

GPA Newsletter

Issue No. 5

GPA NEWSLETTER

2016.08.31

Principal

DR. GONZALEZ

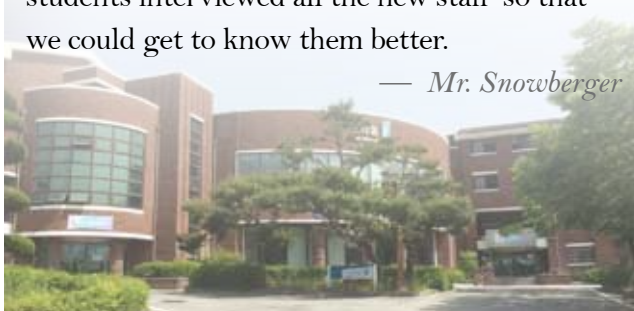


"My goal this semester is to ensure that we (as a school) maintain a high level of morale."

Welcome back to GPA!

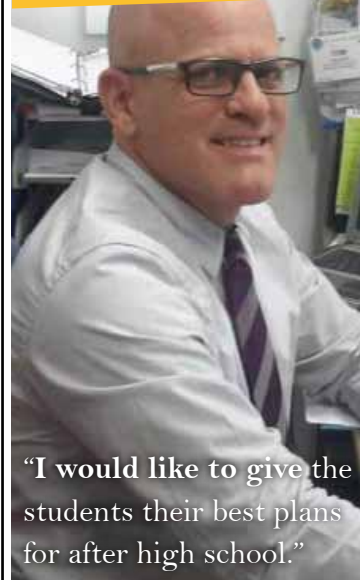
The Fall 2016 semester at GPA has just begun and we've already encountered a great deal of changes. First off, the principal, guidance counselor, and half the teaching staff is new. In this edition of the GPA newsletter, the Design students interviewed all the new staff so that we could get to know them better.

— Mr. Snowberger



Counselor

MR. WHITE



"I would like to give the students their best plans for after high school."

HOW TO:

LEARN

HOW TO EXPLORE SCHOOL — by Kyulim Lee

LEARN

HOW TO USE TIME WISELY — by Doohyeon (Daniel) Won

NEW TEACHER INTERVIEWS



Language Arts
Mr. Dean



Mathematics
Dr. Paek-Spidell



Mathematics
Mr. Steaves



Science
Mr. Lapointe



Social Studies
Mr. Vance



Social Studies
Mr. Durey

ALSO

DEAR TIME — by Daerwook Lim

DEAR time is continuing right now, what's your opinion about DEAR time? Is DEAR is useful? Or useless?



NEWS

Mr. Snowberger is working on a new English version of the GPA website (to launch in October.)

"I have been working at Jeonju University for a number of years now. I always wanted an opportunity to come to GPA as the Health /Phys. Ed teacher."

Health / PE
Mr. MacLellan





Interview *with Principal Gonzalez*

— Sung Woo Choi

I interviewed Dr. Gonzalez on the 26th of August in his new role as the principal of Global Prodigy Academy. Dr. Gonzalez was the school's previous counselor for three years, and now after leaving for one year and coming back as the school's principal, this was my interview with him.

Q: What are your goals for this semester?

A: My goals for this semester are to ensure that we (as a school) maintain a high level of morale, because I believe that the school has undergone 'traumatic' times and now it is time to heal. I also believe that the school is standing on the right foot to move forward and go to the next level.

Q: What is your teaching philosophy?

A: As far as my teaching philosophy is concerned, we need to do two things. First, emphasize student engagement. If students are engaged in their learning, then chances are the material they're learning is going to be absorbed more easily. In other words, to not just stand in front of a class and lecture.

Unless I am a fantastic lecturer, I am going to lose the students. Also, if the students are engaged, they are going to retain the material longer, past the exam, because we are not teaching to the exam. If we are teaching to the exam then we are doing the wrong thing. This is a life long learning that we hope the students are participating in.

The second thing is to recognize the fact that students come to school with different learning styles. Some people are visual learners, others are auditory learners and still others are kinesthetic or active learners, and teachers need to recognize that and organize their lesson plans accordingly. Teachers need to know their students really well. I know it takes a few weeks to know what skills and deficiencies they come with, but then they need to go a step further and recognize their mode of learning. Then, they need to organize their lesson plans around the different learning styles so that every student in the class has a chance to absorb and retain the information. For example, if I am a teacher and I have a student in class who is an active learner and I'm constantly giving that student visual learning opportunities, that's not going to maximize his or her academic potential.

