

DIFFERENT STYLES, DARING STATEMENTS

Kiwin Wu 11B

In order to participate in the 2020 National Student Art Competition this year, students had to submit their work to the school by September 11th. The three art teachers, the public relations department, and the librarians served as the panel of judges. They selected 38 artworks to represent Xiugang at the New Taipei City competition.

There were eight categories in the New Taipei City Art Competition that the student artists took part in. The categories included ink painting, graphic design, western painting, calligraphy, comic, and printmaking.

In one of the categories, ink painting, one of the participants who won first place in the New Taipei City Art Competition included traditional Tao cuisine, which is pickled flying fish, to portray the culture of Taiwanese aboriginal people through art.

Of the 38 artworks submitted, 27 pieces of artwork were selected as finalists. In the end, the judges at the art competition selected 17 works to represent Taipei City. Out of the 17 amazing artworks selected, three works won prizes in the National Competition.



Design : Sunny Wang 1202



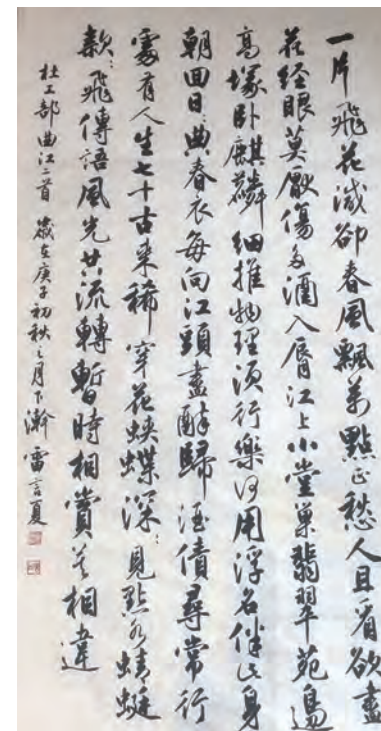
Ink: Morris Yang 7B



Ink: Benjamin Chang 7A



Comic: Jolin Chen 12F



Calligraphy: Alicia Lei 10G



Western Art: Ashley Cheng 7C



Design: Yetta Liu 12B



Western Art: Tiffany Chang 11A



2020 Edition II

The Official Student Newspaper of Kang Chiao International School Xiugang Campus

Drops of Spirit: A Rainy Sports Day

Kuan-Yi Chen 12E



On October 23, a rainy day, the 2020 Sports Day opening ceremony took place in the gym.

Students and faculty members sat in rows according to the houses—Northern, Southern, Western, and Eastern—they represented. The venue was filled with black, red, purple, and blue, each color representing the spiritual creature of each House.

The ceremony commenced with Principal Hsu giving an opening speech, which was followed by student performances. Members from the student council and House Council lifted the atmosphere by bringing a medley of energetic dance performances. Principal Hsu even joined the dance at the end, which added to the excitement.

As the crowd cheered for the performances, the Captains of each House went onstage to lead their House's chant, which enhanced the spirit in the gym even more. Each house chanted as loud as they could, aiming for the Best Spirit Award of the year.

The crowd roared and applauded when the House mascots appeared. Of the four Houses, the Southern House of the Vermilion Birds's iconic Angry Bird costume and the Eastern House of the Azure Dragon's inflated dinosaur costume entertained the school with their adorable appearance on stage. The mascots, along with the House Captains, led students and faculty members through a warm-up exercise.

It has been a tradition for teachers and students to run 1800 meters around the mountain behind the school each year. However, the rainy weather caused the running, as well as other fun games, to be canceled. Some of the most exciting categories, such as the relay race and tug-of-war, were also canceled.

Nevertheless, members from each House still tried their best to earn points for their houses by competing in a variety of sports categories, including volleyball, basketball, soccer, water polo, and badminton.

Students were most excited about the dance battle competition. This year, instead of a teacher being the host, Charlotte Chu from 11D hosted the event.

"In the past two years of sports day dance battles, I participated as a competitor. I got so passionate about this event that I wished to contribute my ability and knowledge in the dance field to it," said Charlotte. "As I became the Southern House Activity Leader, I had the opportunity to cooperate with the teachers in charge of this year's dance battle. Given this opportunity, I became one of the organizers as well as the host of this event."

As the audience noticed, this year's dance battle was even more exhilarating than in previous years.

"This year, I decided to adopt the classic 1v1 dance battle rules on our sports day which allowed all competitors to present their skills thoroughly," added Charlotte.

"I did enjoy this year's sports day dance battle competition because the competition was a lot more organized compared to last year, especially the free-style part," Tiger Chen from 12A, the winner of both the group dance and 1v1 dance battle, said. "The performance quality of other students also improved dramatically since last year."

Each year, during sports day, students from the media production class carry cameras and filming equipment around the school, capturing every moment during competitions.

"Our task was to take pictures of scenes such as when a goal is made," said Daphne Chuang from 12E. "I enjoyed my task, although it was very tiring. I guess it's because filming and media are what I love. I never had so much fun in the classroom compared to this experience."

Other than students and faculty members being present, Kang Chiao invited alumni back to school to enjoy the fun together.

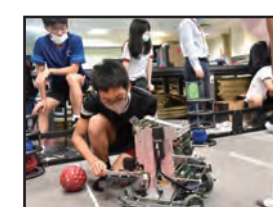


"As an alumnus, being given the opportunity to engage with the Kang Chiao community was truly a memorable one," said Rui-Yuan Hu from the Class of 2020. "Seeing all the active participants enthusiastically involved with every aspect of the sports day reminded me of high school memories."

For this year's sports day, the Northern House won the Championship once again. The House outscored the other Houses in water polo and the dance competition, including both the group dance and 1v1 dance battle. The Southern House received the honor of the Best Spirit Award of the year.

Kang Chiao Sports Day 2020 was different from other years—this year's event was especially challenging due to weather constraints and the considerations of the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite these adversities, the sports day was still a memorable one, especially with the inclusion of new and exciting elements. With the success of the 2020 sports day, students and teachers are looking forward to more House events in the coming years.



VEX Team

2



Sun Moon Lake

3



Karate

10



Arts

12

View previous editions



Publishing Staff:

Editors: Ashley Chang, Kuan-Yi Chen, Sunny Ko

Writers: Ashley Chang, Alex Chen, Kuan-Yi Chen, Sam Chen, Titan Chen, Giselle Cheng, William Cheng, Shayna Faul, Bryan Huang, Augustin Langlet, Andy Lee, Peggy Lee, Samuel Liu, Irisa Tsai, Sydney Wang, Hong-Ye Wang, Kiwin Wu

Teachers: Ms. A Toerien and Ms. M Toerien

Kang Chiao VEX Team Wins 2nd Place

Ashley Chang 11B

From December 5th to December 6th, Kang Chiao sent three teams from the robotics course to compete in the VEX competition at Taipei American School.

