

Winterthur

This place that I am going to introduce is an impeccable place for people who are interested in history and interior design. Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts, reflecting both early America and the du Pont family's life (winterthur.org). This gorgeous place is founded by Henry Francis du Pont, who was the owner of American antique collections displayed in the house. Its museum, library and naturalistic garden are the three main components of the spot. I went here with my host family, and absolutely loved this place.

First, we toured the old house of the du Pont family. The mansion was stunning, and I was surprised that it consists of 175 rooms. The guide explained to us how each room that we visited was used and how it was decorated. I learned a lot about each room's style and tradition. The most intriguing part of the house was that the early Christmas celebration of the du Pont family. One of their traditions was to have baskets full of Christmas presents for each family member and to set them nearby chairs in the living room, so people can all open their gifts together.

The second part of the tour was held in a naturalistic garden. Despite the frigid weather, there are lots of plants and trees colored with lively green. Surprisingly, there were a few early flowers bloomed, and all people were mesmerized by this unusual sight. This garden made me to really want to come back here during the spring or summertime,



since there would be even more flowers at that time.

My favorite part of the trip was that guides were greatly helpful. They were all knowledgeable about the place, and skillful at delightfully enlightening tourists. I actually enjoyed learning about the place without getting bored of explanations. The splendid outdoor garden and the fascinating manor are definitely worth a visit.

-12기 정은교



Christmas



Normally, private school has final exam before winter break and it gives less than two weeks for break. In case of my school, we had three exam days and right after that, the break began from 23rd December to 4th January. During winter season, some people from Wisconsin which is in mid-western of state and right under the Canada are looking for to going south area such as Texas, Florida, or Carolina for finding warm place during blizzard season. However, not all of people are going there. For instance, I and my host family were still in town.

Actually some people could complain about "why I am not doing anything during CHRISTMAS!!" "Why my host family? Why my house? Why just stay at home for the most fun and the best holiday?" like me. It is fair to think about that way since your friends are leaving town especially they are exchange students like you. I could see most of my friends were going Disney World, New York, and Texas such a dream city to go for vacation. There is no way that you can do so you should just deal with it, For me I made a Christmas bucket list that I can really do with perfect possibility. Then when I did one of them, I marked it for I have done. It is another fun that you can find and do. You should find your way and life to do your own!

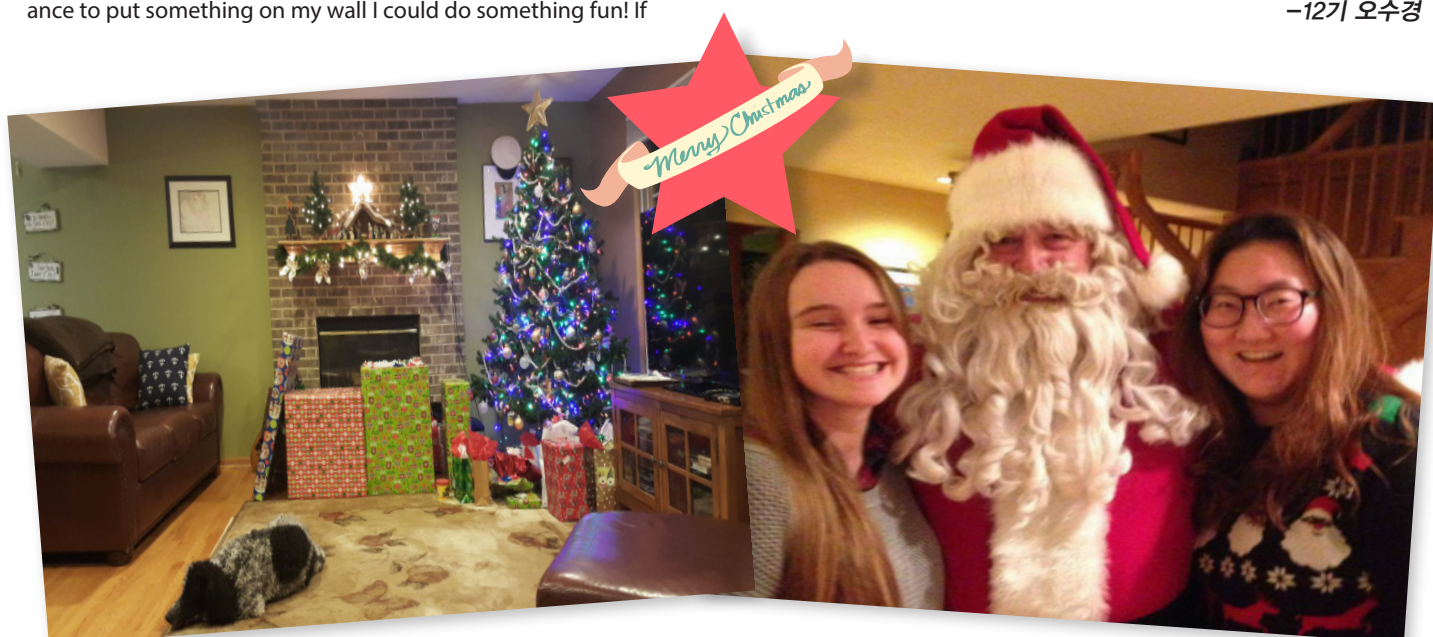
One day, I went to the Walmart to buy Christmas lights to decorate my room on the wall. Since I was in Korea; after I saw some pictures of room decoration, decorating my room with lights was my dream of dream; it was sort of my bucket list to put them in my room. Because, while I turn the lights on during night, I would have more emotional than I have during the day. Also having nice lights on has benefits especially for me with no lie. I could have time to reflect on an entire day with the questions; how I spent a day, what I did do well or bad and all kind of thinking that I could have. Due to host parent's allowance to put something on my wall I could do something fun! If



