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Class of 2028

How to achieve my “Bunbu Souzen(文武双全)”

"Bunbu Souzen" is a philosophy that has guided my growth throughout my years at Keio Academy of New York. It reflects my values, experiences, and approach to personal development.

“Bunbu Souzen” means excelling in both academics and athletics. It emphasizes achieving excellence in both as connected pursuits, rather than treating them as separate paths. My record of consistent effort in both athletics and academics demonstrates my potential to represent the ideal of "Bunbu Souzen”.

Academics are important because they help us gain knowledge and develop logical thinking skills. Sports improve physical fitness, mental strength, and teamwork. By excelling in both areas, I believe I can strengthen my intellectual and physical abilities.

While Bunbu Souzen emphasizes excellence in academics and athletics, I believe that music adds another important dimension, helping individuals become more well-rounded and thoughtful people. Music develops creativity and self-expression. It allows people to communicate emotions and better understand the feelings of others. In addition, learning and practicing an instrument requires dedication and perseverance, which are qualities that can also benefit academics and sports.

By combining the elements of “Bunbu Souzen” with my passion for music, I want to develop my personality through a blend of academics, sports, and musical talent to contribute to the school's goal and to inspire future generations of students at Keio Academy of New York.

Regarding athletics, ever since I was in kindergarten, I belonged to the soccer team, baseball team, and basketball team, and I also participated in learning tennis and swimming. I was simply enjoying playing these sports, and over time, I started to learn about teamwork through friends and coaches. One of

my proudest moments was being selected MVP at the Sugunami City public school soccer tournament when I was in 4th grade.

During 9th grade at Keio Academy of New York, I participated not only in cross country and basketball varsity teams, but also in house sports such as volleyball and badminton. At that time, I was highly motivated to play basketball, and I went straight to the gym after school. In the fall season, I received the Section 1 All-League Award in varsity cross country, and this experience has elevated my passion for sports. At the end of the school year, I was honored to receive the 9th Grade Physical Education Award.

In 10th grade, being a member of the cross country and basketball varsity teams, I again achieved some awards. I qualified for the State Championship, which I could not qualify for in 9th grade, and I received the Section 1 All-League Award in cross country. I have also received the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Award in the fall season. Qualifying for the State Championship taught me the value of perseverance and long-term commitment. Even though I could not qualify for it in 9th grade, I put in a lot of effort and trained a lot, which led me to qualify for the State Championship in 10th grade.

My dedication to academics began long before entering high school. My parents guided me to explore knowledge in various fields when I was young. I have been learning the abacus for about 5 years, from age 5 to 10, and obtained the Level 2 Abacus Proficiency Test. I was also curious about gaining programming skills by using LEGO at the same time. As continuous effort has become a habit for me, in 9th grade, I achieved the Honor Roll for the first quarter. This experience and outcome certainly motivated me to learn and study even harder.

In 10th grade, I received the Headmaster's Honor Roll in the 1st and final quarter, and Honor Roll for the 2nd and 3rd quarters, which gave me a sense of accomplishment but also motivated me to keep up with this hard work in both academic fields as well. My TOEFL score has improved a lot since 9th grade. During 9th grade, my TOEFL score was 580, and it improved to 617 this year. At the end of the school year, I earned the prize for the 10th Grade Health Science Award.

On top of that, practicing piano is my favorite interest, and I am especially keen to improving my skills in playing piano. It has been almost ten years since I started learning the piano, and I still have piano lessons every Sunday, visiting the private lessons in New Jersey. Playing the French horn, which I started playing when I was in 4th grade, is also an important extracurricular activity in my life. I enjoy playing the instruments, and they are part of my personality. Maintaining my musical skills certainly requires a great amount of effort and practice time each day, but it also helps to enhance my creativity and ability to express myself.

Through these experiences, I came to recognize the importance of discipline and consistent effort in academics, athletics, and music. The steady effort, such as running, training, and practicing piano every day, is very closely related to academics in studying consistently and getting good scores on tests and exams. These factors are certainly interconnected with each other, and they will be the basic elements to build my future personality.

I believe that the synergy of academics, sports, and music is not just about individual excellence but a vital process for building a balanced character. The balance and time management of engaging in sports, concentrating on my studies, and spending my time playing music certainly establish my personality, and I am very pleased to feel my growth in every field in such a wonderful environment.

In conclusion, I believe that true growth comes from pursuing excellence in multiple areas of life. While Bunbu Souzen emphasizes the balance of academics and athletics, music has also played an essential role in shaping who I am. As I continue my journey at Keio Academy of New York and beyond, I hope to incorporate the spirit of Bunbu Souzen while embracing the additional dimension that music brings to personal growth. By continuing to challenge myself, I aim to contribute to the school community and inspire future students to pursue their own balanced path toward excellence.