According to Mr. Andy Shao, the teacher who leads Kang Chiao's teams, VEX is a highly competitive international robotics competition. This past round featured students from numerous schools across Taiwan, and the winner will represent the country to compete in the international championship.

The objective of this past competition was to use robots to place 32 balls—16 red and 16 blue—into 9 goals. The team which has the most balls at the top of the goals wins.

"We did our best," said Connor Chang from 11A, one of the members of Kang Chiao's team that won second place. "I think we could've done better, but I still think we did pretty great."



"We could have won the first place," added William Lin, also from 11A. Though, regarding future improvements, he said, "I should practice more to improve driving the robots."

The contestants are incredibly passionate about VEX and about robotics, which proved to have paid off in the results of their competition. This opportunity to compete allowed them to demonstrate their enthusiasm for robotics.

"It's my passion. I really like robotics, and I just like building stuff," Brian Hou from 11A said.

This competition not only tested the students' programming skills, but also their strategy and cooperation. VEX required the students to communicate effectively with their teammates, which helped build friendships and fostered a genuine camaraderie to support and encourage

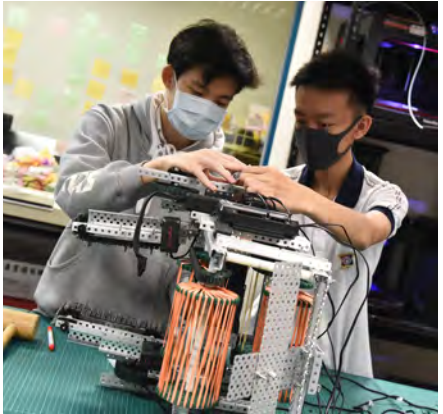
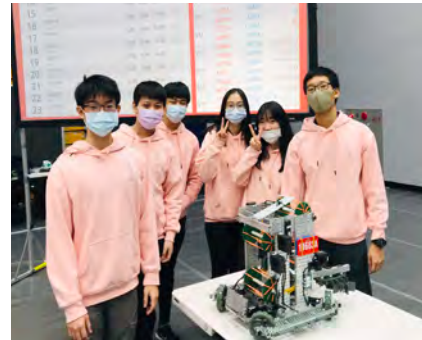
one another in preparation for and during the competition.

"I learned to work with my teammates, and that's a pretty good skill," said Chang. "It allowed me to communicate with others."

VEX also trained the contestants in other academic areas related to robotics such as programming and engineering due to them being the essence of the competition, according to Hou. They needed those skills in order to build their robots and to perform well on the championship.

Kang Chiao's teams will be competing again on January 24th and 25th at Yilan Elementary School. The style of the competition will be the same, and students from all across Taiwan will be competing as well.

"We aren't fully prepared for it yet, but we're working on it," said Hou. The contestants are nervous, but they are hoping to achieve a good result in the next competition.



Day at the Beach: Exploring Energy Systems in Nature

Hong-Ye Wang 12C

The Group 4 Project is an opportunity for International Baccalaureate students to apply cross-disciplinary scientific knowledge collaboratively in a real-world context.

However, this year's project was slightly different as the seniors had theirs canceled earlier in April due to the pandemic, so the 11th graders and 12th graders joined forces on their journey to Baishawan beach in New Taipei to discover the energy systems in nature.

Each team consisted of a mix of juniors and seniors studying physics, biology, and chemistry; environmental science students investigated how abiotic factors affect the biodiversity at Baishawan beach. The 11th graders then presented their projects with a poster presentation.

On the windy, cloudy, and cold day, we stood in the water and conducted our experiment. Our group's design included a bucket, a tube, a fan generator, and an LED light-bulb. We made a hole at the bottom of the bucket and inserted a tube with the fan placed at the opening. By pushing the bucket into the water, we displaced the air inside the bucket with ocean water so the air moves upward through the tube. The action converts the energy exerted by one's arms to kinetic energy of the wind which rotates the fan generator, and subsequently transforms into electrical energy that lights up the LED light bulb.

The team delegated the different parts of the task both before and during the experiment. Some were responsible for preparing the materials

and assembling our machine; others planned the procedures and methods to collect the data. As all of us soaked our feet in the water, one was responsible for pushing the bucket, one played the metronome to control the frequency of pushing, one timed the process, and one did a video recording to check the brightness of the tube.

After conducting multiple trials and pushing at different frequency intervals, we successfully executed the experiment and lit up our bulb, meanwhile enjoying the beautiful shore and having a fun day.

Alex Chen from the IB Physics and Chemistry class said: "The Group 4 project was an opportunity to witness the interdisciplinary concepts in science fields. With the help of my teammates, I combined the knowledge of physics,

chemistry, and biology to create an engineering project on energy topics. The project challenged us to apply the knowledge gained in class to address real-life situations."

Irene Chuang from the IB Environmental Science class also had a great experience.

"Our team measured how pH value affects biodiversity of fish through belt transect. The project gave us an opportunity to actually use the methods we learned in lectures," she said.

Despite the strong, salty wind and wet shoes that are always filled with sand no matter how many times we wash them, the students who participated in the Group 4 project had a wonderful experience seeing the beauty of science not just in textbooks and papers, but all around us in our everyday lives.



PRESERVING OUR MEMORIES

Irisa Tsai 11A

The Northern House Photography Contest allows students and teachers interested in photography to show their photography ability by recording many of the most precious moments of Sports Day.

Through competition, the volunteering students and teachers are motivated to show their maximum effort. The winners were decided by three assessors—a professional photographer, a DCA faculty member, and a teacher. The assessors graded each photo according to four criteria, including theme, creativity, photography technique, and layout and composition.

Each artwork had to be accompanied by a short description regarding its relation to the chosen theme, one of three themes the contestant could choose from; this year, the themes were House Spirit, Warmth, and Never give up.

The contestants that gained the highest sum of scores were awarded the first, second, and third place respectively, and they received awards. In addition, through anonymous voting, three contestants that received the most votes won the "Popularity Award".

The photography contest started in 2019. This year, we, the Northern House of Tortoises, valued its importance and insisted to continue this contest as part of the Northern House culture.

