



Alexandra Peskova '19

Bratislava, Slovakia

My name is Alexandra Peskova and I'm 18 years old and was born in Bratislava, Slovakia. I'm currently attending my second year at HPA as a senior and will be graduating soon. I wanted to leave Slovakia to change something in my life. I decided to go to a convention filled with American high schools that came to Bratislava. There was a stand in the corner that caught my eye right away ... the one and only Hawai'i Preparatory Academy. I met and got to talking with Mrs. Police (one of the administrators at HPA). There was a slideshow with many beautiful photos and I fell in love with the beauty that I saw right away. That was the exact moment I knew I had to fly out to Hawai'i to attend this school no matter what.

When I received my acceptance letter, I was as excited as one could possibly be. It was finally time for me to fly out to Hawai'i and for my life to completely change. When I arrived at HPA, I was really scared. I was completely alone and I felt really intimidated by the amount of new people around me. However, when I started talking to people, I realized how sweet and caring everyone actually was. From faculty, to students, to even maintenance, each and every single person is always there to help. The relationships/friendships you make at HPA can definitely last a lifetime. I've met some incredible people that I would have never met if I stayed in Slovakia and they became my hanai (adoptive) family.

Alongside with incredible people, this school has a variety of amazing classes that students can choose from based on their interests. There are

also many different levels of academics that one can explore. Even though there's some time during the school day to talk to other students and the teachers, one of the many perks of being a boarder is having the opportunity to get to know everyone better. HPA has an amazing boarding program that keeps every student safe and happy. Being so far away from home can get difficult but there are hundreds of other boarders that experience the same thing and know exactly how to help. Hawai'i is an incredible island with beautiful nature, HPA being in the center of it all. The campus is located on a hill surrounded by trees of all shapes, colors and sizes. HPA has amazing resources that help students explore, develop and improve their academic and extracurricular skills which are useful in high school as well as in the future. I got to learn some amazing things about this beautiful place that not many people know and I had a lot of fun doing so.

Being at HPA definitely made me grow as a person and helped me thrive in many different ways that I'm sure I'll never forget. No matter how far Hawai'i is from Slovakia, choosing this school was the best decision I've ever made and I would do it again in a heartbeat. Being away from home definitely made me more independent, it made me value things more and it certainly made me a better person, the one I am today. I'm really thankful for the opportunity my parents and HPA gave me to study abroad, pursue my interests and reach my goals.

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