

Rena

Class of 2025

From: Upper West Side

First Year at HM: 2nd Grade

Why HM?: HM is an environment where I feel comfortable embracing myself and my interests. Though HM is a large independent school, I was able to find and form a tight-knit community of diverse friends, faculty, and coaches. I appreciate the supportive and collaborative atmosphere. Whether you have questions about your class or just want to chat, HM teachers are always open to meeting with you.



Favorite Classes: My two favorite classes were East Asian History and Independent Study. East Asian History allowed me to reconnect with my childhood living as an expat in Japan, further develop my interest in East Asian history and culture, and enhance my analytical, research, and writing skills. My small Independent Study class challenged me to explore an interdisciplinary topic I am passionate about (urban agriculture). Through this course, I improved my presentation skills by regularly leading discussions with my class and having the opportunity to speak at an Upper Division assembly and host a workshop during Unity Week. I was also able to grow hydroponic gardens at school and home, write a children's book, and learn about and engage in discussions on a wide range of unique and fascinating topics selected by my peers.

Favorite TV Show: *Schitt's Creek*. I even had the opportunity to write a comparative analysis between *Schitt's Creek* and *The Great Gatsby* for my Junior Research Paper in Ms. Little's class.

Favorite School Trip: Music Ensemble summer trip to Hawaii with Mr. Ho.