

South Tahoe High School

Lake Tahoe Unified School District

"Home of the Vikings"



Ivone Larson, Principal

Dennis Sarosik, Assistant Principal

Patrick Hamett, Assistant Principal

(her American name is) is everything you would expect from a hardworking, South Korean immigrant who appreciates every aspect of the educational opportunities that learning in America brings. Her determined, independent self-awareness has developed over the years since her family came to the United States in 2003 so could be educated here. It has not been easy; has no knowledge of her father since her parents divorced. and her mother endured a traumatic event because her father's sister, due to her own animosity, became involved in the dissolution of the marriage and reported as being kidnapped by her own mother. You can imagine the tangled web that incident weaved; it split the family. had to speak on behalf of herself and her mother to convince the authorities that she was not kidnapped. Subsequently, her father moved back to South Korea and they have not seen or heard from him or his side of the family since that terrible day.

While suffered from that incident, and also from cruelty and alienating prejudice that middle school students bestowed on her for being an "Asian," it also made her more determined than ever to make the most of her situation. She poured herself into her schooling, absorbing every morsel of knowledge and nourishing herself with academic achievement. She has earned her top 5 % ranking in her class by excelling in our most rigorous coursework and has only earned a B+ twice in her high school career, in AP English where she is a second language learner.

Unfortunately, has had to grow up being a parent as a child. Her mother still only speaks broken English, so has had to manage the family's needs both in and outside the home. Since her mother has to work long hours as a single parent to make ends meet, willingly takes care of the domestic chores and looks after her brother while being responsible for her own learning since she was in middle school.

as been her mother's translator for doctor visits, school meetings, and official documents her mother must sign. She has gained self discipline, maturity and time management that come from effectively handling responsibilities in life and has certainly had more than her share of those.

Biology and mathematics are strengths and she intends to study human biology and child development in college in her quest to become a pediatrician. She has immersed herself in the science world by attending the Youth Science Institute at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences since her sophomore year. I marvel at the number of activities that is able to do with all of her responsibilities both in and outside school. Her commitment, perseverance and ability to overcome obstacles are unmatched. It is for all of the reasons listed here that I know will be highly successful at UC San Diego in the fall.

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