Throughout the duration of the contest, we had to deal with an overwhelming amount of communication between us and the DSA. As a saying goes, "Success is a journey, not a destination." Through persistence, we did it. This photography contest not only serves as a stage for those good at photography, but also preserves our memories of Sports Day in a significant way.

First place: Ms. Carol Chen



The time is ticking;
The cheer is sounding;
The team is huddling;
The captain is leading;
Everyone is believing;
Together, standing;
Together, uniting;
Together, discovering.
The Spirit of teamwork...emerging;
The Spirit of teamwork...building;
The Spirit of teamwork...connecting;
Beating...beating...beating...
In our hearts is Where Spirit Gathers.

Second place: 11A Augustin Langlet



When the lights of the gym turned off, students started opening up their flashlights; swaying with the singer. Some lights were bright and some were dark, symbolizing everyone was unique. This photo showed how "a group of people" bring warmth, although everyone was different; however, they were all enjoying the same moment. Even though the color white brings loneliness, when all kinds of white color combine together it can warm others' hearts.

Third place : 1001 Ginny Song



After a 20 minute back and forth finals at the school field between Eastern and Southern House with both sides still at 0 points, the game came down to a penalty shoot-out where the player in the middle clutched the game by scoring the final needed penalty kick, winning Eastern House the game. With no physical trophy or prize money, this exact moment as the excited and passionate team rushes in from behind the player who won them the game, embracing him, captures an unfiltered, authentic sense of camaraderie, warmth, and celebration—a pure joy of winning with your team.

Poetry

I Wish, I Wish
By Ilya Chernysh 12A

I wish, I wish to be a fish
To be so silent like a fish
Just swimming in my little sea
And not care about nobody
Just I, myself, and me

I wish, I wish I was a cat
Wish I was so lazy and so fat
And still be cared for just like that
Just dream all day like I was stoned
And just be happy I was owned

I wish, I wish to be a dog
To play with people all day long
To always crave for some affection
To be the center of attention
So I can just ignore my imperfections

I wish, I wish I was a bird
So I can tweet whatever comes to mind
And hear nobody's curses from behind
Just tweet my random tweets and sing
Yet still be treated like a king

My Precious Green
By Ilya Chernysh 12A

They say the pen is mightier than the sword
But today, the pen has lost its power
Overthrown and left, catapulted overboard
By the printed green notes every hour

It is society's most desired tool
It made our soul so sour
It is the fool's gold-paper jewel
An ugly man-made flower

Our words don't matter anymore
Since only money really talks
True love is kept behind a door
Sealed shut by heavy golden locks

After Life
By Shayna Faul 11B

Once I hadst feared mine prayers unheard,
but now I see salvation merciful
Shining bright like a glorious blaze.

For here, beyond the broken bridge,
over the field, the flowers bloom unnamed
in tranquil insubordination, remain untamed.

For here, down the stream which births new life,
Beyond the stones where moss and ivy climb,
thou sent mine love back to me
and with heart redeemed I return to thee.



Joanne Hsu 12B



Sandra Chi 10C

Practice Makes Permanent

Bryan Huang 9E

The Taitung Puyuma triathlon held on October 17 and 18 in Taitung City Forest Park consisted of three main triathlon distances: 226km, 113km, and 51.5km.

The KCIS triathlon team, with both juniors and high schoolers, left on April 17 from school, preparing to compete in the 51.5 km triathlon. Some of the canoe team and the basketball team members also participated in this challenge.

The race includes choices such as the relay option and the individual option in the 51.5 km distance. The individual option only allows one participant to run the race, while the relay option is usually separated between three members.

The triathlon team arrived in Taitung at 12:00 on April 17th for test swims and attendance, as well as equipment check-ups for the next day's race. The 51.5 km competition started at 6:30 with the sections of the race split into three parts: swimming (1500 m),

bike (40 km), and run (10 km). The time limit for the final completion ended at 10:20.

The boys' team for the school had eight members in the top ten records for the individual race in their respected division, M15. The girls' team individual race also had 3 members in the top ten and placed second for the relay race in their own division, the F15.

Interviewing some of the competitors emanated better insights into the preparations that went into the event. At the end of the competition, Athena Huang, a junior who placed second for the relay (swimming) in the F15 division, reflected on her experience: "The best part about competing is that when you're done with the competition you can look back and see whether all your efforts paid off to the final score for your competition."

Sam Chien, another member of the triathlon team, achieved an impressive seventh place as a junior in the individual M15 division: "Yes, I was sa-

tified with my placement. I got seventh place in the competition and I'm very happy with it. I hope I can also achieve a good record in the next competition."

As the old saying goes, practice makes perfect. There are large numbers of training sessions undertaken by triathletes to improve fitness and performance and also decrease the risk of injury, illness, or excessive fatigue.

The captain of the team, Tyler Chen, who placed tenth in the M15 division, gave insight into the practice his coaches assigned for the competition.

"My coach gives me advice on how to train and points out my weakness. Following my coach's rigorous training schedule, and increasing my cardiovascular intake helps me get better results in the competition," he said.

The KCIS triathlon team's training and practice wasn't just for show, as the Taitung Puyuma triathlon competition demonstrated the commitment and dedication the team has towards the sport.



"We rock!" at the 2020 Goju Cup

Alex Chen 12F and Hong-Ye Wang 12C

On December 12th, the Kang Chiao Karate Team participated in the 2020 Taiwan National Goju Cup Competition. With a total of seventeen participants, the team received a dazzling sixteen medals in total: nine gold, five silver, and two bronze.

There are three main types of karate competitions: kata, ippon kumite, and kumite. Kata, which means "forms" in Japanese, is the presentation of a pre-arranged set of karate move sequences that emphasizes form and rhythm. Ippon Kumite is one-step sparring focusing on one attack and immediate block and counter. Kumite, which means "meeting of hands," is where both offensive and defensive techniques learned in kata are used practically in free-sparring. These different types of sparring all involve distinguishing essences, beauty, and power, and our students have excelled in all these categories.

According to the captain, Rena Wu, from 11D, karate requires a lot of skills and despite the fact that they are not "top scorers" in running and other tests required by the PE Department, they still "rock." She performed outstandingly, receiving first places in both kata and kumite, and she decided to speak up for her team because she feels that karate does not always receive the same

recognition as the other sports clubs.

Karate provides self-defense skills and empowers those who practice it. Through the weekly after-school training and participating in competitions, team members improved their karate skills and gained a habit of exercising.

Krzysztof Su from 10C, who received 2nd place for kata, commented that the experience taught him both competing techniques and improving his mentality. He particularly enjoyed the process of practicing with teammates and preparing themselves for the competition by encouraging each other.

