

My name is Jemin Chang Slack. I am currently a senior attending Quince Orchard High School. During these past four years, every Sunday, I visited my local Taiwanese school. However, my origins with Taiwanese school started back when I was three years old. Taiwanese school has been the only social activity that I have avidly participated in. The people of Taiwanese are very tightly knit, and treat everyone who comes into their society with opened arms. I am proud to be able to have volunteered for the school for the years that I have been here, and for years to come.

Several events occur every year at Taiwanese school that I am a proud participant and volunteer. These events include the Lantern Festival, Chinese New Year, Mothers Day, Halloween, Taiwan Fun, and Field Day.

During the Chinese new year and Mother's Day, I have volunteered with the distribution of food at dinner parties. In Taiwan Fun and the Lantern Festival, I have volunteered by helping younger students with crafting. In Field day, I have participated by running in the various dashes and assisting in Tug of war against other schools. Halloween, however, is the event that I have given a substantially large amount of my time. Every year, I have put together a costume of a custom Mandalorian from Star Wars, with each year becoming more advanced than the next. My primary goal with it is to become a member of the "Mandalorian Mercs," a non-profit costume club spanning throughout the world using Star Wars to help support charities, and help people in need.

Over the Summer months, I have participated in being a camp counsellor for Dr. Liang's Summer camp. There I have been responsible for keeping campers in order, cleaning up after campers, leading water activities and 'being a target.' At the Camp, I have learned quite a few things, including making Traditional Taiwanese snacks, yogurt and much more. As an only child, this opportunity helped me build valuable skills in dealing with difficult people(Children). This experience has been perfect for my social skills development.

The most invigorating activity that I have participated in for Taiwanese school would be rowing on the Washington DC Taiwanese school youth dragon-boat team. At the beginning of the season last year, I was enlisted as a co-captain for the youth team. At the end of the season, we raced in the Washington DC Dragon-Boat festival. I am very proud to say that the youth team and I won first, a gold medal for the youth category 250m race. Next, a Silver medal for the 250m adult and youth mix. Finally, a bronze for the 500m youth category race. In this race, I gained valuable experience in teamwork, synchronization and friendship.

Being part of the Taiwanese society, I have felt included in a vibrant culture. Dragon-Boat, camp counselling, the participation of the various events in Taiwanese School have made me more grounded, more social, and more mature. I want to thank all of the Taiwanese society for making

me become a better person overall. I want to also thank TYAF for giving me this opportunity to express my appreciation for Taiwanese-American culture.