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Real Experiences and Research in Class ... Nourishing Creative Individuals

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School Report_ Chadwick International

It has been five years since Chadwick International, the first international education institution in the metropolitan area located in Songdo, Incheon, was established. Chadwick International does not simply deliver knowledge to students, but provides them with creativity education by guiding students in learning and character development.



(From the left) In the "Makers Space" classroom equipped with 3D printers, students are showing what they invented. The Village School library, where students can read in any position they want.

◇ **Unusual Ideas for Invention, OK!**

On November 18, second graders in Chadwick International were drawing mind maps on their iPads with the topic of "how we organize ourselves" in a classroom. The purpose of this class was to check the moving processes of food from farm and market to home. Students were also able to see fertile eggs right before being hatched in the school chicken cage and figure out how food is processed. In another classroom at the same time, second graders were making things with the same theme. Their own inventions and blueprints were put on the desks in front of the students. They have been working on this project for past six weeks with Lego components. One of the students created an "alert for farmers" that sends an alarm to farmers when chickens run away from the farm. Helen Lee, the Director of Communications at Chadwick International, said, "Teachers here never say no to any unusual invention idea of students. Teachers encourage students to develop creativity."

When Chadwick International was founded in 2010, the total number of students was around 270. This has become 870 now, a growth of more than three times within five years. Students from four years old to upper school can be enrolled. Currently, the student's ages range from very young children at pre-kindergarten level to 11th grade (sophomores in Korean high schools). Director Lee said, "The very first graduates will be in June 2016, according to the American school year. The allowed number of students is 2,100 in principle. However, when the school was first established, students up to seventh grade (freshmen in Korean middle schools) were accepted, and they have been advanced to the next level.

Comprehensive Education including Mathematical Invention

The way Chadwick International teaches its students is unique. At CI, there are no text books but learning resources. The school broadens the learning scope according to core units based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, an internationally recognized education program, in order to help the students go beyond knowledge. Students learn scientific principles and then take time to make things by applying the principles just learned. A good example is the “Boat Race” held by Chadwick International every year. Eighth graders (sophomores in Korean middle schools) create their own boats with cardboard boxes and compete in swimming pool racing. Director Lee said, “Two students are teamed up and they make their own boats by calculating their weight and buoyancy. The winners last year completed 20 round-trip laps. Likewise, students can study various subjects, including math, science and art under one theme and apply what they learned right away. This is our comprehensive education system.”

Chadwick International has various facilities to support its creative education system as well. There is a 3.5m-deep swimming pool where students can learn swimming and scuba diving. There are also a gym, soccer field, dance studio and table tennis room where students can enjoy various sports activities. In the 700-seat theater, students can not only perform but also control stage equipment, such as lighting, by themselves. There is also a TV studio equipped with a broadcasting system. In addition, the Village School library has spaces where students can read in any position they want, and storytelling rooms where students can share their opinions on the books they read.

Chadwick International is currently accepting new students for the academic year of 2015-16. Applications are due on January 23, 2015. A maximum 40% of the students are allowed to be Koreans, and approximately 20% of the students are of foreign nationality at this moment. Chadwick International is a diverse community with faculty and students from 28 different countries. A total of 12 years are required for graduation, and Korean Scholastic Credentials Recognition Program approved by the Ministry of Education is being also offered for students. Information (032)250-5030~2



Interview with Charles Sachs, Head of School, Chadwick International

"Helping students to succeed."

— Please introduce educational environments that are provided by Chadwick International.

“Basically, we follow the curriculum of the American school which is combined with international school curriculum. According to the philosopher John Dewey, children would grow differently under the same education system depending on whether they study in a responsible and active way. This is why education based on experiences and research is important. We teach students how to study and communicate with other people, not just to simply absorb knowledge. Accordingly, teachers do not evaluate students by the test scores only, but support them to succeed.”

— What are the unique features of Chadwick International?

“Typical American students and typical Korean students have very different characteristics. American students are free in terms of thinking and do not compete with one another as intensely as Korean students. On the contrary, Korean students study very hard and diligently due to fierce competition even at a very young age. Chadwick International pursues a balanced education system, somewhere in the middle. We are forming a *Chadwickish* education system by integrating the diligence and competitiveness of Korea and the value of cooperation emphasizing ‘cooperation is important in studying.’”

— How can parents participate in school activities?

“We encourage parents to actively participate in school activities as supporters. My door is open. They can come and talk to me anytime. I meet with the board members of parent association on a monthly basis to discuss various topics.”

— Could you give us some advice to the students who wants to apply to Chadwick?

“They need to understand the education system we pursue first. Success is not always guaranteed just by entering the school. The harmony between the school and student is very important.

To achieve this goal, they have to understand each other. Students need to find out if the Chadwick education system, which nourishes a creative way of thinking, would work well for them before applying.”