Oscar Su from 11D also said that they "did strengthen the bond between team members, especially the night prior to the competition where [they] trained, ate, and laughed together."

It was these moments "that really pulled us closer to each other," said Oscar.

Despite this year's excellent outcome, some of the interviewees believed that they still have a lot of room for improvement, and are still far away from achieving their full potential.

The training and hard work will not end here, and they look forward to the upcoming competitions.



Middle School Girls' Team Kata 1st Place



High School Girls' Team Kata 1st Place



Hope Chen Black Belt Kumite



Rena Wu - Brown Belt
3 x Gold



Winston Yang Purple Belt
Individual Kata

The Sun Moon Lake Challenge

Sydney Wang 10B

As one of the school traditions, on September 27th, the ninth graders attended their second elite activity in their Kang Chiao life. It was a threshold for these students to challenge themselves to swim across Sun Moon Lake, with a total distance of 3.3 kilometers, to receive their graduation certificates.

After a joyful day at the Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village, an amusement park located in Nantou County, on the next day, the ninth graders woke up at five o'clock in the early morning to complete their mission, their ultimate challenge in their last year of middle school.

With multiple training sessions in the Bitan River, the students learned how to utilize the torpedo buoy to ensure their safety as well as bonded with their group members to adjust their pacing to make their actual swimming experience smoother.

Still, many participants were afraid of their incapability to swim for such a long time without a decent amount of rest; however, surprisingly, the actual experience was not as painful and dull as they had expected.

One of the events advancing the creation of this unforgettable memory was the snack stations on the buoys beside the swimming route, serving as both a resting platform and an energy regaining center.

"After more than an hour of swimming against the current, many of us were overwhelmed by exhaustion and were craving food," Jill Hsieh from 10F claimed. "The candies and cookies from the snack station were the main sources to maintain our stamina, and they brought me excessive satisfaction although I only received a small amount of food."

Plus, since the ninth graders were arranged into individual groups based on the distance they swam in their long swimming exam, Chelsea Chiang from 904 said, "Whenever our group surpassed the other group, a sense of achievement would arise and I would gain more strength in reaching the destination as soon as possible."

After accomplishing the goal, students obtained different life lessons from this meaningful activity.

Jill Hsieh said that "teamwork is the most critical factor in determining success since individuals all possess different levels of endurance. Therefore, collaboration with unity will accelerate the swimming process and reduce spending unnecessary time to wait for others to catch up."

Besides, Webber Lin from 9B stated that "...being supportive was extremely essential in completing the challenge. By receiving verbal cheers and physical support during the swim from my friends, these

encouragements motivated me to try my best and to push myself beyond my limits."

Overall, it was a remarkable experience and a milestone for the ninth graders in which they made new friends and also gained the courage to swim for 3.3 kilometers in the deep waters.

"Before this challenge, I did not think I would enjoy it that much," Webber Lin said. "However, if I had another chance, I would like to swim across Sun Moon Lake again."



Before their swim, the ninth graders spent a joyful day at the Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village.



What HeHuan Mountain taught us

Giselle Cheng 902

For most KCIS eighth-grade students and above, the Hehuan Mountain climbing activity makes the top list of unforgettable experiences in life. As tiring as the hike seems, it provides a whole new experience for students, encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones and to learn valuable skills in the process.

During the four-day trip, students climbed the West Peak on the third day, which they considered the most difficult part of the hike because it challenged their physical fitness and willpower. The hike started at four in the morning when the stars were still visible, and did not end until everyone had completed the mission, which was usually hours after the sun had set.

This seemed like an individual task, but in fact, one could not achieve the goal without help from others.

Sydney Chen from 8B said, "I didn't think I would be able to reach the top [of West Peak] because I didn't think I was physically fit enough. But thanks to my classmates encouraging me and helping me, I succeeded."

Also, she shared her experience of how different circumstances can change a relationship.

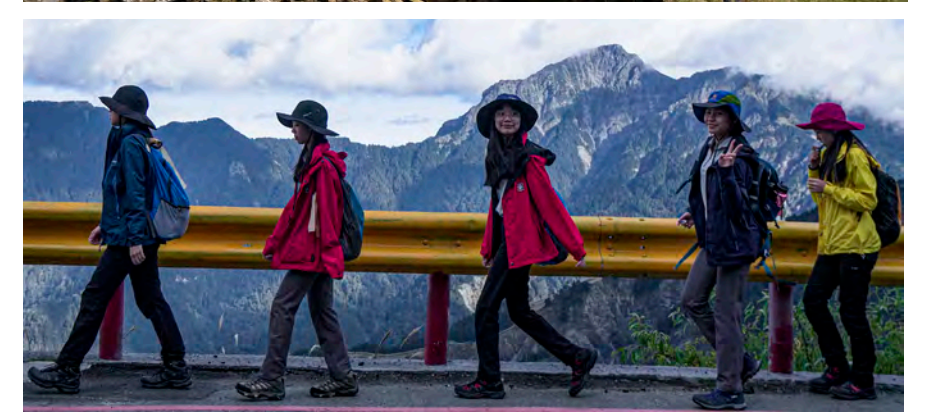
"There was a girl on my team who I didn't like at first, and we argued a lot," she said. "But on the mountain, she helped me up when I stumbled, and now we're close friends."

When asked, most students said they would not climb the mountain again. However, Valentine Langlet from 8D offered a different opinion.

"I would climb the mountain again if I had my team with me," she said. "On our way to the West Peak, there was a time where my teammates and I sang, chatted, and joked around, doing everything in our power just to forget that we were on a mountain and hoping the exhaustion would pass...it worked, and this experience was utterly amazing. This trip helped us strengthen our friendship because we overcame difficulties together."

This reflects the old English saying, "Hard times will always reveal true friends." This mountain climbing activity created a special bond between classmates, teaching students a precious lesson about friendship.

The Hehuan Mountain climbing trip not only improved students' physical condition but also built teamwork skills, helping them learn principles about life; overall, it was a valuable experience for students.



Direction and Magnitude

Augustin Langlet 11A

Back in May of this year, my friends and I organized the first completely student-run esports tournament for Kang Chiao students, called the Vector Cup.

As avid watchers of esports scenes of prominent video games like Counter-Strike and Rainbow 6, we've always wanted to watch or participate in an event to feel the excitement of competitive sports ourselves. But as students with no time to dedicate to professional esports, there aren't many choices. So, we decided to organize a tournament ourselves.

We officially announced this tournament on April 24th and began registrations on the same day. At the end of the registration period, with 16 teams registered, we started the first day of the Vector Cup on Saturday, May 15th.