you want to do same thing that I have done you better ask your host family first because sometimes there are the some who do not like or never allow to do put any stuff on the wall. However, I was kind of lucky! Even though there are some evil parents my host parents looked at my lights decoration and said "That is so Christmas! It looks awesome!"

In this area where I live, there is a Christmas tree competition in downtown. It is a kind of fun competition that anyone can participate to vote for winner. This competition is about that some people make their own Christmas tree and display in a certain place where the competition holds. We went there during the night to vote and I was very amazed because the makers were not even professional artist, all of those trees had made so creative and pretty.

-12기 오수경



Snowy Days



If anyone asks what my favorite season is, I will be so excited to answer the question. Spring, summer, fall, and winter, all four of them are my favorites, however I love winter the best. I am so happy that Korea has all four seasons because if we didn't, I would never know how winter is like. One thing I learned recently is that

not really many countries have all four seasons. So we are very lucky. When I decided to go high school at Rhode Island, first thing I heard about it was that they get humongous amount of snow. They got 2 feet of snow last year and had snow days for every Monday. I was so ready and excited for it. Korea gets very cold during winter, but we don't really get many snow. Even if we do, they aren't enough to play. Like my favorite sports are ice skating and skiing, I just love winter so much. I was ready to experience Rhode Island.

We were having dinner when I first noticed it was snowing outside. My host sister was screaming and I wondered why. She was dancing with joyful movement. As soon as I looked up the window, I noticed why. IT WAS SNOWING! I ran up to my room as fast as I could, and checked my closet to make sure I had everything. I bought and packed bunch of snow clothes at Korea and I get to wear them now. I was so ready.

After waiting for few hours, snow went up about 5 inches. Everything was white outside. Windows were shaking and I could see how cold outside is. Araceli, my host sister, and I got dressed with snow pants,

snow boots, and snow everything. We laughed at each other because we looked huge on snow clothes. Her snow clothes got little short, but she didn't care. Araceli and I were just too excited to deal with that. Hooray!! All set to go outside.

Opening the door, we felt strong wind and we felt like we were going to flew away. "Hahaha Jiwoo, what are you doing?" Araceli was laughing

so hard when I jumped and laid myself into snow. Cold snow went all into my cloth but I loved it. Every moment was just precious. She said I looked like a big snowman. We also built a snow castle and went sledding at steep hill too. After we came back in, host mom made us hot chocolate and it was so good. I love snowy days. :))

-12기 정지우



Fondue



One day, for some reason, my host family and I started a conversation about "Fondue". My host sister and I were craving for fondue. Fondue is a way of cooking using melted sauce or oil. You can boil oil using a fondue pot then put your vegetables or meats on the stick and put it in oil. Your food is going to be cooked and you also can cook as how you want to. For dessert, you can dip fruits or diced cake pieces into melted chocolate.