Q: If there was something to learn about the school, what do you hope to learn more of?

A: I think we need to learn how to get out of the 'survival mode' that we are in. In other words, we need to 'blossom' as a school, so what I want to learn is: **"How can we attract more students to GPA?"** More students and more quality students. We do not have endless resources. We really need to continue to scrutinize the students who apply to GPA and ensure that they fit into the school environment so that we are able to help them reach their academic potential and move to the next level whether it is to transition from the ESL program or to apply to major universities.

First of all, we need to get out of the survival mode and then move into a mode where we are thriving. I want GPA to thrive as a school so that kids in

other schools can look at the achievements of GPA and say, 'That's a great school, I wish I could be there.' There are other schools in Korea that have tremendous facilities and resources; they have their own football fields, courts and school cafeterias. We do not have that luxury, we need to collaborate with the university to be able to use university facilities. I believe we are starting to move on that path.

As a counselor at GPA I promoted the idea of creating innovative curriculum that would set the school apart from the other international schools in Korea. In the last year, thanks to Mr. Snowberger, we implemented new curriculum like Robotics, Graphic Design and AP Computer Science. Creating innovative curriculum will expose students to disciplines they may not have considered and it will help them reach their academic goals. This is something I support wholeheartedly. I want GPA to stand out as a school. **I don't want GPA to be an average school in Korea,** Therefore, I promoted the technology courses that have now been implemented.

It is also important for GPA to strengthen its AP program—offer more AP courses. Research has shown that students who are exposed to in-depth studies in areas like science, mathematics, social sciences, fine arts and world languages perform better at university. Taking the AP exam and receiving a score of 4 or 5 will enable students to receive both high school and university credit for those classes. But the key is for students to be exposed to the AP curriculum. Taking the AP test and earning a score of 4 or 5 is icing on the cake.

After the interview, I thanked him for his time and we parted ways. Dr. Gonzalez used to teach me Spanish for two years when he was here, thus making this interview much easier and fun to do with the former Counselor and now Principal of Global Prodigy Academy.



INTERVIEW WITH GUIDANCE COUNSELOR MR. WHITE

— Seungwoo Hong

Mr. White is the new counselor of GPA. Since he is the new counselor, we have no idea about him so I had an interview with him in first period.

Q: What is the motivation that you came to GPA?

A: I want to come to new country every few years. It forces me to learn new things.

Q: So is that the reason that you come to Korea?

A: Yes.

Q: What do you want to do at GPA?

A: I would like to give the students their best plans for after high school.

Q: Is this your goals for this semester too?

A: Overall, yes.

Q: What is your teaching, more like counseling for you, philosophy?

A: It is to help people learn and think for themselves.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Korea?

A: They have their own alphabet and language. Also, Korean people have pride in their own country.

Q: What do you mean? Have a pride in their own country?

A: For example, if you go downtown in China or Arabic country, all the posters of brands you see are all American. However, in Korea, if you go downtown, all the posters of brands you see are usually all Korean. So I thought that Korean people have pride in their own country.

Q: Do you speak Korean? Or another language?

A: I can't speak Korean, just English. I can just introduce myself in some other languages.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: My hobby is sailing boats.

Q: What is your favorite TV show?

A: My favorite TV show is *Seinfeld*.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: My favorite movie is *The Bourne Identity*.

— Doohyeon (Daniel) Won

We always want to do things we want, but we sometimes have to do things we do not want. Therefore, in order to solve problems efficiently, we should know how to use time wisely. So please let me suggest some ways:

Firstly, organize your assignments by setting priorities. For example, if you have homework with a deadline of tomorrow, then set it as first priority because it is the most urgent task! So, if you make a priority list, you can manage your businesses more easily and deal with something unexpected efficiently.

Secondly, concentrate on your tasks. Have you ever passed a night without sleep while preparing for a test? I suppose you might feel severe tiredness and it made you distracted from your work. So I would like to say that concentration is really important because it makes you be able to do your tasks quickly and effectively. As a result, concentration give you a time benefit.

Thirdly, use spare time practically. Most spare time just can be regarded as small and purposeless time. However, as a proverb notes, 'Drop after drop fills the tub', spare time is actually golden time. You can use this time for studying, memorizing words, and so on. How to use spare time is up to you. If you use your spare time steadily, then you will find you've improved yourself.