The first half of the day was a disaster. Our streaming PC stopped working last minute, two teams started their match without us, and one of the teams used a character we were supposed to ban from the tournament but forgot to. But after the 2-hour intermission, we were able to fix all of those problems.

The next Saturday, we came back with an improved and non-delayed stream for the quarter and semi-finals. Finally, on the Saturday after that, we finished the tournament with the finals where a group of graduating 12th graders won the event.

Without any prior experience or examples to take note from, organizing an entire tournament like this one was a fresh learning experience in all sorts of fields like social media management, live stream broadcasting, live commentating, graphic design, advertising, and much more.

We faced many unforeseen issues and opportunities, forcing us to improvise, adapt, and overcome on the fly. For example, the prize pool, best of 5 instead of best one finals, advertising posters, and highlight recap videos were all ideas we came up with during the actual tournament.

This winter, we brought back the competition with the Vector Cup Winter Games. Equipped with the knowledge of the previous Vector Cup, we worked hard to bring all students an even better experience with a better tournament and higher production quality.

From the experience of organizing a tournament on our own, I've learned the importance of quick thinking and how engaging in new and bold activities can force you to adjust and learn new skills in a variety of different fields.



This is a screenshot of a highlight from one of the matches between 9F and 10ED.



A Unique Opportunity to Explore the Earth

Sam Chen 11C

This November, I received a unique opportunity to attend the High School Mathematics, Physics and Informatics competition. The competition was separated into six parts, each with different contestants: mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, informatics, and Earth science.

I competed in the Earth science category because I have been training in the past year to prepare for the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) competition; this November's competition served as a headstart for me to review everything mentioned in class and get ready for next year's IESO local round.

The field of Earth science has multiple subcategories. The first is geology, the study of Earth's rocks and crusts, the one subject that people often think of when they hear the word Earth science. The second is meteorology, the study of air, aerodynamics, the atmosphere, and everything above us. The third is oceanology, the study of water movement, global currents, and physical properties of oceanic waters. The fourth is geophysics, the study of plate tectonics, faults, inner earth structures, and seismic waves inside the earth. Last is astronomy, the big boss out of all subjects, the study of the dark, mysterious, exotic yet fascinating world beyond the earth, the solar system, the milky way, and even more.

Fortunately, I managed to succeed in the New Taipei City round of this competition and attend the national

final round that took place from November 27 to 28 at Chung Cheng University, Chiayi.

On the first day, we visited the Tainan City Zuojhen Fossil Park, a place where we not only explored fossils but also their relationship with the Earth's history. This meant that despite being contestants in the Earth science field, we also learned about biology and connected it back to Earth science, achieving inter-subject connection to enhance our understanding of the world.

The second day was when the testing began. The test came in two parts: a written response and an oral response. For the written part, sitting down and spending 4 hours writing about Earth science may sound like an intimidating task. But, surprisingly, I found myself enjoying the process of solving Earth-related problems and submerging myself into the world of science. Of course, there were problems that I could not solve, which suggested that there is still a large room for improvement.

The oral response part was where the test became intense. I waited for about two hours to be in a room of three professors, and I was expected to sit in front of them and explain questions in 10 minutes.

There were two questions that I should answer: I managed to fail both of them because I was too nervous and was not prepared enough to handle this pressure.

The result was not pleasant; yet, I truly appreciate this opportunity as it

made me realize that I have a lot more to learn before competing with top students all around the world.

In this competition there were students from top schools such as CKHS, TCFSH and more, and they were spending more time and effort than I was when they prepared for the competition. I also noticed the importance of checking out Earth science news because a lot of recent updates will be included in the problems, and it is more than beneficial if I do have the background knowledge to face them.

In next year's IESO local round, I will do my best to redeem myself and advance to the national and even the international rounds.



Ardent Discussion and Vibrant Exchange — The Taiwan Youth Constitutional Amendment Forum

Andy Lee 12C

As an award-winning street photographer who specifies in the field of politics, I've always been striving to record all the precious moments of the changes in this society.

Just in the year of 2020, I've pressed shutters for series on the Taipei LGBT Pride, the Taiwanese Presidential election, the 228 memorial parade, and now is the moment for me to stand in front of the camera—joining the Taiwan Youth Constitutional Amendment Forum.

The Constitution—the basis of all sovereignties—has long been a hot potato in Taiwanese politics. With its unique "identity-based" environment, the sensitive wordings and premises in the Constitution of the ROC signify the struggles that the Taiwanese people are going through. Thus, after President Tsai was elected, she formed the Constitutional Amendment Council under the Legislative Yuan, to engage in societal discussions.

The origin of the problem exists in the aspect of our history. After being defeated by the Communist Party and moving to Taiwan, the Kuomintang Party

insisted on keeping the sections that apply to the whole Chinese territory in the constitution. "We'll finally retake the Mainland," former president Chiang Kai-Shek said.

On August 12, I registered for the Youth Constitutional Amendment Forum, held jointly by the government and the Taiwan Youth Association for Democracy (TYAD). The purpose of the forum was to listen to the voice of students—since most of the students in Taiwan are pro-independence, the discussions on the editing and amending of legal documents have never been neutral.

I arrived at the nation's center of law—the Taiwan Legislative Council—at 8:00. I was frisked before entering the meeting room. After the intense search, the discussion began. The forum was separated into three sessions: group discussions with assigned topics, the forming of questions, and finally the Q&A session with legislators. The assigned topic for my group was "National Identity"—Should our nation be called "Taiwan" or "China"? Should we change the nation's name, or construct a new constitution?

The formation of our group was interesting. The majority, not surprisingly, was the left-wing, independence supporters like me that encourage the formation of a new constitution. However, there was a right-wing, conservative youngling that stood out from the crowd. He grew up in a soldier family, receiving the education of striking back to regain mainland China consistently.

The conversation was the exact moment for me to recognise the importance of vibrant societal conversation and infor-

mation exchange. Without listening to the opposite arguments, we'll never be able to step out of our "stratosphere" of political ideologies.

After the ardent exchanges of the forum, I'm now deeply engaged in the transformation of the society—every step should be documented. In the role of a cameraman, my future work is going to be more well-rounded. Recording both pro-independence and unification ideas; I guess it signifies the completion of the image of Taiwan.



#MyJourney

Mr. Chris Lo

To think that one day many years later, I would be asked to write a newspaper article about my past was something I dreamed about while lying in bed during my middle and high school years. That would have meant that I had gotten to the other side of all of the insecurities I faced and somehow came out victorious.

