

[REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED]. Most people know me as Lizzie. I am currently a junior at Winston Churchill High School but attending classes at Montgomery College (MC) Rockville

Campus for the Early College Program. My mom is Taiwanese and my dad is Korean-American. Although, I was born and raised in Maryland, USA, I am very proud to be a

Taiwanese-Korean American. I feel connected to Taiwan through my family and friends, as well as through many interactions in the local Taiwanese community. I visited Taiwan twice, but the memory is everlasting. Not only the people are so nice but there are so many things to do. I definitely miss the Taiwan's night market games and food. Luckily, we are fortunately enough to be surrounded by semi-large Taiwanese community in the Great Washington D.C. and Baltimore Metropolitan Area.

I attended the Washington School of Chinese Language and Culture (WSCLC) for 12 consecutive years from (K2 to 10th grade) and am currently a Teaching Assistant and Youth Dragon Boat Team Member at the Washington D.C. Taiwanese School (WDCTS). I am part of the Formosa Association of Student Cultural Ambassadors (FASCA) Student Leader Ambassadors of the DC Chapter. I joined FASCA since 2021 and has volunteered in majority of the FASCA activities, along with pretty much all the dance/yoyo service performances. I often performed Chinese Yoyo "Diablo" at many community events such as Bubble Tea Festival, Potomac Day, and Memorial Day Parade. In addition, I have led some events such as LevelUP Night Market (cultural presentations and demonstrations), breakout session for the virtual hangout with student in Taiwan (language and cultural exchange), Halloween Eye Spy Train (outreach and community services), etc. With my involvement in WDCTS and FASCA, I have the opportunity and hands-on experiences in volunteering in a lot of events promoting Taiwan cultural and heritage. Furthermore, I have volunteered at Taiwan Yes Night Market and Taiwan Fun events.

Leadership roles and community service are huge parts of my life. Prior to joining WDCTS and

FASCA, I have volunteered weekly (for a year prior to the pandemic) at the Chinese American Parents and Students Association (CAPSA), a tutoring program for Taiwanese and Chinese immigrants. I also volunteered at the Dr. Liang Summer Camp during the summer of 2022. It is very rewarding experience to help children who are either learning to adapt to the new culture or young campers with various activities. I have over 1300 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours and two (2) President's Volunteer Service Award "Gold" so far. Prior to starting the MC Early College program, I was a founder of the Chinese Yo-Yo/Diablo club at the Winston Churchill High School. I was coaching a few students on the sport of Chinese Yo-Yo.

My family have always taught me the importance of hard work and perseverance. I am currently working on both an associate degree in Computer Science with the MC Early College Program as well as a Maryland State High School diploma. I hope through hard work, I am able to achieve my goal and later get accepted to University of Maryland to further achieve my goal, help the community, and promote Taiwan cultural and heritage.

I would like to thank Taiwanese Youth Arts Foundation (TYAF) for sponsoring the Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Awards to the youths who have outstanding achievements.