

MARCH NEWSLETTER

A special testimony from one of our students: Ivy



As a young child growing up, I wasn't the best at English. My parents were immigrants from Taiwan and knew little to no English at that time: so I struggled at communicating with my peers at school and my schoolwork. I still remember in first grade, when the teacher asked the class if they have ever eaten rice. Everyone raised their hands except for me, because despite eating it everyday, I had no idea what the word "rice" meant. To make up for my poor schoolwork, my parents enrolled me in SpiderSmart in hopes of raising my literary skills, and I'm glad they did.



Despite my reserved nature, Ms. Mary's friendly welcome and enthusiastic demeanor brought me out of my shell and gave me the courage to interact with my peers. With the straightforward lessons and encouragement from the teachers, I quickly gained the skills I needed to excel in my classes and beyond! Recently, as a senior in high school, I only just made it past the hurdle of college applications.

I want to give a special shoutout to Dr. Matthew Pennock, who has helped me out greatly throughout the entire application process. Having little to no knowledge on what to do, especially as a first generation college student, Dr. P has given me lots of tips and advice while exploring my admissions choices and fully navigating the pre-college craze. Looking back, I have come a long way since I first arrived at SpiderSmart and I'm grateful for all the valuable lessons I have learned thus far. Today, I plan on committing to the University of Michigan while pursuing my dream of becoming a dentist and I'm sure my past with SpiderSmart will allow me to persevere through my future endeavors.