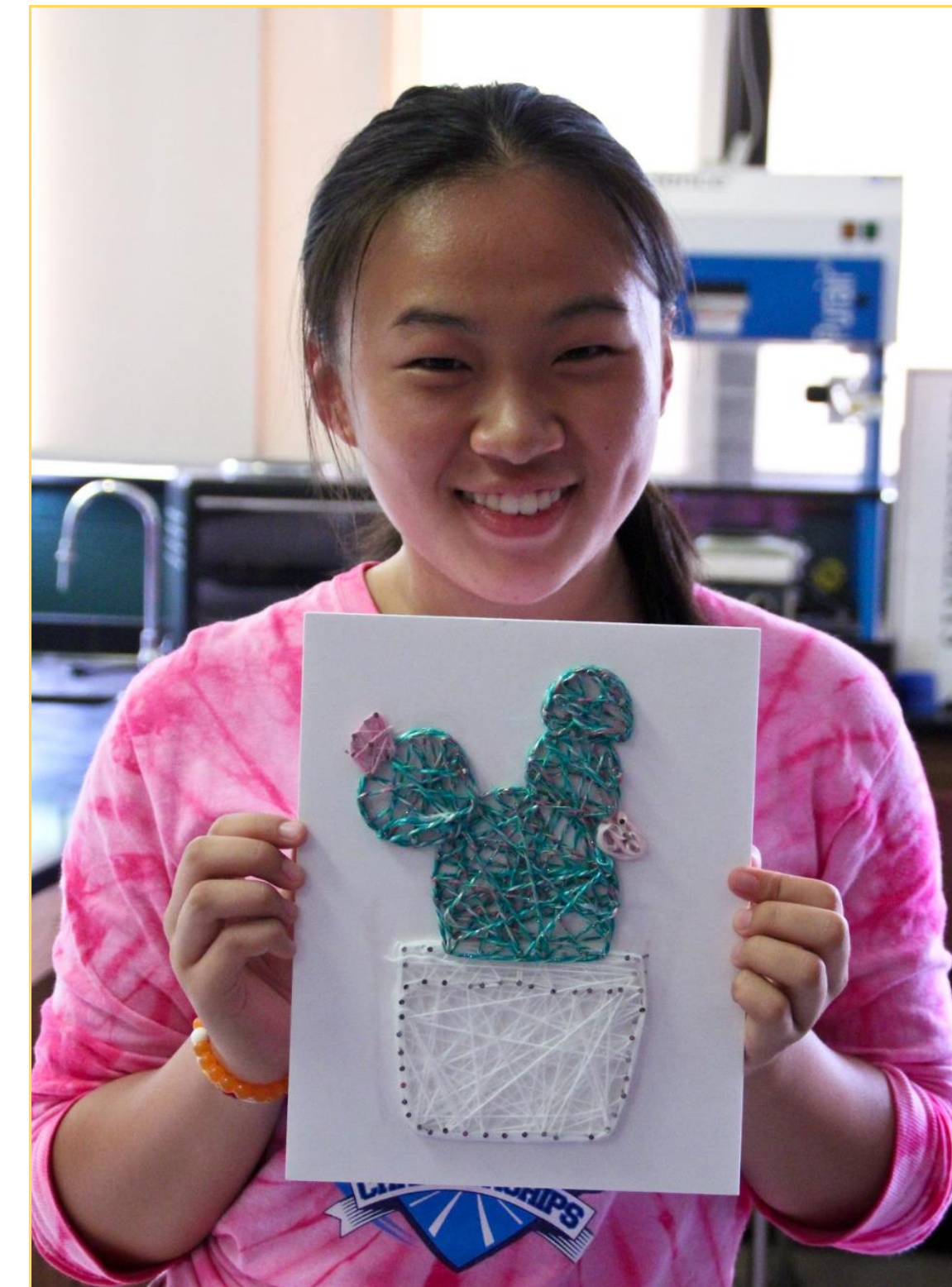
Last but not least, after the Chinese class, you can sign up for two other studies like art, math, chess, flute, violin, and others

I chose art and math. Art is my favorite subject. I learned about sketching still life and painting watercolor. After being Chinese school for 5 years, I absolutely love this place. I made many good friends and had a lot fun. Isn't Chinese school awesome?!



Butterfly Dance

“I started learning Chinese Language in Grade one and went all the way to AP. Comprehending, speaking, writing, and reading Chinese allows me to understand a whole new perspective of the Chinese Culture.”----- Sophia



Sophia Tung, 15 SCCS Student Since 2008

SCCS stands for South Connecticut Chinese School. It is located in East Lyme High School. It takes place on Sundays every week. I have been a student at SCCS for 10 years. In SCCS, there are so many opportunities to learn different subjects that aren't just Chinese. The subjects include Math, Art, Dance and more incredible courses. The teachers make the learning environment a fun place and will always make sure you feel right in. This.

school has helped me tremendously. Not only have I made friends, I have also learned life lessons. My first course taken at SCCS was Dance. In my 2nd year, I started my journey of learning the Chinese Language. I started in Grade one and went all the way to AP. Comprehending, speaking, writing, and reading Chinese allows me to understand a whole new perspective of the Chinese Culture. Now don't get me wrong, learning in SCCS is fun, but the staff know that kids like to have competitions. So, we have a talent show and speech contest every year. The talent show is loads of fun, but I'm going to zoom into detail about the speech contests. The speech contests help you speak, memorize and understand Chinese better. I started out with a participation award and slowly worked my way up to first place. The contests are some of the best memories at SCCS. The general idea of Chinese School is to help you in the future, and I hope you sign up to be part of this family!



My very First First Place Trophy



Dance in the Talent Show, 2009



With My Friend Connie In 2010



Wearing a Traditional Chinese Dress