My host parents told us that we actually own a fondue pot which we



as my host sister and I did not know at all. They told us we can do fondue next time when we are ready since fondue requires lots of preparations and is not easy. On Wednesday, when I came back home from TOK (TOK is an afterschool extended class on every Wednesday for full IB candidates), I smelled something DELICIOUS. I dashed into the kitchen and guess what I saw? I saw marinated meats in packs for meal and diced fruits and sweets for dessert. And the fondue pot on the kitchen table. I did not even go to my room to drop my stuff and get changed. I directly jumped into food! I just could not wait. It was like Heaven after a long day at school.

The best thing about fondue was that I could cook my meat as I wanted. People who preferred well-done, they left their meats in the pot longer. It is true that fondue is not an easy dinner since there is always a possibility of hitting the pot accidentally by taking your sticks out and in. Also, we had to wash all the sticks and pot after the meal for dessert to make sure that the desserts don't taste like oil or meat.

Overall, it was one of the best meals. For the sake of us eating and loving fondue, my host parents suggested going to a big famous fondue

restaurant called, Melting Pot in between our birthdays. It was not a dinner that was fancy or big but certainly memorable. We had fun and also had good food. I wished my real family was there.

-12기 김예나



Cinderella the Musical



Archbishop Ryan hosted a musical, Cinderella, for winter production of 2015! As a member of school concert band, playing music for the show was such a privilege and great chance of so many things. Although Cinderella was my first show to participate in and junior year was my second year playing trombone, I really enjoyed looking at the music for hours and go to practice almost every weekend. It was truly worth of time and effort, and did pay off at the end.

Cinderella was consisted of three main groups: cast, crew, and pit.

To briefly explain what role each group has, I will start with the cast. Cast is the actors who take part in the play. Generally four or five main characters, a group of dancers, and another group of singers, chorus. In order to become a part of the cast, audition is required.

The audition date is normally announced few weeks ahead, so that all the students who are interested will have enough time to practice. Next is crew.

Crew, or stage crew, are people who take care of lighting, sound, properties, scenery design, and sets of the show.

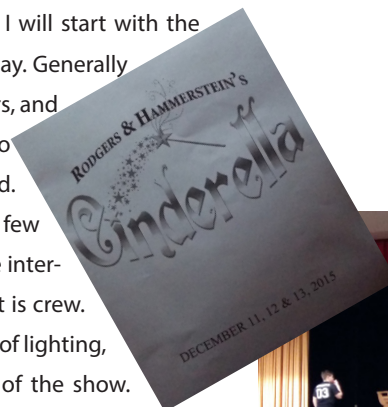
Unlike the cast, most high school stage crew doesn't ask for an audition to join. However, stage crew has crucial jobs to make a successful play. Therefore the crew prefers students who are willing to dedicate their time for the show. Last but not least, the pit. Since I played an instrument, I was part of a pit. What we call "pit or orchestra

pit" is an ensemble, a group of musicians who perform together, for a musical or show. It depends on a play, but pit generally includes the following: Piano, Celeste, Flutes, Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass clarinet, Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass guitar, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Harp, and Percussions.

The show was in December, so we started practicing about two months ahead. The pit met twice a week, for about 2 hours. However, the practice hour increased to about 4 hours as the performance date came up. Also, few weeks before the performance, all members of cast, crew, and pit came to school during weekends to run over the whole show about twice, which took roughly 6-7 hours. When you just hear about the practice hours, you may think it is very stressful and tiring. Well, it was rather the opposite. As I mentioned earlier, this year is my second year in school band, so I felt like I wasn't truly part of it until I joined pit. Because I was in the pit, I not only made so many new friends, but also got really close with friends who used to be just kids I knew from band, and eventually became best friends. Moreover, many people told me that my instrumental skill improved a lot ever since I joined pit. At first, I wondered why my skill improved so much, but then I found out that playing my instrument, trombone, for hours was the reason why.

I would highly recommend all the students who are plainly interested in music, or able to play instrument to join band, musical, or chorus, because by joining band and pit, my whole school life has changed. It helped me having various friends regardless of grades, getting involved in extra-curricular program, improving my instrumental skills, and releasing stress from academic pressure. I do not regret at all, but extremely glad to be part of band and pit.

