

## 2018 TYAF Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Award



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Hi I am Annika Meng. I am currently a sophomore in high school in Richard Montgomery's International Baccalaureate program. I have been attending Washington DC Taiwanese School for 14 years now and am currently enrolled in both Taiwanese and Mandarin classes.

In my free time, I enjoy playing volleyball and have played on Richard Montgomery's co-ed and JV volleyball teams. Additionally, I also like to sing and am currently in the school's Concert Choir. I am so honored to be selected for the TYAF award and am extremely grateful for this opportunity presented by this amazing Taiwanese community.

Ryan Chen is a junior at Thomas S Wootton High School. Ever since he was one-and-half years old, Ryan grew up in a community surrounded by Taiwanese culture within Washington DC Taiwanese School, which caused him to treasure his Taiwanese identity and heritage. He continues his passion for Taiwanese culture by participating in numerous volunteer activities sponsored by Washington DC Taiwanese School, Taiwanese Youth Arts Foundation and the Cultural Center of TECRO. Ryan is now a teacher's assistant for the middle school Mandarin class at the Washington DC Taiwanese School.



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Ryan has been a competitive swimmer since he was 10 years old. Swimming is his passion and he plays an active role in the swim team at Wootton High School. He competed in several state championship meets and continues to make good progress. He is also a certified lifeguard and served as coach's assistant for summer swim team.



Aaron Chen is a sophomore at Winston Churchill High School. He was born at Shady Grove Hospital on June 9th, 2003. He attended Newton Lee ES in Ashburn, Virginia until the end of fifth grade, when he moved to Potomac, Maryland.

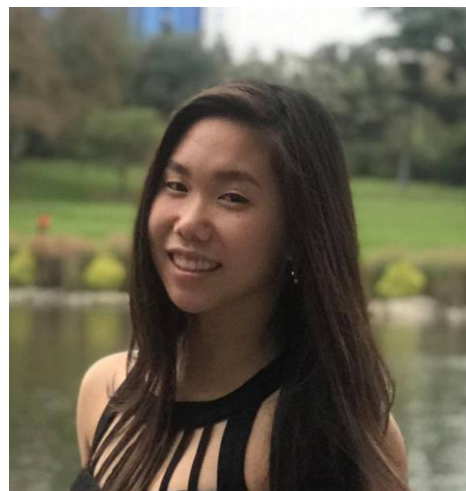
He enjoys playing various sports outside with friends, and some hobbies include playing baseball, piano, computer games, and violin. He also attends Taiwanese School at Cabin John Middle School and often helps out during their events like Taiwan Fun and Winter Festival.

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Larissa Tsai is a high school student born in Rockville, Maryland and raised in a Taiwanese household. Besides English, she also speaks Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, and has been learning Spanish for 6 years. She returns to Taiwan every summer to visit her relatives, practice the languages, and explore the culture in depth. She is proud to say she has traveled through almost every corner of Taiwan, even Orchid Island. She is particularly fond of the delectable food and drinks she finds in every region.

Outside of traveling, Larissa enjoys programming and exploring other aspects of computer science. She co-leads Wootton Hack Club and Wootton Programming Competition Club. She furthered her interest through her summer internship at John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory and her volunteering at the STEM-oriented KID Museum on the weekends. After her graduation in 2020 from Thomas S. Wootton High School, Larissa plans on attending a four-year university to study computer science.



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