



ABC CLARION

High school students are welcome to send articles or comics to clarionabc@gmail.com

Reflections on Sophomore Year

by Victoria Tian

Going into 10th grade, I didn't really know what to expect. The novelty and excitement of freshman year had already faded, and the future perils and hardships of junior year still seemed rather far away in my mind. All the classes on my course schedule didn't seem particularly easy or difficult. I thought they could potentially go either way, depending on my teachers. Basically, sophomore year was shaping up to be one of those ho-hum, throwaway years of my life. Looking back now, what happened was actually the exact opposite: sophomore year turned out to be huge period of emotional growth that changed me greatly.

On my first day back to school in September, I discovered that none of my friends from last year were in my classes this year. Instead, I was always with the same set of people throughout my eight-period day, and this set of people happened to all belong to an already-established friend group who I had barely talked to in 9th grade. I found myself feel-

ing lonely and left out during the early months of school, and I was often depressed. After some point, I realized that the only thing I could do to help myself was to adapt to the situation at hand and change. Being a naturally shy and more introverted person, it was rather difficult for me to branch out and become closer to people I assumed I didn't have anything in common with, but I attempted to do so, and the results surprised me. I got to become very good friends with people I had only ever been (and always expected to be) casual acquaintances with. I discovered that one individual happened to have the same taste in music as me, and another one was extremely funny and shared many of my interests. Sophomore year suddenly became way better once I decided to take a chance.

Through the course of the year, I learned that you have to be more open-minded, especially when it comes to judging and interacting with others. Most people are so much more inter-

esting and unique individuals than you initially give them credit for. If you make an honest effort to get to know them, you will be rewarded. Potential friends are everywhere, and the more of them you make, the better your life becomes.

My other main obstacle from sophomore year involved academics. A majority of my teachers were, to put it bluntly, bad at teaching. Some of them just didn't put in the effort, while others didn't have very clear or effective teaching and grading methods. The classes were not difficult, but my teachers made the entire educational experience rather painful for the students in my grade. I found myself constantly feeling frustrated over my grades and the lack of knowledge I was learning. Even the subjects I used to find fascinating became utterly tedious for me. At some point, I finally accepted that I could not control my teachers; I could only control myself and my own actions. I adapted to the requests of my teachers and stud-

ied specifically to do well on their assessments. Then, I studied the subjects on my own to make sure I was still getting a suitable education. Once I did this, I started getting the results I wanted.

Both of these experiences taught me to simply make the best of what I had and do what I could to make my life better. Although

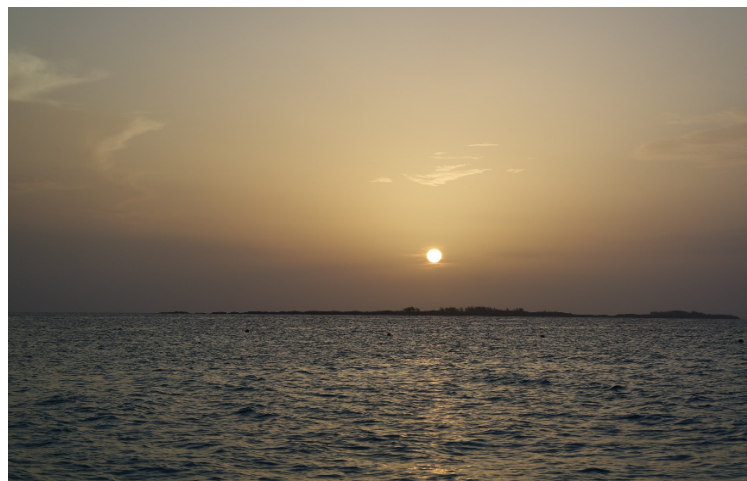
I cannot always control my circumstances, I still have the power to make them work for me. So sophomore year proved to be a very valuable learning experience for me in ways I did not expect. I cannot wait to see what junior year will bring... *shudders*.

Photos of Bahama Vacation

by Siyu Cao

I went to the Bahamas this summer and took some photos.

These were all taken at Nassau at the Atlantis resort.



Goodbye, Beloved Summer

by Harvey Wang

With the new school year just around the corner, both the kids and the parents are nervously scrambling in preparation for yet another treacherous couple of months of chaos, and even worse, the end of this short-lived summer. Here are some tips to help you be better prepared for Back-To-School Day.

1. Don't stress out about getting all of the materials and supplies you need for all of your classes. Even if you are provided with a supply list from your teachers, keep in mind that teachers usually give students a couple days to get what they need for the class. They often even provide the students with notebooks or journals so that you do not have to purchase them yourselves.

2. Carry along your schedule and a map of the school, even if you've already been to the school before. With the joys and relaxations of summer, chances are,

you have forgotten where some classrooms are. It's always helpful to carry a schedule to know which classes you should be in, and a map to help you locate them.

3. Finish your summer preparations and papers for school. From physical examinations for sports to summer reading assignments, make sure the papers you have to complete over the summer are done at least a couple days before the first day of school. It's never a great way to start off the school year by completing your summer assignments "last minute" after you already had over 2 months to do it.

4. Get used to the morning schedule by practicing your routine several days earlier. Try waking up early one or two days before so you're not completed unaccustomed to your new schedule. This way, you won't be so groggy on the first day that

you'll miss your bus or get to school late!

Follow these tips, and you'll be much more comfortable coming into the new school year. Hopefully, the first day of school will become more of an exciting experience to remember than a heavy burden.

Managing Editor: Siyu Cao

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Members: Adam Liu, Aileen Wu, Alina Peng, Angelina Li, Audrey Zhou, Daniel Zheng, Jeffrey Ho, Lawrence Huang, Olivia Nguyen, Sanford Ren, Sydney Peng, Siyu Cao, Siyu Hou, Sophia Hu, Tanya Wang, Tiger Li, Victoria Tian

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