Finally, you must do your assignments first. Sometimes, we do not want to do our assignments although we already know we have to do them. Also, many things such as games, TV shows, and advertisements tempt us to put aside our tasks. However, it is a really bad habit because if we do other non-important things instead of our tasks, then we will spend our times inefficiently in order to do our tasks while feeling tired.

Additionally, that kind of enjoyment is really short, but after short enjoyment, we will suffer in long agony. For those reasons, we need to choose how to use time wisely in order to prevent and avoid inefficient using of time.



Interview *with Mr. Dean (Language Arts)*

— Sungkyu Choi

Q: Why did you come to GPA?

A: I visited Jeonju last winter. My wife and I were looking for a place to live that suited our lifestyle. I was very impressed with Jeonju, so I put it near the top of my list. Jeonju just felt like a place where I could be happy. I considered a lot of jobs before deciding to work at GPA. I thought that I wanted to work at a university, but the only University where I would be able to teach Literature in Korea was in Seoul, and we decided that we did not want to live in Seoul. I had a feeling that GPA might be a very supportive place to work, so I went head and decided to come work here.

Q: Any tips for students to increase their GPA?

A: Communication is very important in any school or work environment. I recommend communicating with your teachers as much as possible. When you are having problems, discuss it with them immediately. The same is true for your courses at University.

Q: Why did you come to Korea?

A: My wife is Korean and we wanted to be near her family. We have lived in China for a long time. Also, Korea is a place where I have always been able to write well. Many of my favorite poems from my first book were written partially while we were traveling in Korea. I like the fact that you are always near mountains in Korea. I am a big fan of mountains.

Q: Do you speak Korean? Or another language?

A: I am going to begin studying Korean. I speak Chinese (Mandarin).

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: My hobbies change frequently. I like to have new experiences. Writing takes up a lot of the time that I am not working. I love walking in the woods. Anything related to the outdoors. I built a house when I was in my mid 20's, so I like making things with my hands.

Q: What's your favorite place?

A: That's a difficult one. I have many favorite places. A few temples in Korea that I particularly love. My Family's home in the US. The house that I built in New Mexico and the landscape around it. Kyoto. I spent one night in the bus terminal in Gwangju, writing. I like to keep moving, but slowly. Watching. Places are also special because of the people I spent time there with.

Q: What other countries have you lived in or traveled to?

A: I've lived in Hong Kong and China. I've traveled quite a bit. I love Paris in the summer. I was in Sweden this summer, and really loved Stockholm, it is a beautiful city that I highly recommend. Vietnam and Thailand are truly wonderful. I love Kyoto in Japan, Also a smaller city called Shizuoka.

Q: Are you married? ;)

A: Yes. My wife Ji Young is Korean. We are expecting a baby in late February.





Interview with Mr. Vance (Social Studies)

— Chanwoo Kim

Q: Why did you come to GPA?

A: I chose to come here for many reasons, but I particularly like GPA because of its small class sizes. Unlike other schools where there are 20-40 students crammed into a room, this is a place where I can get to know my students, and they can get to know each other, and make more authentic connections.

Q: What do you teach?

A: I currently teach U.S. History and Social Studies. I love it.

Q: What are your goals for this semester?

A: My goals are to do my absolute best and learn as much as I can. I'd also like to encourage my students to think critically about the course material, ask important questions, and work towards becoming lifelong learners.

Q: What do you want to do at GPA?

A: I want to help students become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and active participants in democracy.

Q: What do you want to learn?

A: I want to learn how to surf.

Q: What was your GPA in HS?

A: 4.0. OR WAS IT!?

Q: Any tips for students to increase their GPA?

A: Communicate with your teachers. If you don't understand something or need clarification, just ask.

Q: How long have you been in Korea?

A: 4 years.

Q: Why did you come to Korea?

A: Mostly for the food.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Korea?

A: Food.

Q: Do you speak Korean? Or another language?

A: That's a secret.

Q: What do you think of the Korean education system?

A: I think that all education systems have their own issues, but I could talk about this question for days.

Q: How old are you?

A: Older than you think.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Being in nature, being outside, hiking, reading books that make me think, playing basketball or beach volleyball, swimming and DJing.

Q: What's your favorite place?

A: Jeju Island.

Q: Are you married? ;)

A: Don't wink at me like that.



