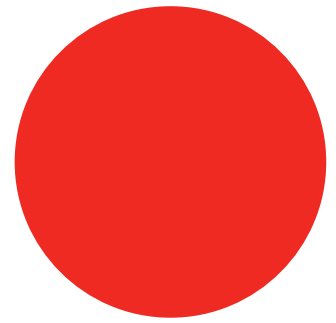


Autumn



Emma Kelly/12

story by Terry Ramos

Out of the 2,400 students at East, only a handful are deaf. Emma Kelly is one of them. Kelly is from Guangdong, China and was born on May 14, 2000. When she was eight, she was adopted and was brought to the US by her parents. Kelly has four brothers who have learned sign language for her.

"In China, I had no experiences with school and I didn't have a lot of language. So, when two white people showed up with hair that looked different than mine, I was surprised because they didn't look like anyone I have seen before. So, at first I was scared," Kelly said.

Kelly first attended The Iowa School for the Deaf. She had to drive hours to get there and didn't get to spend much time with her family. She lived at the school dorms during the week and was only able to go home on the weekends. Kelly was at the school for about four years.

"At East, I think the education is a little bit better. My other school wasn't as challenging. We would watch movies and wouldn't have much tests. It was more language focused. Here, I think I'm getting a better education. The classes are more developed and thanks to that, it has helped me grow as a student," Kelly said.

She also wants more people at East to learn American Sign Language so that her and her friends can be able to talk and socialize with more people.

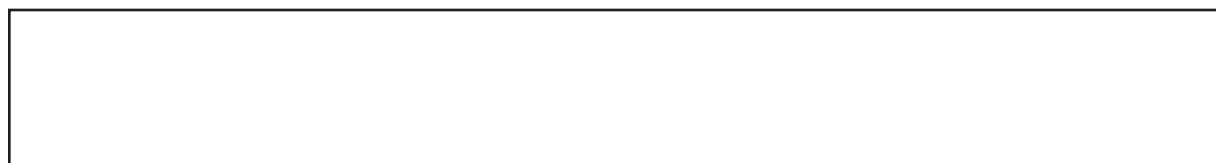
Kelly has touched many people's hearts. She has become more open and ready for what her future has in store. Teacher of the deaf, Katy Faircloth, has known Kelly for a year and a half, and knows that her being deaf will not stop her from doing the things she wants to do in her future. She also believes that the East community being interested in deaf culture has helped Kelly grow.

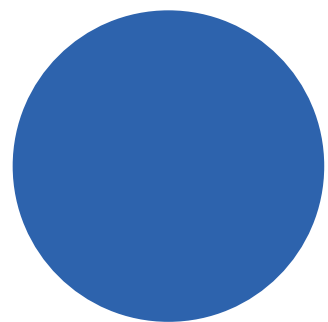
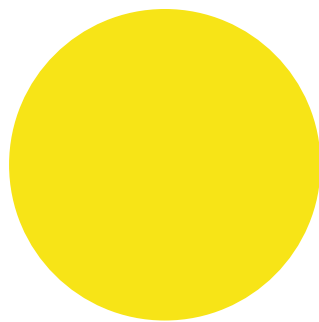
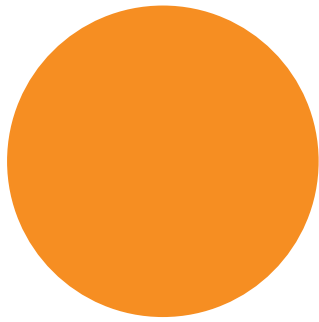
"I think Emma is going to do really great things. She's going to go to a great college and go on to grad school. She's going to do amazing things in her future, so I'm really excited to teach her," Faircloth said.

The deaf community at East accepted Kelly with open arms. Kelly has classes with deaf and hearing classmates. However, she spends more time with her deaf classmates, and one of them is RJ Channon. RJ has known Kelly since elementary school and thought she was friendly when he first met her. He also thinks that Kelly being deaf hasn't stop her from doing the things she wants.

"She more social now, but she's also afraid to show herself off to other people. She's fun and she's outgoing with deaf people. Her moving to a hearing school has helped her learn more skills and especially with hearing people, I think she has improved those skills," RJ said.

Growing smarter and more social as days go by, Kelly continues to thrive amongst both hearing and deaf classmates. With those surrounding her that support and love her, her future is bright and gleaming.





Cristian Bautista-Olivera/12

story by Datin Rosch

Many will say they know Cristian Bautista from East High, but there are always parts of people that others don't know. What is beneath the surface of Cristian Bautista?

Bautista: a very social guy who isn't shy about anything. He goes out and can be himself no matter the situation. Not only is Bautista an outgoing person, but he is also hardworking and dedicated.

"I am a social guy, I talk a lot and my face is out in the world. I keep my circle small, and I just focus on my YouTube channel and going to school," Bautista said.

Despite being an outgoing person, one would never know the truth behind him. Cristian isn't like everybody else; he doesn't have same advantages as other people do.

"Unlike most people, I do not live with my parents. I actually live with my sister in her apartment right by East. My parents live in Oaxaca, Mexico. I was born in Los Angeles, California," Bautista said.

Even though Cristian does not live with his parents, he stays strong and focused to make them proud. He always works hard in class and strives to venture out of his comfort zone even making his own YouTube channel.

One day, Bautista was watching videos on YouTube and thought to himself, why not make a YouTube video myself? Today, he enjoys adding to his 30 plus YouTube videos, and gaining nearly 1,149 subscribers. Bautista has had many friends help him out like Tanner Lloyd/11 and Randi Daughenbaugh/12.

"Cristian is such a fun person to hang out with, it's so fun to be able to make all these goofy YouTube videos with him. He's never nervous about it. Helping him out is such a cool and inspiring experience", Lloyd said.

One of Cristian's number one supporters is Daughenbaugh. Not only is she good friend, but she is the help behind the recording of every one of his videos.

"I'd say that Cristian is a motivated and hardworking person. He works a lot during the week to help support his family. Along with that, he has to find time for school and homework, all while trying to maintain a YouTube channel and other social media accounts", Daughenbaugh said.

Hardworking, dedicated, driven, and motivated, Bautista continues to make videos all while doing well in school to make his parents proud. He hopes to get bigger and well known as he produces more content.

Like Bautista always says to everyone, "stay true", and to like, subscribe, and watch his YouTube videos @TRUECRIS

