Rejected.

St. Margaret's Episcopal School, SAT 1917, size 1246

http://www.privateschoolreview.com/school\_ov/school\_id/4111

这所是Newport Beach的学校。其实蛮好。

[www.smes.org](http://www.smes.org)

<http://www.smes.org/admission/application-process/index.aspx>

<https://www.ravenna-hub.com/#/login>

[listygao@gmail.com](mailto:listygao@gmail.com) : App2016!

Name: Ms. Yu Bai (白钰)

Address: 501 Via La Selva，Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Work Address: 4 Tongfujiadao Hutong, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100006

Parent:

**Why is St. Margaret’s the right school for your child? Please include aspects of the school you believe are most important.\***

Academic excellence is the first and foremost quality we look for in a school. A school is after all an academic institute. St. Margaret stands out as one of the best schools in this respect. We want our only daughter to be well prepared for the next step of her education, both academically and socially. This is why we also look for emphasis on the social aspects: character, responsibility, and charity. Both of us are well known in the Chinese entertainment industry. Like families who receive regular public attention, we, including Listy, shoulder some public responsibilities and have to meet certain expectations. For Listy, it means she is expected to be well bred and good mannered, and ideally to have a big heart to fulfill a prominent role in the society. We heard a lot of good things about St. Margaret and were thoroughly impressed by the St. Margaret’s graduates we have met. We believe it is a right choice for our daughter.

**What are your child's greatest strengths?\***

During an extended visit to the U.S. more than two years ago, Listy fell in love with the American education. Unlike the intensely exam driven Chinese education, the American education focuses more on all rounded personal development. Listy requested to continue her education in the U.S. This is why we are here. Listy has been adapting to her new environment nicely, even won a 5th place in the ACSI (Associated Christian Schools International) Math Olympics recently.

Her independence and maturity was the main reason why we supported her unusual request to continue her education abroad at such a young age. Math is definitely one of her academic strengths. She is also good at science, especially computer science. She loves history. She completed one of her history assignments with an art work, a pencil illustration. It received one of the only two perfect scores.

**What are your child's greatest challenges?\***

The transition from a Chinese environment to a complete English one overnight was not without stresses and challenges. She could not understand a single word in class when we first arrived one and half years ago.

This is also where her independence and maturity shines. She deals with the difficulties just like the way she dealt with her unusually hard technical piano pieces: no complain, just endless practice until perfection. In the end, on the stage, her fingers danced on the black-and-white as if effortlessly. Only we knew the making of it was anything but effortless. If she wants something badly, she gets it done, no complain, no question, and no push necessary. We cannot be more proud of her, not even when compared to the long list of awards we have won for our movies and TV series.

**What are your child's special interests?\***

Born to a family of the arts, Listy is well versed in music and performing art since a young age. She has been learning piano since 5. She received China Central Conservatory of Music Level 7 Piano Certificate at age 9, and level 9 (highest possible) at age 12. Her instructor was Xi You, a famous pianist and a rank 1 (the highest out of 13 possible ranks) professor at China Central Conservatory of Music. Professor You believed that Listy is a rare prodigy of the music and was grooming her for professional piano playing until she took a pause to pursue an U.S. education. Listy has been practicing piano on her own since we moved to the U.S. Her plan is to resume the piano playing once she is done with the High School application process. Her music performance has been an indispensable part of the parties and charitable events we host. Our guests have come to anticipate it. During her years of piano playing, she won multiple awards and gave numerous performances in recitals and concerts, including the invitational performance on stage with the internationally acclaimed pianist Richard Clayderman at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing for his 2012 Christmas Concert.

Listy was also active on stage, she participated in theatrical plays in school when were in China. In 2010, she had an opportunity to show her acting talent by playing the childhood part of the leading female character of the 30 episode TV series “Exclusive Disclosure”.

She is also an experienced photographer. She first learned the skill from her cousin, then received tutoring from our cinematographers. She loves cartoons and learned how to draw from it. She designs birthday and greeting cards for friends. She also loves writing. She posts novels and screenplays on her blog, which has 1000+ fans. She loves gaming and as a result is extremely interested in computer programming. She used to participate in astrology club and speech club and would like to continue in the future. She also tutors her friends Chinese.

**Describe your child's relationship with his/her family.\***

Our relationship is great because we are not together all the time. We don’t experience the stress of full-time families. Instead we miss each other when we are apart. As movie and TV producers and directors, our jobs involve extensive travel. When are shooting on location, we can be away for days or even weeks. Listy is often left under the care of her grandparents or our personal assistants. Fortunate for us, the lack in parenting did not have an ill effect. Instead it contributes to her unusual maturity beyond her age. She learned to manage her own schedules: school, piano and all her extracurricular activities. In addition to being named a Merit Student every year, she was an avid participant of the cultural fairs and science fairs and won multiple prizes every year. She is well loved in her school and in our social circle.

For the last year and half, I stay mostly in the U.S. with her as a full time Mom to help her with the transition into an American life. Her father stay mostly in China to take care of our movie studio. I plan to resume my professional life once she settles in with her high school life.

**Describe your child's relationship with his/her peers.\***

Listy has some lifelong friends since little. She still keep contact with them online and on here mobile phone through social network media like WeChat. She share interesting things of her life with them. She gets together with here friends when we visit China during school breaks.