INTERVIEW WITH DR. PAEK-SPIDELL (MATH)

— Kiback Lee

Dr. Spidell is a new math teacher of GPA. Maybe most of you guys don't know much about her, so I want you guys to read this article and learn about her or feel familiar with her.

Q: What do you teach?

A: I teach math classes, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-calculus, AP Calculus and ESL math.

Q: What are your goals for this semester?

A: My goals for this semester are to help students to reach their academic goals (getting a good grade in math classes), to show them how mathematics is used to solve real world problems, and to enjoy mathematics with students because MATH IS COOL.

Q: What do you want to do at GPA?

A: I want to help students to understand mathematics better and to get to know each of my students like big sister.

Q: What is your teaching philosophy?

A: My teaching philosophy is that teaching should be interactive between teachers and students. We should communicate about problems to get the best way to solve or understand it.

Q: What is your teaching experience?

A: I have taught several math classes from high school to graduate school, such as at the U.S. Air Force Academy, the Air Force Institute of Technology, Red Rocks Community College, and so on.

Q: What was your GPA in high school?

A: Somewhere between 3.9 and 4.0.

Q: How long have you been in Korea?

A: I have visited Korea many times, and this time I have been in Jeonju since June. So I have been in Korea about 2 months and 20 days.

Q: Why did you come to Korea?

A: I plan to visit my mom and spend some time with her and my baby.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Korea?

A: Food... ^^

Interview *with Mr. Lapointe (Science)*

— Bojeong Kang

He was working in KAIST last year to teach ESL students but he is not anymore! Mr. Lapointe is his name and he will teach science (Chemistry A, etc) in GPA from August, 2016. It is not hard to know that he is an interesting man to interview since KAIST is one of the most well known universities in Korea but nobody knows the secret why he came to GPA. With a huge welcome, here are ten questions and answers from my interview with Mr. Lapointe to cure many students' curiosity.

Q: Why did you come to GPA?

A: I came to GPA for several reasons. Firstly, my partner Ms. Turner was working at GPA and my stepson, Michael was attending the same school. I decided to apply to GPA to be closer to them. Secondly, GPA offered me a position as a Biology teacher, which is my background. I absolutely love the sciences. Thirdly, when I first moved to Korea, I had a job working at a public high school in Jeonju. I have many great friends in Jeonju, so it was an easy decision to come back.

Q: What do you teach?

A: I currently teach Biology and Earth Science.

Q: What are your goals for this semester?

A: This semester, I'd love to teach my science courses through inquiry. What I mean is, I want to present my students with case studies and encourage them to apply the material to figure out problems. I also want to create personal relationships with the students at GPA as that's one of the benefits of being a teacher. It's so great being part of a school where students can easily communicate and share their ideas. So far, it's been fun.



Q: What is your teaching experience?

A: I've taught science in high schools and university back in my hometown, Montreal. In Korea, I taught EFL at a public high school in Jeonju. After that experience, I began teaching in the EFL department at KAIST. Mostly,

I taught academic and scientific writing to undergraduates and graduate students. That was a very rewarding experience.

Q: Why did you come to Korea?

A: I came to Korea mostly because I was interested in embracing a new culture. I'd always dreamed of moving

across the world and living somewhere else, and Korea has been a great experience so far. It's also important to put myself in uncomfortable situations, adapting to new situations. That's where I learn more about myself.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Korea?

A: My favorite thing in Korea is obviously the food. I'm a bit of a glutton. I like eating. I also enjoy how hospitable and friendly everyone has been. Traveling around Korea has also been a lot of fun. There are so many things to see!

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: As for my hobbies, I brew beer. Korea has a strong drinking culture and a burgeoning craft brew scene. It's been really fun being here as new companies and breweries open. I've met so many wonderful brewers and beer aficionados. Secondly, I enjoy doing jiu jitsu, which is a martial arts focusing mostly on grappling and submissions. It helps relieve stress and keeps me in shape. I also enjoy biking, strength training, reading, and traveling. There are many beautiful sights to see around this part of the world!

Q: What is your favorite music?

A: Currently, I love listening to electronic remixes. I really enjoy listening to internet radio stations, like Digitally Imported, that play those types of songs. Something with a beat. That, or I'll listen to something that gets my blood pumping, like punk rock or indie folk.

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: My favorite food would probably be filet mignon, cooked rare. I really love steak.

Q: Are you married?

A: I am not married.



