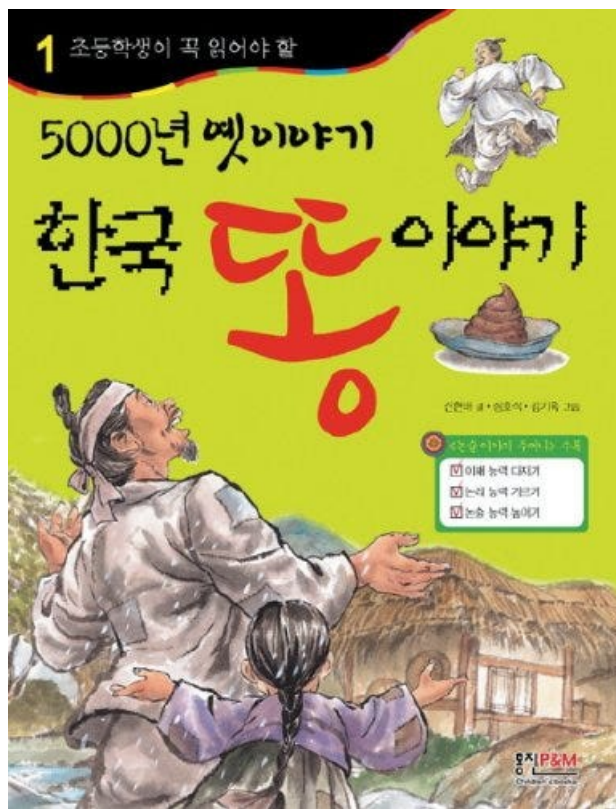

My elementary experience

Primary school: make or break

Education is like building a skyscraper—the strength of its foundation determines how high and sturdy the building can become. However, the construction does not stop there. Another variable to take heed of, especially when in the attempts of making a resilient building, is its environment. When a structure receives more visits from calamities (a metaphorical comparison of a successful student hanging out with fellow students who, cliché alert, take vices), the building will wear down and eventually be destroyed. People will avoid it and fail to see the greatness its owners (parents) once dreamed of.

Thinking back, I have some pretty good memories embedded in what used to be the bustling halls of my elementary school, Benthel Asia School of Technology. Come, accompany me as I take a trip down memory lane:

I remember hurrying to primary school for the best reason: learning about the sticky, gooey, pseudo-aromatic, anatomy of solid bodily waste. In other words, *poop*. The book was brought by my Korean classmate Andy when I was in Grade 2. That was one heck of an introduction to the culture of Korea (though in the later stages of life, exposing myself to other cultures helped me become an open-minded person).



The infamous book of poop

Initially, laughs were shared between Koreans, Japanese, and Filipino students inside the classroom, but a few months later, we considered ourselves veterans in scatology, the study of poop. We were so good, we could differentiate between diarrhea and constipation. We were 2nd graders back then, **that was a big thing**. Not our poop, though—that was more on the smelly side.

Elementary was a cycle of waking up, attending the flag ceremony, listening to teachers, playing, then going home. At least that's what it was before 4th grade happened. I was introduced to the concept of competition shortly after. A smart, loud transferee who always used to brag and compare his scores. He was always the top-ranking student in our section. That caused the once-carefree class of Grade 4 Honesty to compete in everything they did. From being the first to jot down notes to being the fastest runner. Being the fastest was a big deal. Honestly, that portion of life helped the majority of us improve. It was a healthy competition. About the transferee, he isn't as loud anymore, but he still dominates the ranking lists.

[Benthel Asia School of Technology](#), Inc. envisions to become a child-friendly institution that provides holistic education in transforming learners to become competent individuals.

A well-rounded experience

Benthel is serious when it said it would provide holistic education. I was

trained to not only be academically competent, but to be a decent being in the sociological and spiritual aspects, too. To prove my point, here are a few memorable experiences:

Academics

Apart from building my foundation, Benthel has taught me how to be hungry for knowledge too. The cravings started when they held their annual English and Math quiz bees. It always felt empowering to take part and compete with your classmates and seniors.

Spiritual

The school hosted first Friday masses and going to church with your schoolmates was an experience I found spiritually enriching.

Music

In conjunction with the masses held, who are in charge of the singing. That would be no other than the school's very own choir composed of hand-picked students. I used to be a part of the choir and learning music under sir Joel was really memorable.

Sports

I love soccer! I would always look forward to Friday, where P.E takes 100% of the day because that would mean getting to get play while subconsciously strengthening not only my physical health but also my bonds with my teammates as well as my concept of teamwork.

Social

After-school hangouts usually mean going to a classmate's house and play PS4 until the sky goes dark. This taught me how there is more stuff outside school and how friends make life more meaningful.

Entrepreneurship

If you ask me, one core memory I have in the school was that time during Grade 6 where we had to bring toys over to, take a guess... sell it! We sold those green plastic mini-soldiers for one peso apiece. We made 100 PHP. Another one is when we painted for our art class when, suddenly, after we've all passed, the teacher announce how we're supposed to sell it. A multitude of marketing techniques was released that day. What an experience!

Benthelians forever



After grade 6, we all went our own ways. Others ventured to schools outside Benthel, while some stayed for junior high, then senior high. Fast forward to today, we're all living in our own walls separated by the pandemic. Or are we? The bond formed by each of us is now stronger than ever. Thanks to social media and the wonders of the internet, we gather 'round for online video games whilst being on voice calls daily. Sometimes, though, we go around and solve problems with the additional gift of [winning competitions](#) along with it. Talk about being productive members of society. Making memories with friends is not a waste of time, it is a valuable treasure we can only appreciate once we are in our golden ages. I am deeply grateful to Benthel for that.

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