She has attended 2 schools in the U.S. science our arrival. As an out-going girl, she made new friends quickly, although she did not an opportunity to develop a deep relationship with her new friends yet.

**Is there anything else you would like the Admission Committee to know about your child?**

Publicity makes or breaks a movie or a TV series. This especially true in China, where the media workers have the implicit duty of upholding the social value. An actor’s misstep, e.g. drug problem or politically incorrect comment, can easily get a finished movie banned and millions of dollars of investment down the drain. Our studio hosts publicity events of various themes to maintain positive public sentiment. The most events are the ones with charitable causes or educational sponsorship. During the 2008 Sichuan earth quake and the natural disasters that followed, our studio contributed heavily to the rebuild of the disaster areas, especially the rebuild of the schools. Many of our fund raising events were held in Listy’s school and feature student performances, which Listy always participated.

As new arrivals to this country, we are still crossing the language and cultural barrier and getting accustomed to our new community. Once we settled in, we will be more involved in the community in more forms and ways, just like what we have been before. For the near term, charitable donations would be our main form of participation.

**Why is St. Margaret's the right school for you?**

I heard from a family friend Mr. Lee that it is a good school with great academics and extracurricular activities. St. Margret has a brand new state-of-the-art, 45 thousand square feet Performing Arts Center. And it is an All-Steinway School. This means a lot to me because I have played piano since little and have earned the highest possible level of certification in China at 12. The music program of St. Margaret is very attractive to me.

**Share with us an idea or topic you've learned about and found particularly interesting.**

I started to self-learn drawing since I came to the U.S. without a teacher. People said I have a gift. I am not very sure about it. I did a history assignment in drawing. My teacher loved it and gave me perfect grade. Sketching is almost magic to me. It is fun to see the flowing pencil lines and shades turning into lively figures. I think I would love to explore visual arts a little further in high school.

**What qualities do you value in your friends?**

My friends should to be honesty with good integrity. They should also be kind and caring. I want friends who I can share my feeling and stories. My best friends are all interesting and funny.

**What are your greatest strengths? What are your greatest challenges?**

I am artistic in many ways: music, acting, and drawing. I am good at math. I am also good at computer because I love computer games. I can beat boys in the games. When I grow up, I want to create my own computer games. I have been learning programming in JavaScript. It is both fun and challenging. I still have a lot to learn before I can create my own games. I would also consider a good sense of humor my other strength.

As for challenges, English used to be a pretty big one. I don’t think it is any more. I am a little forgetful and I am not the most athletic.

**Tell us about your favorite book you've read outside of school. Why is it your favorite.**

Of mice and Men is a book that I enjoyed reading. The relationship between George and Lennie is in a very interesting way. They are completely different persons. Georges is small and witty while Lenin is huge and powerful but mentally handicapped. They hurt each other’s feeling all the time. Yet they support each other when necessary.

**I am happiest when my teacher** praised me for a job well done.

**Three adjectives that best describe me are:** Inquisitive Artistic Empathetic

**In my free time, I like to** listen to music, programming, practice for math contest

**My favorite way to learn is** to write down my notes and ask a lot of question

**My favorite movie/TV show is “**[For Love or Money](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4311466/?ref_=nm_flmg_dr_1)” – A romance movie directed by my father

**Someday I would like to be** a fashion designer

Please select one topic from the options below and write your essay in the space provided.

|  |
| --- |
| Tell us about an ethical dilemma you've faced and describe its impact on you. |

|  |
| --- |
| What piece of literature, art, or music holds meaning for you, and why? |

|  |
| --- |
| Like Henry David Thoreau, we at St. Margaret's want you to, "...be yourself--not your idea of what you think somebody else's idea of yourself should be." In an effort to get to know you better, we want to know what quirks, beliefs, or interests make you different or unique. |

Your essay should reflect your own thoughts, ideas, and writing skills. Your parents, teachers, friends, etc. should not edit your writing.

When doing things, some will go for the easiest and work their way toward the hardest. I am the opposite. I start with the hardest and save the best for the last. When I was in the kindergarten, I would eat the vegetable first and eat the delicious food later. The nice teacher thought I love vegetable. She would keep giving me another scoop and I would keep eating it first until I had a bellyful of vegetable. I prayed that she would not give me another scoop but was too timid to tell her that I hated vegetable.

Today I still do not like vegetable but still eat them first. What is different is that I am no longer as shy. Music changed me over time. While I loved playing piano, I was not comfortable standing on the stage with so many people looking at me. I am glad that I never turned around and ran off the stage. I would walk to the piano with shaking legs, sit down and do my best, just like I would eat my vegetable quietly. Once I started to play music, I would forget about the people. Little by little, I lose the fear and started to like the performances. What I learned from this experience was that you would get used to anything as long as you keep doing it, even if it was difficult at the beginning.

I did not always start an activity with lots of confidence or a resolution to win. Sometimes I did it because I was asked to do it or because everybody else was doing it. The good thing about me was that I would keep doing it and would often get somewhere. When you are good at something, you fall in love with it. This happened to everything I did except for vegetable eating. I am still working on that.