

Parent Interview in Queen magazine, July, 2011

Mrs. Eun-mi Moon, parent of Daniel Koo, 7th grade, Chadwick International

Daniel Koo, who is fourteen years old in Korean age, currently attends Chadwick International located in Songdo. He entered Chadwick International last September after attending second and some third grade classes in the U.S. along with his family and spending some time at Shanghai International School. Ye-eun, Daniel's sister, currently attends Korean International School. Having majored in German Linguistics, Eun-mi Moon, the mother of the two, knows better than anyone regarding the importance of language. When raising her children, she put more importance on language than on science or math. At first, she planned on sending her children abroad to study at a young age, but she figured that they could experience problems due to the cultural differences and chose to send her children to domestic international schools.



"When Daniel was in second grade, our family followed my husband to the States and lived there for about a year. At the time, I intended for them study there so we looked for American schools. But after one year, I realized that the cultural difference was greater than what I had thought. Fearing that my children could go through culture shock, I couldn't just leave them there."

There is, of course, a positive side to studying abroad at an early age. There are benefits to the child such as becoming independent and self-providing, but there are also too many things that need to be considered. In fact, there are many cases where students studying abroad face difficulties. Therefore, studying language abroad might not be the best answer.

"Fortunately, it is easier now to find a school meeting our conditions within our country. While searching for a domestic international school, I came across Chadwick International. Unlike other international schools, domestic students are allowed to enter; but what satisfied me the most was the curriculum that offers not only language education but also various extracurricular activities, similar to the level of schools overseas."

Daniel is also greatly satisfied with his school. He is much more stable and confident than he was in Shanghai. After all, there are chances of a student becoming passive when living abroad. His personality has also become more outgoing as he began attending the school with the care of his parents.

"Wherever my children go, they become foreigners. It's just reality that foreigners face more difficulties than native students. On the contrary, in Korea, it is easier for my child to overcome the difficulties with our help."

Daniel is currently part of the school's rock band. It is one of Chadwick International's unique merit of diverse extracurricular activities when compared to domestic schools. In fact, whereas one can only focus on studying language when going abroad to a foreign country, he can actively and confidently participate in extracurricular activities along with learning foreign language in his native country without the level of pressure.

"First of all, it is easier for parents to support their children because they are better informed about school circumstances. When they are abroad, we have limits in knowing our children's daily routines, feelings, and small changes. Also, it's nice to be nearby to check and see what my child really wants. It is also easier to figure out my child's talents as he takes part in diverse activities. I found out that Daniel is also talented in video editing and music. I would not have known this if Daniel went to a regular school."



Daniel's parents give him guidelines concerning his education, but allow him to make the choices himself. If he does not like something they do not force it upon him. It was Daniel's choice to enter Chadwick International as well. There are some parents who think that they need to make all the choices for their children, but it is questionable whether the children are happy when subjected to their parents'

choices. It is the same for college entrance. Daniel goes to an international school right now, but his parents are planning on letting him make the decision of whether to go abroad for college or stay locally. This view of education is the same as that of Chadwick International. The main aspect of education is the student and the parents and the school should serve as the most supportive arms and legs.

"Daniel shows deep interest in physics. He wants to become a scientist. I am ready to give all my support in whatever Daniel enjoys and is happy doing. I wish Daniel could nurture his dreams through Chadwick International's unconstrained and diverse activities."