

Chris Interview

- Upper School Student Body President
- “Face of upper school”
- From China
- Not a US citizen
 - Has a visa
- Honestly does not know why Severn School, the US is so big
- Feels lucky
- He was looking at some schools and Severn caught his eye and he came here, “random but turns out it was a good choice”
- At the age of 13 him and his parents had to decide
 - Didn’t know what was best for him with a different culture
- The education in the US is much better than China
- Mom works at College and believes it’s better to come here and get a better education
 - China only focuses on grades
- US is more comprehensive, academics is not everything and he thinks that important
- Mom professor in college and teaches Civil Engineering
- Father is Civil engineering
 - Designs roads, bridges, tunnels in his home city
- Both love math and science - why he likes it
- Dinner table conversations are about relativity and quantum mechanics
- Severn provides a lot of freedom in both academic and none academic way
 - Academic - China everyone has to take the same class
 - He was taking math with Juniors and Seniors freshman year, but then taking english with juniors this year - he’s allowed to choose what class he wants to take
 - Wide variety of choices
- Talked to Casey (another exchange student) when he was looking at Severn school and something casey said really caught his eye
 - “The Svern School tried their best to support your desire to learn”
 - Chris has run out of math classes to take and Mr. Meyer helped him find an online college class to take, which he couldn’t have found on his own
- Severn is very open on independent studies
 - Went to Dr. Smith’s office and was like hey i want to do an independent study and she said great! What do you want to do. After 10 minutes he walks away with an independent study physics
- Loves the freedom
- Very confused by APeriod at first, sometimes random
 - Office hours was a magical term for him when he came here
- Teacher relationships are like friends

- There's more connections between the faculty and the students which is something he never knew that was possible
- The very first time he stepped on campus was the first day of school - never got a tour of Severn
 - Missed freshman orientation and retreat
 - Mrs. Wilson took him directly from the airport Dallas to Severn School to Mr. Brunk's advisory
 - Wasn't in the dress code
 - Everyone was looking at him like a weirdo
 - Lot of people already knew everyone
 - Prefect Julia showed him around Severn along with Will Dickinson, Fionn Kinsella, Richard Duguay, and Nick they all said hi to everyone
 - Felt like he was alone, didn't know what they were doing and felt separated
 - As time went on he had same English class with Nick and so he helped him, took him around the campus being sincerely nice to him
- He started to gradually feel like he belong to the community and enjoyed the American Culture
- Then COVID came and as he almost settled time, it came and forced him back for the whole year
- COVID was horrible for him
- By the time he came back Junior Year was when he really loved the community
- Math team is a time where he can be in front of the school
- Feels like he owes a debt to everyone because they have always been so nice to him and he wants to pay them back
 - Why he ran for president, wanted an opportunity to serve the people
 - Trying best to pay back his debt to every person in the community
- Values
 - Integrity
 - Honesty
 - None of the lockers are locked
 - Unlike other schools
 - Can leave our stuff out in the halls
 - Can leave a phone out
 - In China cheating is not a big thing
 - When he signed the Honor code it felt scared - people watching you
 - Why he's never cheated
 - When he's on honor codes, they are all his friends but when he comes to the consequences he doesn't want to give them any punishments because he believes the best in everyone but he has another role and people trust

him and he has to be responsible. So when people violate the honor code they deserve the consequence - wants to uphold that integrity

- Core values
 - Being Authentic
 - For a college he has to write a letter to a roommate
 - Talked to Mr. Brunk about what's the best to write
 - Talked to Mrs. COughlin and asked who he things she is she said "unapologetic"
 - He is always just himself
 - On dress down days everyone sweats and he wears a suit, he is just being himself and doing what he likes
 - Always wants to be himself no matter what other people thing
 - In China people don't have a lot of freedom of speech and try to be like everyone and think to much about what others think, want to fit in a crowd
 - He can be himself here and doesn't matter if you fit in a crowd or not
 - Taught by both Severn and in the US
 - Actually dressed down freshman year because he wanted to fit in
 - If in CHina, people would think it's weird but here people think it's interesting
 - Severn has helped him be himself and do what he loves no matter what others think of him
- One Word
 - Spirited
 - united , we are all together
 - No individuals, individuals
 - Going to sports games
 - The student section is when we are one person
 - People aren't just listening to morning meeting announcements, they are excited
 - Get excited about everything
 - Always spirited