Steve Jobs said in his graduation speech at Stanford that, "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards".

When looking at pictures of my coming of age, I presume that the most obvious difference to people viewing the same photos is the change in my appearance. Today, when I look backwards at these moments during my adolescence, characterized by both joyous times and times where I had struggled, I see the footprints which have led me to where I stand today. While connecting the dots between the past and present, I find that I am still very much on the same journey, a journey that no one else can do but me, an empowering journey of self acceptance and love.

I believe that the only things we can change are the small things that are within our sphere of influence for it's the small things that we do daily that make the greatest impact on our lives. Where else could we start and what more could we change? If we have the power to impact great change by taking small actions, wouldn't that mean that we are in fact powerful?

Lao Tzu wrote in the Tao Te Ching that, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." My journey of a thousand miles towards better health began with accepting my passion for eating food, a passion that I now carry proudly today but was once ashamed of.

One step that I took on my journey was cutting out the late night meal right before going to bed. Another step included an awareness of portion sizes. As I got to understand myself more, I began sometimes drinking a glass of water before meals because I knew I would eat until I felt full which oftentimes was way too much.

There were markers of progress along my journey. Somewhere along the way, I had managed to take most of the energy I spent beating myself up for being where I was and pointed it more towards taking the next best step such as exercising regularly. Somehow along the journey, my goal had begun to emphasize a greater importance on feeling happy about myself than on physical appearance.

Today as I continue to walk on this path, I'm grateful for the journey I had. I am thankful for the chance to share my story so that others can trace the footprints, and so that we can journey on the same road together.



Spooky Ghost Season: Boo!

William Cheng and Titan Chen 10B

On October 30, Kang Chiao held the annual Halloween celebration — a cosplay event—where students dress up as the wackiest and most creative things, as long as they have imagination.

There was also a haunted house in the gym, disguised as several different familiar places of the school, guaranteed to make your eyes pop out of your sockets; and fun games in each corner of the gym, where students could fight each other with pool noodles — all designed and carried out by the House Council,

spreading the Halloween spirit to all of our staff members and fellow students in KCIS.

“Being one of the house crew members who contributed to the Halloween activities, I believe it was a success since students were engaged, and there was a high participation among the fun games and especially the haunted house, in which students were enthusiastic in their participation,” said Sydney Wang, secretary of Eastern House.

Apart from celebrating Halloween, at the same time, the celebration allowed

students to experience authentic Halloween culture. Welcoming all students and teachers, the celebration of the holiday attracted juniors and seniors to participate in House activities.

“From summer break until the event, after the long planning and coordination of the House Council, the Halloween event successfully ended on October 30. That day, we perceived students’ excitement when they spotted the Halloween decorations. In the haunted house, students whispered while lining up, then left with enjoyment,” said Irisa, Northern-House Vice-Captain.

She felt that as these moments grouped together, they crystallized into a remarkable picture, displaying their hard work: “Inside our hearts, these touching minutes erased all our tiredness in the preparation stages.”

At the same time, except for the games held in the school gym, the teachers gave candies and cookies to the students who dressed up or went trick-or-treating. Some other teachers also dressed as Halloween characters and joined the special event.

“They all dressed up uniquely. And by covering windows up, the dark environ-

ment created a Halloween vibe. Besides, most seniors were willing to take photos with us. They were all pretty nice,” said Kelly Tu, from 1001.

Costumes were seen around the campus. A group of 10th graders dressed as bananas while in the 2F atrium Blastois and a Pokemon trainer were playing basketball. These extraordinary sights only appear once a year—on Halloween.

“It’s a vivid memory. The majority of attendees liked the games we created. I was responsible for the Horror Box. They screamed and pulled their hands back. But still, they were willing to take the challenge and earn treats,” said Edison from 10B.

For all staff and volunteers who helped with the announcements and planning: the success of the celebration symbolized your hard work and dedication.



Exploring the Unknown

Peggy Lee 9F

I feel like every aspect of Scouting is important. The part I have touched on the most this school year is leadership skills after being the junior high troop patrol leader. I learned that being a good leader is not easy and requires time and effort, and having to be trustworthy, responsible and kind.

The pioneering camp held last semester was the first time I was in charge of the majority of the camp, which was a new experience for me. At the start of the camp, I hesitated, which delayed the schedule, but after some practice, I soon became more certain about my actions.

The most chaotic day was the first day where some staff members had after-school programs and some of us were still getting used to our jobs. I remember the first time I had to lead the attendees, I didn’t know what to do, and I looked at the senior high troop patrol leader and he did not step in to help me. This was irritating at the time, but the fastest way for me to learn.

This camp taught me to be confident with my actions, which resulted in the staff and attendees trusting me, allowing the camp to end in success.

Contrary to popular belief, scouting is not all fun and games — it is more about having fun while learning as a group and strengthening one’s mind.

Scouting is a way of jumping out of your comfort zone and endlessly challenging yourself to achieve a greater goal. No matter the case, at its core,

scouting is about improving yourself in one way or another.

Joining the troop made me realize the importance of validating everyone’s opinions and feelings which has proven to be important at times. The best way to jump out of one’s comfort zone is to deal with unfamiliar situations. Putting yourself in an uncomfortable situation and dealing with it alone gives you a better learning chance.

Looking back, I am glad that the senior high troop patrol leader did not help me because I would be over-reliant on him. The courage to pull through and persevere is the only way to improve oneself. Without it I would still be the person I was in seventh grade and the troop would not be where it is now.

Scouting is about exploring the unknown, learning new skills and finding people who have the same interests. Those are some of the many reasons I stayed in the troop. I made a lot of good friends and grew a lot as a person. My peers are the strongest driving force in motivating me to be a better leader as they are the ones I work with to build this troop.

It feels so rewarding, and I have so much fun along the way, which is what drives me to do more. As a whole group, I hope we can work more and be a good role model to those who join later.

Let’s hope the Kang Chiao Scout troop becomes better and creates even better bonds with each other.



The scouts learned to tie knots to make their own ladders.



At this year’s camp in Shuangxi, students learned how to use signal flags to send secret messages.

Approaching a Global Perspective — AP Macro on Race and Gender

Andy Lee 12C

Having a global perspective is essential when analysing and viewing the world. However, integrating current issues into the curriculum is not an easy task, and it often requires a strong voice and belief.

In the summer of the vastly-changing 2020, Mr Warner advised his AP Macroeconomics class students on a special research project of investigating the economics of race and gender, taking a global perspective.

