



Ted Kim '19

California

Hi, my name is Ted Kim. The government refers to me as Ted Taewook Kim, my family refers to me as Turtle, and Mr. Wawner calls me Teddy K, but you can just call me Ted. I grew up in Southern California until I was given the opportunity to call HPA my home. Now that I am a senior at HPA, it brings me joy to say that I was able to call Hawaii my home. I chose HPA because a tutor of mine suggested it to my family. Originally, I dreaded the idea of going to a boarding school all the way across the ocean. I had all of my middle school friends with me and I had already planned out how high school was gonna go; I was comfortable. It was that same feeling of comfortability however, that lead me to slack off. I was never pushed to explore my boundaries; I was always looking to do the minimum. This was all challenged when my parents forced me to lug five heavy suitcases to a small pebble in the middle of the ocean.

I was nervous. I didn't ease up till about the first month of school was over. After that month though, I felt great. Being outside of my comfort zone really allowed me to explore myself on a deeper level. Something that I had not experienced in a long time. For example, the friends that I had back in California were friends that I had known since pretty much birth. Here, however, I had to learn how to create new friends and it was awesome! Speaking of friends, if I were to highlight one

thing about HPA, it would definitely be the people. This school contains some of the best people that I have ever met in my life, both students AND faculty. The teachers really care for you and want you to succeed and there is no better feeling than knowing that your teacher is on your side. Not only that, but this school provides you with so many role models that you can look up to for motivation. You got people like Jake Schneider and Maile Lawson breaking records in their own respective sports and also teachers like Dr. R and Mr. Bleckel who are smarter than you could ever imagine. Working alongside these people every day gave me the motivation to better myself and to be the best possible Ted that I could be.

I can guarantee you that if I stayed in California, my life wouldn't be half as interesting as it is today, and that is really what you are paying for, the experience. Sure you get top notch education and sports, but at the heart of HPA, is the experience. Life is lived once and the things you look at while you pass by will be the things that you will hold onto forever. Time will move a lot faster than you think it will so might as well create great memories that you can cherish forever. Thank you very much Hawaii Prep for the countless moments of grief, frustration, joy and most of all, the laughs. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for this school.

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