—12기 이지원



Blizzard Advantages



In Pennsylvania and most of the East states such as New York, there was a big blizzard on last Saturday. It was almost the end of January but we barely had snow in PA. Well, it was freezing cold and windy but not much snow. Hence, many people were complaining about the weather. We all were waiting

for snow to ski, sled, snow tube and fun. My friends and I were more into two hour delays and day offs due to snow. Anyways, starting a week ago from the actual blizzard day (Saturday), people were getting pumped up and talking about snow. No matter how old we were, we all were desperately waiting for



SNOW.

Then I woke up on Saturday morning and opened the curtain with my fluttering heart. I was AMAZED. Even though I was looking down it from the second floor, I could tell it was a thick layer of snow. Everything was covered with white snow and no one had stepped on it so it was like a view from a movie. I ran to the downstairs and opened the first door (we have a second door and it is a transparent door) to see how thick it is. It was almost 28 inches. We could not even open the front door and no one was allowed to drive on that day.

On Sunday, when the blizzard went away to the other side of the country, we went up to the cabin. Since the cabin is up high in the mountain, no one had stepped at all. We could even do free fall and jump into snow. That is how thick it was!

While I was lying on snow (more likely in snow), I felt so comfortable. Not like being lazy comfortable but like warm comfortable. I get it if you don't understand what I am talking about because it makes no sense being warm in snow. But as Junior, I had lots of concerns about school work, colleges and future. Once I jumped into snow, they all were gone. Once I looked down the mountain and saw the beautiful and pure white view, something made me so calmed.

I did get a cold after a while but it was worthy! It was such a reminder of my childhood and restored my energy. By the way, we had two day offs and one day of two hour delay!

-12기 김예나

Winter break



During winter break, there was so much exciting than I had during the school days because everyone had come from all different place; an oldest sister came from Iowa second sister came from Arizona, and host brother who is currently in the Navy came from South Carolina. It was so crowded but also it was so much fun if it is compared to the day when I was alone at home.

On the last day of year 2015, I and my friend went to another friend's house to have an overnight day so that we had dinner together and celebrate the new year' coming. Then on the first day of 2016, I went to the Michigan Lake which is located around my city and not even take 10 minutes to get there from home with host dad, brother and host sister. The reason I went to lake was to going to see the polar bear plunge event which has held every first day of year; some people participate to jumping into the lake even it is crazy weather with having snow and low temperature due to wind chill. Actually I did not go into the water. Instead of that, I was just a volunteer for taking picture and taking care of them such as preparing towels and clothes when they right came back from water. Even though the weather was so bad on that day, there were more than 50 people to doing that crazy stuff. And while I was watching people there, I have got shocked



and thought there is something crazy stuff going on people's head because there were some girls at my ages who were wearing 'BIKINI'; it was zero in Fahrenheit degree. Although they were conduct like that I have admired them how they are brave to doing that. I was like "what a challenge activity since the New Year's Day." On the way to go back to home, my host dad said he is doing that polar bear plunge every year. What a man!

Across the road from my house, there is a sloping road where is perfect for doing sledding so that I and my French host sister went up there to do sledding with air tubes. If somebody asks me how was sledding, I will definitely say "I was unhinged and the weather was also unhinged." With no lie, with a hundred percent truth, I felt my facial skin has been bleeding because it was snowing with heavy hails and with crazy winds. I was screaming during whole time while I was outside. I could not even open my eyes properly and see so it was really funny because my host brother was keep asking me "are you ok? sure? need help? cold? are you ok? fine?"

-12기 오수경



NHS Induction



Every year, National Honor Society, a.k.a. NHS, sends a letter to top 10% students of upcoming or current junior and senior class. This letter is about list of things the students should do in order to apply for NHS, and eventually become a NHS member. I was extremely excited when I got this letter at the end of my sophomore year. So, in order to apply, I needed three recommendations from English / History teacher, Math / Science teacher, and Religion teacher. Along with that, I had to turn in a form listing all the activities I have done, or still doing, including sports, service hours, club, and so on. I did not know whether I got in or not until my junior year started. To be honest, I was a bit skeptical about the result and didn't expect much, but when I found out that I got in to NHS, I was more than a little happy. Although the members of NHS for this school year was announced, we still needed a formal induction liturgy / ceremony. All the members invited their family members to the induction, and also to a banquet dinner and dance which was held right after the induction. Our motto for this year's induction was "Chosen to serve, Open to grace, Gifted to be, A light for all." Since it was called an induction liturgy, the mass was included, which meant that singers and musicians were needed. I was lucky enough to play trombone with other students who played harp, guitar, and piano. After the mass, induction started by the officers of NHS explaining four main qualities of NHS: Service, Character, Leadership, and Scholarship.