“I wanted to give the students a chance to apply some of what we learned in class on a real-world topic, to give them some insight into how economics is done,” he explained.

The students who wrote on the topic “The impacts of race and gender on economic variables” were Daphne Chen, Cyndi Liao, Lynn Ko, Zoey Huang, Alison Chou, Iris Chen, Pluck Yi, Ricky Huang, Johnson Chen, and Bentley Hung. Since the Black Lives Matter movement was in the news at the time, the students decided to explore how both gender and race are connected to a country’s economy. Their research reported findings for the U.S.A., China, the UK, India, and France.

In the abstract of their paper, the students wrote, “we discovered that gender and race indeed have affected the economy and the entire labor force structure in the past, and the problems

of racism and gender discrimination are global.”

“It allows students to understand the importance of solving world problems like gender inequality and racism. It is unique in a way that students can perfectly connect the concept learned in class to problems like unemployment and the exchange rate,” Bentley Hung wrote.

They found that in the majority of the countries, even though women were earning more education degrees than men, their employment rate was lower, they earned less, and experienced more harassment and abuse. Similarly, racial minority groups faced unfair treatments and had fewer economic opportunities because of social bias.

After conducting the research, Cyndi Liao wrote, “learning economics is not only about getting a good score on the final exam, but also an opportunity for me to take advantage to learn what’s in going on around the world.”

This project seems like a really good and unique experience for the students to explore the real-world economics mechanics, and to be able to use their current class knowledge to apply to global questions.

“To sum up, I would say that doing research is more useful for students than taking the test,” Cyndi added.



The International Economics Olympiad: A COVID Experience

Samuel Liu 12B

The International Economics Olympiad (IEO) is a relatively new event that aims to promote awareness of economics, finance, and business while applying creative thinking into solving problems in the world.

During the stretch of seven days from September 7th to September 13th, contestants from thirty countries gathered together to compete virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

I think many people who have taken online exams can attest to the fact that it is no fun having online assessments during COVID. There could be technical difficulties, unfair advantages, and other problems that people taking paper exams do not need to worry about. The same could be said for the IEO this year – it was uncharted territory for everybody. Luckily for us, all but one of our teammates were together throughout the entire competition.

Our opening ceremony had two parts: a live feed on the IEO website and a Zoom party room where people could see other contestants across the globe.

Surprisingly, the opening ceremony went smoothly, and there was the bonus of seeing the one-and-only Gregory Mankiw for ten brief seconds. Yet, the competition was not as smooth as the opening ceremony...

To complete the economics and financial literacy sections, contestants were required to have two cameras set up on a table and could not leave their seats for the entire duration of the examination. Want to have a bathroom break? Best of luck with that.

As for the business case study, each team had twenty-four hours to research on the given topic and make a PowerPoint presentation on the pricing strategies of COVID-19 vaccines. Barring the fatigue of staying up, our team worked extremely well together and ended up tying for sixth place in the case study.

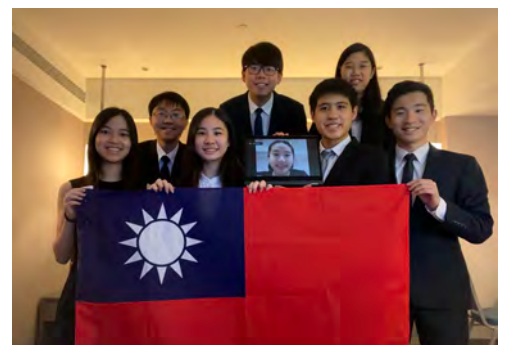
Despite not travelling to Nur-Sultan, our team still experienced the “travelling vibes” by taking a week off from school and staying at a hotel. We had to go through “jet lag” by waking up at three in the afternoon and sleeping

at seven in the morning because the IEO had its time aligned with Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Our team soon came across an important question: where would we even buy our dinner when it is 3am in the morning? Since there were not any restaurants open that late, I basically had two meals per day during the competition: breakfast at 4 p.m. and lunch at midnight, courtesy of the services of Uber Eats and Foodpanda.

All in all, the virtual competition was an unforgettable experience. After competing at the IEO, I further realized how much economics is tied to our everyday lives; it is truly a subject that stretches across multiple disciplines.

I would suggest you give this competition a try because who knows? At such unprecedented times, any one of us can be the next Adam Smith or John Maynard Keynes who comes up with a groundbreaking theory that can explain the human rationale or economic fluctuations during the time of a global pandemic.



Heartfelt Gratitude

Shayna Faul 11B

At the start of this year, a global pandemic with which we are all too familiar started to plague the world, affecting the lives of millions.

Around the globe, schools and companies closed as governments put their citizens under mandatory lockdowns. In Taiwan, however, life has carried on pretty near to normal; and though we live free from the virus's grip, many of us also live in ignorance, with little power to affect the perils faced by the rest of the world.

"It is heartbreaking to see people in the US — and all across the world — face [COVID-19] alone... There's not much you can do except to teach our students the power of words — that words mean something and to touch hearts within different communities," said Mr. Chris Lo.

Taiwan may be essentially COVID-19 free; however, face masks are still a must as a precautionary measure. Though these masks have muffled our voices, Mr. Lo's eighth-grade and ninth-grade English classes last semester demonstrated how our words can still be heard loud and clear.

Mr. Lo, wanting to do something in the midst of this calamity, included into his curriculum a

letter-writing outreach activity as an ATL project that taught his students effective letter and email writing skills, such as composing well-structured, cohesive, and coherent pieces with an introduction, body, and salutations, whilst also incorporating grammar lessons.

His students, with the goal of "sending a message of care and thought," reached out to hospitals all across the world (in Iraq, China, Italy, the U.S.A., South Korea, etc.) to show their gratitude to medical staff for their dedication in saving the lives of so many during this epidemiological crisis.

In response to this touching gesture, personnel from several hospitals in the U.S., South Korea, and Taipei, including the New York-Presbyterian Hospital, the National Taiwan University Hospital, the Brooklyn Hospital Center, the California Hospital Medical Center and the Samsung Medical Center in South Korea, even wrote back in appreciation of the care and concern exhibited by the students for the wellbeing of the doctors themselves. Two students' letters and posters were also posted on the NTU Hospital's official website.

LETTERS FROM OUR STUDENTS

Dear California Hospital Medical Center,

Hi,

I am sending a message of positivity during this difficult time. I am a grade 8 student from Kang Chiao International School in Taiwan. I'm writing this letter because I want you to know that we are standing with you here. We all know that this is not easy, but we can stand together to overcome the virus. You may be very busy and don't have the time to write back, so please do not feel that you have to. I truly appreciate your hard work in taking care of your residents and will continue to hold you close in my heart!

