



Chan Jang | Seoul, Korea

Chan Jang found his calling at VES. During his four years, dedicated faculty, mentors and peers provided Chan the space to discover his passion for filmmaking, the technical skills to capture his creativity on camera, and the guidance and support to pursue his dreams.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today had I not attended VES.”

Left-Brain Thinking: My Penchant for Science

Throughout high school, my “head” told me I was very interested in biochemistry. My VES science teachers were excellent and I felt very well prepared when I arrived at Johns Hopkins University to pursue a possible career in science. I conducted research projects in Korea over the summers, and my biology teacher, Dr. Knebel, was so helpful with proofing my papers and providing feedback prior to my sending them to publishers. Looking back, had my “heart” also been in it, I am confident I could have achieved great work in the field of science.

Right-Brain Creativity: Where I Discovered True Joy

In middle school, video production was a hobby of mine. When I arrived at VES, that interest steered me

to pursue Video Productions and produce work for Bishop TV. Early on I found adult mentors who guided me, showed interest in my passion and invested in me. They taught me the knowledge and skills I needed, provided valuable critique, and encouraged me to push myself, take risks, sometimes fail, and ultimately grow to become a confident videographer and producer. These adults were role models to me not just in what they said, but through their actions. The faculty at VES are so dedicated to helping students succeed!

Diving Deep: Advanced Study in Filmmaking

During my senior year, I pursued VES’ Advanced Studies program, allowing me to intensively pursue filmmaking. I conducted lots of research on film history, techniques and filmmaking and then applied that knowledge to make a feature-length film. All of my previous VES experiences gave me the tools



to succeed in this challenging quest, from learning time management as a freshman on Ainslie Dorm, to learning how to use the proper equipment during my time with Bishop TV and honing my editing skills through my many video productions projects.

The most powerful thing about the experience was that it was a collaboration at the next level. It was not for a class. It was totally up to me to produce the final product. I felt a sense of urgency. The project required me to be creative, to come up with a detailed plan, to coordinate with my peers whom I needed to help with acting, filming, doing sound. The entire thing – start to finish – was my design. I told myself, “OK, Chan, go do your thing. Have fun and get it done!” I also felt a big sense of responsibility because of the quality of the Advanced Studies projects that had come before me.

Through this amazing program, I had fun playing with the amount of freedom I had to create and I found my professional voice.

The VES Sweet Spot

VES was challenging and competitive academically, and equally importantly to me, I was able to build

personal relationships with adult mentors that helped set me on a course for future success in my desired career path. VES achieves the sweet spot of giving you the practical tools you need and the emotional space to find your path.

What Toward Full Stature Means to Me

Personally, I feel this work—to become the best person I can be—is less about being perfect than it is about being somebody with my own unique color. At VES, we don’t try to forget or sweep away our mistakes, but rather we embrace them and learn from them. I feel it is the most mature way to proceed in life.

Where I Am Today

I initially chose to attend Johns Hopkins University, intent on pursuing two degrees: biochemistry and filmmaking. In that first year, I began to really listen to my “heart” over my “head” and I made a decision to focus on filmmaking. I have chosen to continue that journey at Emerson College in Boston—internationally renowned for its programs in communication and the arts. I couldn’t be more excited about my future!

We invite you to learn more about Virginia Episcopal School.

Visit ves.org or email Mary Stuart Battle, Director of International Admissions, at msbattle@ves.org.