INTERVIEW WITH MR. MACLELLAN (HEALTH)

— *Jiwan Yang*

Mark Maclellan is the Health teacher in GPA. He is similar to Jesse Fuller and they are friends with each other. A few days ago, I was one of the students in his class but I've changed to Robotics. At first when I met him, he acted like a silly teacher, but I knew that he wanted to get close to students. I want to say that he is a nice teacher, but sometimes silly. If you try to talk to him, he would make a lot of jokes. He is a nice guy.

Q: Why did you come to GPA?

A: I have been working at Jeonju University for a number of years now. I always wanted an opportunity to come to GPA as the Health/Phys. Ed teacher and jumped at the opportunity when it arose this semester. In the past I had been the Boys and Girls Basketball coach here at GPA.

Q: What do you teach?

A: I am the Health / Physical Education Teacher.

Q: What are your goals for this semester?

A: I want to help my students to learn and be aware of their personal health and well-being by teaching them good habits that they can carry with them throughout their life long after they leave GPA.

Q: How long have you been in Korea?

A: I have been in Korea since 2004.

Q: How old are you?

A: I'm 38 years old.



Professor *Robert Steaves (Math)*

— Kilim Choi

Q: Why did you come to GPA?

A: Well the university didn't want to hire me because I'm older than 65 years old. But I want to work more, and I found this school.

Q: What did you teach?

A: I teach Physics, Geometry, Algebra.

Q: What are your goals for this semester?

A: I just want the student's success in this semester and to pass the class.

Q: What is your teaching experience?

A: I taught in university for 11 and half years in China and Korea.

Q: Any tips for student to increase GPA and for their academic goal?

A: Keep asking questions and I can give you guidelines if you are interested in a Science major.

Q: What's your favorite things in about Korea?

A: My family lives in Korea and I love them so much. That is the best thing in Korea.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: My hobby is making beer. I like to make them in my house and also drink them.

Q: What's your favorite place?

A: China is my favorite place, I lived there for a long time.

Q: Do you speak korean or another language?

A: No I can't speak Korean but i'm pretty good at Chinese.



INTERVIEW WITH MR. DUREY (SOCIAL STUDIES)

— Kunwoo Leem

Mr. Durey is GPA's History & Psychology teacher. He came to GPA in the 2016 fall semester, which means this is his first semester in GPA. His home country is The United States Of America, and he has been teaching in Korea for 9 years. He is known between students for having classes that require lots of effort and challenges.

TEACHING

Q:What do you teach?

A: I teach History and Psychology.

Q:Why did you come to GPA?

A: I came here Because GPA seemed like a school that would be both a challenging and a fun place to work.

Q: What do you want to do at GPA?

A: At GPA I will do my best to help students reach their academic goals and to test the limits of their abilities.

Q:What are your goals this fall?

A: My first goal is to learn everyone's names! I also hope to finish a book I'm reading, "Contemporary World History." I plan to work on that during DEAR time.

What do you want to learn?

A: I'm always learning how to be a better teacher by reading articles and following other teachers on Twitter.

Q:What is your teaching philosophy?

A: I believe in a student-centered classroom where students collaborate and communicate. I want students to learn how to learn. I know what students need in order to succeed at university, and I set very high standards for my students.

Q:Any tips for students to increase their GPA?

A: Three simple words: Do your best. Always do your best because if you don't, you're wasting my time and you're wasting your own time. You never know how good you can be until you push yourself, so do more than the teacher expects. If you take initiative and raise the bar every time, you'll succeed.

KOREA

Q:How long have you been in Korea?

A: I came to Korea in 2007. I've lived in Suwon and Seoul, and I have a home in Songdo with my family.

Q:Why did you come to Korea?

A: I had previously taught in Japan and China, and I was curious to see what Korea had to offer and explore the culture.

Q:What's your favorite thing about Korea?

A: Definitely the weather. My favorite thing about Korea is the fall.

Q:What other countries have you lived in or traveled to?

A: I've worked in Japan, China, and of course the U.S. I've traveled to Mexico, Singapore, and Thailand.

Q:Do you speak Korean or any other languages?

A: Since I've been in Korea a while, I can understand quite a bit of what it being said, although I still can't watch the news or a TV show and understand it all! I'm always trying to improve my Korean, but please don't try to help me by speaking Korean in class.

Q:What do you think of the Korean education system?