Sincerely,
Bruce Chiang

Sincerely,
Isabel

RESPONSES FROM THE HOSPITALS

Dear Mr. Lo,

Dear Chris,

Chris, Tommy, and Bruce,

On behalf of our hospital president, Alina Moran, and our entire staff, I'm writing to share how touched we were by your message and by the uplifting words of your students, Tommy and Bruce. It's not often that we receive encouragement from halfway around the world! The last few months have certainly been challenging ones for our nurses, doctors, and therapists, as well as for the many team members who clean the hospital to keep everyone safe from COVID-19, who prepare nutritious meals for our patients, and who handle the many other tasks that allow California Hospital Medical Center to care for patients and save lives. Your messages could not have come at a better time, and we are honored that you chose our hospital!

This is so moving, thank you for sending it! I will pass it along to our Employee Appreciation team so they can distribute it at the Hospital. We so appreciate your students thinking of NYP and our patients during this time.

Sarah Rosenthal

Sarah Rosenthal
Major Gifts Officer, Corporation and Foundation Relations
New York-Presbyterian
850 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10022

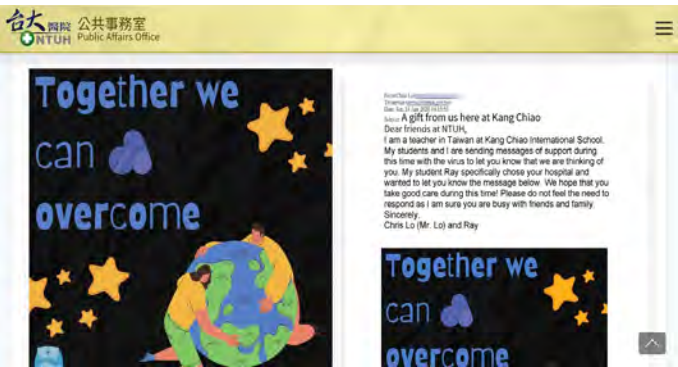
Dear Sir,

Greetings from Samsung Medical Center!
This is Molly from International Healthcare Center at Samsung Medical Center.
Thank you for contacting SMC!
We really appreciate your concern.
How thoughtful of you! Your message make us cheer up!
We also hope the situation of COVID-19 pandemic in Taiwan will get better soon.
Take care and stay safe.
Once again, thanks for sending us supporting message! :)

Sincerely,
Molly Park, RN

INTERNATIONAL HEALTHCARE CENTER
SAMSUNG MEDICAL CENTER

Regards,
Tzu-hui Lien
Public Affairs Office of NTUH



Dear California Medical Hospital Center,

My name is Tommy. I am a student in Taiwan. I want to tell you that I appreciate you and everything you do for us. You try to save people that have the virus, and I really admire that you guys risk your life to save patients. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,
Tommy

Make Your Own Mask

Shayna Faul 11B

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the design class teachers gave their ninth-grade students the task of designing a "functional and fashionable" face mask for their mid-year project.

The students had to gather their creative and logical wits in their effort to construct a both physically appealing, yet also practically functioning, mask.

In the first part of the assignment, students had to research a variety of different mask designs and break down the masks' design components into pros and cons. Then, they had to combine the

strongest design components they saw and compile them into their own original design whilst taking into consideration the different materials they would need.

After that, they brought their envisionment to life through sewing techniques they learned online. Finally, the last part of the task was to wear the mask at school on the 23rd of September and gather feedback from other students and teachers on the practicality of the mask. They used this information to write a reflection on the success of their project.



Example: Sophie Tien 9B

Instructions :

A3: Analyze similar product analysis

The appearance of this mask is a tongue sticking out through two lips, and more lips and tongues are growing on the biggest tongue.

This mask is nearly an artwork, it is beautiful, novel, and may cause a high amount of strangers looking back and wanting to see the mask clearer, which is good for people who like to be noticeably different in crowds or people with unusual aesthetics.

But since the creator didn't give the mask an introduction, I can only guess the function of the mask: With just visual information, there seems to be holes in the fabric or material. So it might not be good enough for filtering breath or bacteria. So this mask is definitely not efficient for preventing viruses or diseases which can be spread by droplets. As a result, this mask is ornamental, because it may not be able to deal with viruses or diseases.

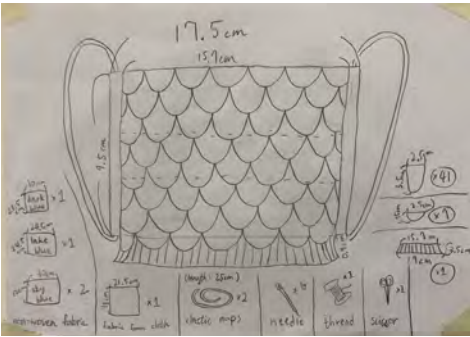
And this mask seems to be woolen, so some people with allergies to wool may not be able to wear this mask.



Artist yrurari - Instagram image



B3: Develop ideas - Present chosen design



The color of the scales will be randomly picked between lake, sky, and dark blue. The fish tail will be dark blue. And the lines on it will be using thread to sew on the tail.

D4: Describe the impact

The mask looks interesting, and the fabric the mask is made from (cut from old clothing) makes it comfortable to wear.

The seam on this mask is stable and neat, it creates a beautiful look for the mask, and the scales on the mask won't fall off easily.

With regards to the design, I believe I had done a great job by creating a mask with creativity. The idea of this mask came from fish, there are elements of scales and tails of fish inside this design. The only defect in this design is the fish's tail, which shape can't be recognized while wearing the mask.

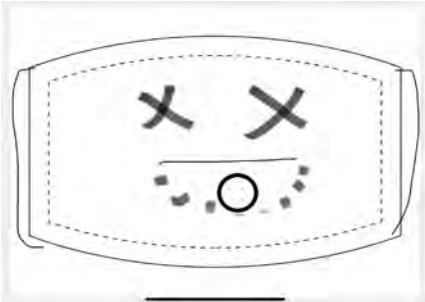
However, this mask is incapable of preventing diseases or viruses which can be transmitted by droplets. Because the bump of the fabric on the upper part of this mask creates an area with fresh air at the lower part of the mask by propping up a side of the mask. As a result, it can't block droplets effectively.

As a conclusion, I believe my design is successful if the user wears another mask inside the mask I created, to add the function of preventing diseases and viruses.

More designs and final products:



Ivy Tsai 9D



Ray Huang 9E

