

WHAT IS THE RICHIE FERRANTI STORY?

Richie Ferranti has been at SCIS Pudong for the past 4 years. He is currently in the 12th grade and planning on going to University of Florida to study pre-medicine next year. In the middle of mock exams, I was able to get Richie to sit down with me and talk about his past, present, and of course, his future.

What is Richie Ferranti's story? How did you end up at SCIS?

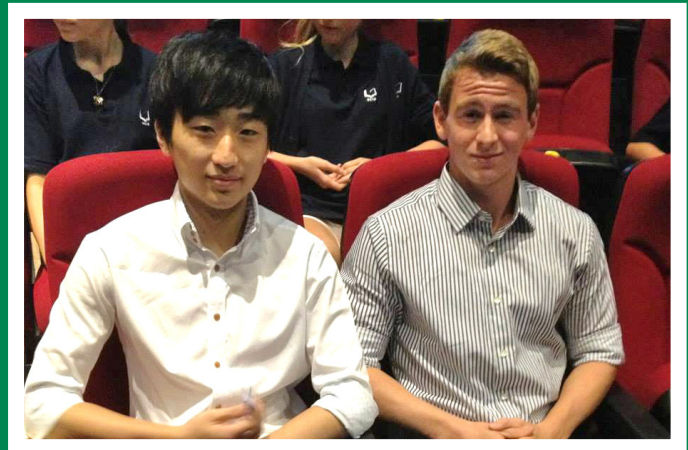
Well, I've lived somewhat of a nomadic life, moving schools quite often. I was born in south Florida and lived in Texas until I was 10. That's when things got interesting. My dad's company required him to move to China. I thought, "Hmmm, China sounds...cool." Next thing I know, I was living in an alley in China. No Kidding! I literally lived in a local Chinese alley with all the fun that comes with that kind of situation. After 2 years, we moved to Hong Kong in a school where I was the only white student. It was a really awesome experience, and I made a lot of good memories there. We moved around in Hong Kong a bit and then finally ended up back in Shanghai attending SCIS. Even through all the uprooting and moving, I wouldn't change a single second of my time spent in Asia.

Thinking back to when you first got here—would the Richie then recognize you now?

I am not sure if I would even recognize myself from 4 years ago. I was a little kid with long hair who spent most of his time at the skatepark or on an X Box. A lot has changed since then; I think for the better. Actually, I was not the best student before I came to this school and was even known as a troublemaker. However, since coming to this school, I have become a good student and dropped my old reputation. I truly believe that SCIS has made me into the person I am today and helped me set my life straight.

You are a very busy person, what is your secret to being able to excel inside and outside the classroom?

What it comes down to is balance. Being able to balance school, sports, friends, and all the other things in my life has helped me stay on track inside and outside the classroom. I am far from the perfect student, and I'll sometimes decide not to do work in study hall. In fact, just the other day I watched Hangover 3 (don't tell Mr. Macmillan). The reason I can do this is because I know that I have the time to. I have either finished all of my work or decided that I have the time to do the work later. I believe that it's important to be able to know when you have to work and when you need to relax. However, when I need to do my work, I'm very effective and devote my complete attention to what I'm doing.



For those that don't know you, what are the extra curricular's you have been involved in this year?

I'm on the Varsity Basketball and Varsity Volleyball team, lead guitar in Rock Band, and Student

That is a lot! It sounds like you're a big believer in them. Tell me how that has affected your education.

It keeps me a well rounded student. Personally, I believe that it is just as important to be involved in sports and creative activities as it is to be a good student. It's also a great way to make friends with people you have common interests with.

How has this year gone for you? Has it been easier or harder? Quicker or slower? Than other years?

This year is great, albeit stressful. I feel like my whole high school has been leading up to these next couple of months.

What is the most important thing on your mind right now?

Well, other than internal assessments, physics labs, IB Exams, the TOK Essay, the Extended Essay, my Final Film, Economics Commentaries, and general school life...I have nothing on my mind.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm still waiting on some other colleges to respond, but I'm pretty sure I'm going to University of Florida to study pre-med. I'm just excited to get back to America.

Last question: what did you do for Valentines Day?

I had a great dinner at an Italian restaurant with my girlfriend. I left with a full stomach and an empty wallet.