

## 2018 Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Award Essay

My name is Aaron Chen and I am fifteen years old. Currently, I am a sophomore at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland, and I am also a student at WDCTS. I have been going there almost every Sunday for Chinese and Taiwanese school since I was three.

Throughout the years, I have been a part of the Taiwanese American Society in DC. I volunteer at our Taiwanese school during most of the events, including our Lunar New Year festival, Winter Solstice party, and other events in order to help the adults out in the process of spreading the Taiwanese culture to other people in the DC metropolitan area, regardless of their ethnicity or race.

Aside from school and education, I also enjoy playing piano, violin, and baseball, along with some other sports that I play just for fun. Last year in our orchestra, we played a piece called Spring Breezes (望春風), a Taiwanese folk song that is still well-known and played in both Taiwan and Taiwanese places and festivals in America. Even though it wasn't my idea to play the piece in orchestra, I felt pride in the fact that I was able to represent my Taiwanese American culture through many ways and not just during Taiwanese school/Taiwanese American events.

During the summer of 2017, I participated in FASCA at TECRO, in which I learned about many new parts of Taiwanese customs, dances, and activities. I can use all that knowledge to eventually spread and represent the Taiwanese American culture in the DC area.

In my remaining years of high school and throughout my college and adult life, I plan on continuing to be a part of the Taiwanese American culture and to carry it on to further generations.