Then, the officers called members of NHS one by one to perform a candle lighting ceremony. After everyone got their candle lit up, we, all the members, made a pledge by saying, "I pledge to uphold the high purposes of this society to always seek the light of truth, to hold scholarly habits, to engage in worth service, and to lead forward in all things. I will be true to the principles for which it stands, I will be loyal to my school; and I will maintain and encourage high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. In doing so, I shall prove myself worthy of a place in the National Honor Society." That was the end of the induction, and personally the moment we all pledged was quite overwhelming because it helped me realizing

that I am truly part of NHS now on.

After the induction, the whole NHS members and moderators went to a banquet dinner. At this place, all the family members received a surprise gift from us, the students. I got an album, quote 'Live, Laugh, Love' on the cover, filled with pictures my host mom Sharon and I took together ever since I came back from Korea. Although it took me a long time to fill up the whole album, as soon as I saw how much Sharon liked the gift, it was so worth the time and effort. (I think she liked it more because her favorite quote was on the cover; that quote eventually became my favorite too.)

Throughout that night, I learned that no matter how hard the obstacle might come, if I bare the struggle and go through the problem, it all pays off at the end and is worth it. So I say to you, do your best you can right now, then your future self will thank you.

-12기 이지원



Spark Brass



music leads them to drive for several hours to just play the music together. Seeing them truly enjoying playing the music, I thought that I want to be like them. Enjoying the music for my entire life regardless of my career or age.

What I learned from the band is that playing softly or strongly (I don't know the terms for p or f) totally differentiates a mood of a song. Depending on how strong is the members' breath, the song showed me various emotions from the song. This made me to pay more attention about p and f marked on my music sheets.

-12기 정은교

My band class had a group of special guests! A band called "Spark Brass" was here to play for us. It was absolutely beautiful. The whole band perfectly showed me how music can inspire people. Because it had been so long since I listened to professional concert music, I could appreciate this rare chance even more. It was the first time I've ever watched a band in such a close distance. It was really interesting that only five people could play songs so powerfully enough to impress people.

The most impressive thing about the band was that every member has a totally different life. It was amazing that although they live in different states and have different occupations, their passion for mu-



Hello 2016, Good bye 2015



everything by myself in here, so I found a new way. I asked for extra help every afterschool and tried not to rely on tutors, like I did in Korea. And it worked out well.

To any friends that were thinking about studying aboard. I want to say, just do your best because we can do it. I am neither smart nor stupid. I am just normal 16 years old who likes to hang out with friends and do what I want. I learned sometimes, we need hard moments because that makes you stronger. Don't you want to have strategy to deal with things? Then experiencing depressions sometimes actually helps. Not long one though. Every happening in 2015 made me stronger and now I am ready to face amazing new start. Goodbye 2015, Hello 2016.

-12기 정지우

"Where are you from? Oh, Korea~ South or North? Wait. What's the difference?" This is what everyone asked me when I first came to US. I was an 8th grader who came with tons of excitements and what I first thought was 'I am not welcomed!' I felt like they are asking me same question again and again because they wanted to make fun of me. I was not comfortable and I was lost. I remember myself being so excited. However, I was so afraid and nervous to face all the changes. Studying wasn't hard and I easily got straight As for all four quarters. However, that didn't make me happy. I wanted to get straight As, but also make friends too. It was just so hard to adjust myself into whole new condition and do everything good. I was afraid of mistakes and that made me timid. I was so sad and didn't like to go school. Every day was just night mares.

Then, I decided not to do this anymore. I decided to make my best school life in here, Mount Saint Charles Academy, because I choose to study aboard. I first joined many clubs as I could, and signed up for Cross Country. It was hard, but I tried to be part of something and said hello to everyone. They first seemed confused because they didn't know me and I was talking to them. But, that was just for few. Talia became my first friend. We met in cross country team. She helped me a lot and since we had practice every day, we spent our afterschool together every day. That made us closer.

Tougher thing I had to overcome was having tests and quizzes every day. Oh, and EXAMS. To keep good grades, I had to pay attention for classes because all of them were based on what we learned today. I honestly have bad study habits and it was hard to change it at once. When I was a student in Korea, like any other teenagers, I relied on tutors and academies to keep good grades. However, I had to do ev-