A: I've worked in a Korean public high school, a private language school, Samsung, and GS. Based on my experience, I would say that the Korean education system is very rigorous, which has its positives and negatives.

PERSONAL

Q:Where are you from?

A: My parents, brother, sister, and nephew live in Little Rock, Arkansas in the U.S. I'm originally from Arkansas.

Q:Where were you born?

A: I was born in a small city called Lawton in the state of Oklahoma, U.S.

Q:How many family members do you have?

A: I'm married with two beautiful daughters, one is six years old and the other is two.

Q:What are your hobbies?

A: I enjoy reading, watching TV, and occasionally playing guitar.

Q: What is your favorite genre of music?

A: I like a bit of everything, but my favorites are Jason Mraz and old country like Johnny Cash.

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: My favorite food is 불닭, but I don't get to have it very often since my wife and two daughters don't like spicy food!

Q: What's your favorite place?

A: My favorite place is at home with my family.

Q:What's your favorite TV show / movie?

A: I have so many, but I'd have to say my favorite TV shows are either Doctor Who, Game of Thrones or The Walking Dead.

Q: Who is your role model and how did the person inspire you?

A: My role model is my father. He is a school principal in the U.S. and I have learned so much from him both in terms of teaching and how to be a good father.

Q:What is your life motto?

A: "We find comfort among those who agree with us, and growth among those who don't."



How to Explore the GPA Campus

— Kyulim Lee

Our school, GPA, is in the Jeonju University so it is not easy to find the way to go at first. So in this article, I will explain to you how to explore our school!

HOW TO GO TO THE CAFETERIA

The cafeteria is in the Student Union. Almost all students eat lunch and buy some snack at the convenience store or buy notes at the stationary store. Also there is a different kind ATM machine so we can take out money.

How to go



1. This is our school. We will start from here.



2. As you come out from GPA, keep walking down following the road.



3. When you walk for 3 minutes, you can see the Clock Tower. Then just follow the road that leads to the Clock Tower.



4. Finally! You arrived at the cafeteria! If you go into the Clock Tower, there will be the cafeteria!

HOW TO GO TO THE LIBRARY

There are two libraries in Jeonju University. One is the English Children's Library and the other one is the University Library. We can use both libraries. When midterms and final tests come close, we study at the University Library a lot.

How to go



1. Go along the same route that I posted in 'How to go to the cafeteria'.
2. Walk inside the square a little bit more. Then you can see stairs which have a star drawing.



3. Then walk up the stairs. (There are a lot of stairs and they are very large so it might be a little hard.)



4. When you walk up all of the stairs and walk a little bit more, you can see the way in. It looks like this.



HOW TO GO TO STAR TOWER

At Star Tower, we can eat lunch like in the cafeteria in the Clock Tower. Also for those who are living in the dormitory, they can buy bus tickets to Seoul's South Bus Terminal.

How to go

1. Go along the same route that I posted in 'How to go to the cafeteria.'
2. Do not go to the cafeteria, just go straight and follow this way.



3. When you keep walking down the road, you will find one building on the right.
4. Then, when you keep walking the road, you will found one horse sculpture.
5. Tada! You arrived at Star Tower! On the left side door of CU is the entry to Star Tower.

+In Addition, on the right side of CU, you can buy bus tickets to Seoul's South Bus Terminal.

There are many things in Jeonju University. But this time, I just showed some places that GPA student will find helpful when they know how to get there. I hope that you get helped by my article!



DEAR *Time*

— Daerwook Lim

In GPA, we have free reading time after 7th period. It is mandatory and no one can skip this 20 minutes of free reading activity. It was started to improve students' reading skills and also encourage them to learn more complicated words. Students have to go to their home room teachers to participate in the reading time. Students can bring their own books or go to the school library to grab books that are based on their interests and abilities.

The DEAR program is meant to help students but there have been many negative responses about DEAR time. Students keep suggesting to remove DEAR time. So the Student Council may have a survey about DEAR time.

Even though 70% of students respond that they are reading books during DEAR time, most of the students said that DEAR time is useless and doesn't help to increase their reading skills. Also, students said it is not effective for improving their Lexile and PSAT scores. They suggest that we remove DEAR time and increase the lunch time.

The teachers are different. Most of the teachers agreed with DEAR time and that DEAR time helps to increase literature skills. But they do say it has to be changed in some way. DEAR time is continuing right now, so what's your opinion about DEAR time? Is DEAR is useful? Or useless?