

The land of opportunity

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Most students at Marion High School have never traveled outside of the US, and even fewer can boast being fluent in two languages (or one, for that matter). However, there is a peer among us that has flown across the world, braved a new culture, and can speak English and Korean as if both were his mother-tongue. Eun Sang Huh, or E.S as he is usually called, started attending Marion High School in April of 2019, beginning only months after he moved to the US from South Korea. His journey has been long and complicated. But he's enjoyed the changes it has brought to his life.

Nearly four years ago in 2015, Huh came to visit the US to gain his citizenship. The process was tedious, and it required a plethora of paperwork to replace his Korean nationality with an American one. He and his family's main motivation for moving was to enhance his education so he could graduate from an American university. He also moved for the low air pollution and to meet his mother's family. When they arrived, they stayed with Huh's

uncle for several months before buying their own home. They were greeted by the worst weather of the winter; their

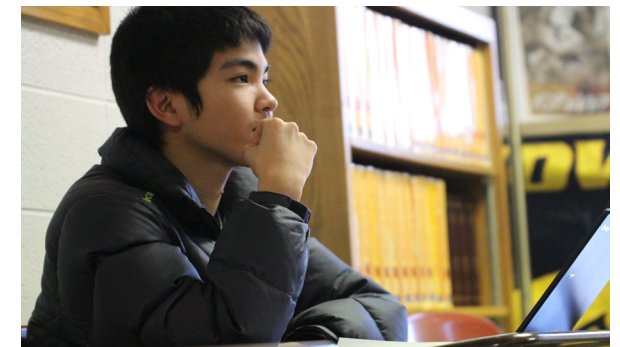
first impression of Iowan climate being the week of January when the Midwest was being wracked by the polar vortex. "In Korea, you have to pray for snowfall for Christmas. And a lot of years it doesn't even snow before Christmas," he said. The frigid temperatures came as a huge shock to him.

Huh's experience of adjusting to life in America has been mostly positive. Overcoming the language barrier was a breeze. "My mom taught English at a university in Korea, and she's an English major. So she taught me when I was three. It was my first language," said Huh. Other changes proved more difficult. "The relationship with neighbors was a little hard, because it's a little more open. In Korea you live in apartments so you don't really do anything with them. Here you have a private house so it's a bit more open." Initially, he had a few misconceptions about the country. He expected most people to be obese, and for fast food to be a regular, daily meal. He also thought that people would not be as accepting of him as they were.

In terms of his life at school, he's made it known

that things have changed for the better. It took him no time to find a way to accurately describe school in South Korea, "Hell," he said. "If you don't like that word, sorry. I had to stay at school from 8 in the morning till 10 or 10:30 at night, so about a 14 hour day. We don't do anything except academic things beginning in 11th grade in South Korea." He reassured that he prefers the American system to the Korean one, though he's still adjusting to the hour and a half classes as opposed to the shorter ones he used to have.

Overall, Huh has embraced his new status as an American. Through changes bad and good, he has overcome the journey of moving across seas and adjusting to an entirely new land. His short time here has given him a new outlook on America, and in his words, "It's free. It's free for sure."



Eun Sang Huh, '20, listens to a lecture in history class.

High school voters

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As the 2020 elections draw closer, every adult has to decide if they are going to use their right to vote. Adults are not only those out in the working world,

but can include students too. At 18, every United States citizen gains the right to have input on who runs their country, and many 18-year-olds are still inside the walls of a high school. Some high school students don't even consider

voting the year they turn 18, but others think it's an important and exciting event.

Young people voting has always been a topic of conversation mainly because there are arguments over whether or not students in high school are mature and educated enough to handle the responsibility of making a decision that could change the whole world. Having that responsibility is a large and important task that needs to be taken seriously. Colby Roskop, a senior, said, "Students don't have the life skills like older people do with bills and taxes and all that so they don't know what's good and bad." Colby thinks that students need to learn more about life before taking on that responsibility. Kay Mundy, another senior, said, "I think it depends on the person because some students are really interested in politics." Both take the stance that it is important to be educated before taking advantage of a United State citizen's right to vote.

One of the first steps in voting is deciding what beliefs are most important and which party those beliefs align with. Almost all highschoolers are still living at home and under the influence of their parents. Parents have a huge influence on their child's views from a super young age.

Roskop said, "I am a Republican because that's what my parents are, but I don't really follow politics much." In general, most students get most of their exposure to politics from their families in pre-voting years. Mundy stated, "I am planning on voting next year, but I want to learn more first." Education before voting is an important and necessary step, especially when it comes to the process of how to vote.

After deciding what you want to see in a candidate or what you want changed, registering to vote is the next hurdle. There's no class titled 'How to Register to Vote,' so most students don't know how to make this step. Many who would vote, may not just because they don't know how.

In the end, voting is an important thing for all high school students to consider as they graduate into the world of adulthood. Mundy said, "Voting as a young person is important to me because it will help our country choose the best candidate wanted by the majority of people." The decision to vote or not, either in high school or after, is a big one to make. It has many steps to follow, but it is an optional right that citizens are given to be able to make a difference in the way our country is run.

How to Register to Vote:

- 1 Be 17 and old enough to turn 18 by the next election, be a U.S.A citizen, and do not be a convicted felon.
- 2 Visit [Vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov) to register to vote online by filling out or printing out a registration form.
- 3 You can also register in person at your state or local election office.



Above are three easy steps to get you registered to vote. Vote for what you believe in!