

Foreign Exchange Students at North

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Imagine up and leaving your home, family, and comfort all to better yourself. Well Tsukasa Kuriyana, and Donna Paoli Silvestri both decided to. Find out why and how it is affecting them now.

North high Junior Kuriyana was born in Dallas Texas but moved back to Japan with his family when he was only the age of one. His family consists of his mother, father, older brother and older sister.

Kuriyana first found out about the foreign exchange program because his older brother did it a few years prior. When asked what his expectations were of coming to America, he stated "It sounded weird. I thought I was going to have a hard time, but I knew it would be a good experience for me." It took about a year process, \$15,000 and Kuriyana also had to learn English. Although Kuriyana has a little bit of a language barrier, he enjoys North high very much he has 3 to 4 close friends, participates in newspaper and plans on joining tennis.

Kuriyana believes studying at North and Central is better than in Japan. One reason is that in Japan students stay in one class all day and the teachers rotate. Kuriyana enjoys math the most he says "I like it, math is very easy here" he's taking algebra II. Kuriyana will be at North for a total of 10 months. He talks to his family once a month, "I talked to them a little because I don't want to speak a lot of Japanese" he said. He misses Japan and the last thing he remembers telling his parents is "it won't be that bad it's only 10 months". They



Tsukasa Kuriyana, grade 11, 15 years old



Donna Paoli Silvestri, grade 12, 16 years old

then told him to study hard. Kuriyana is not the only foreign exchange student North has welcomed,

North also is hosting Silvestri. Silvestri is originally from Argentina where she lives with her mother, father, two sisters, and two brothers. She is a senior at North and is 16 years old. She plays volleyball and her favorite class is career opportunities and health at Central.

When asked she says that school is very different in Argentina compared to at North. A few examples are in Argentina students stay in one classroom all day while teachers rotate, the schools are Catholic, they pray every morning, they must wear uniform, and can't have phones at school. She started learning English in Argentina at the age 11, She started to prepare paperwork a year before, "There was a lot of paperwork and money."

Once getting to America she had to get five shots. She was very excited to meet her host family and meet friends. She looks forward to graduation. When asked why she decided to become a foreign exchange student Silvestri stated "My town is very toxic and mean, I needed to find myself and experience something new."

This could also be a great opportunity for you to make a lifelong friend out of a simple conversation. Kuriyana and Silvestri are at North as fellow classmates, peers, and amazing people in general. They have amazing stories and really friend-worthy characteristics. They both plan on coming back to America in their futures so make sure to say hi. This could also be a great opportunity for you to make a lifelong friend out of a simple conversation.

Design: S. May Rivero



North High School