

# CULTURE SHIFT

Freshman adjusts to move from China to America

story by s. smith

The plane touched down and he looked around. From his seat by the window, he could tell that this place, America, was going to entail so many different experiences compared to China. His adoption brought something new, and **Eric Hood** [9] was so excited to experience every bit of it.

"Moving from China to the US was exciting, scary and different," Hood said. "The cultures are so different. The air is fresher here and the shopping is very different. We had lots of separate specialty shops in China but here we have bigger stores that have lots of different things together in one store."

Though he knew some English when he was in China, he had a lot to learn. When he made the jump between cultures, Hood also had to get used to the food. Plus, the food was a huge change.

"My biggest adjustment here in America was the food. It tasted different and I missed eating real Chinese food. It's what I miss the

most," Hood said. "Ramen noodles aren't the same, but it helps me get by."

Although he has the things he misses about China, Hood's favorite things about being in America include riding bike trails, playing tennis, playing basketball and getting presents on his birthday because he didn't in China. He picked up tennis in eighth grade and has excelled since then.

"My favorite part [about tennis] is when I score more than my opponent," Hood said. "My challenge is hitting backhand. I prefer singles because I don't have to worry about communicating with a partner about whose ball it is."

Hood almost decided to play basketball well, but decided against it after trying it. He still plays around with his siblings, though.

"I did want to play basketball but after going to open gym a couple of times, I realized it would be harder for me to get to the stage others were already at," Hood

said. "Maybe if I had started playing a little younger, I would have had a shot at it."

Since he chose not to participate in some sports, Hood still did everything he could in PE without modifying his workout. Sometimes modifications couldn't be avoided, though.

I had to lift weights in PE and we had to modify what I did. I was able squat but not bench. Instead of benching, I did push-ups. People might think it hurts when I do those on my arm, but it only hurts a little bit when I do too many because it rubs my skin.

He knows and understands that people are curious about how he came to be who he is, so he has his own fun when people ask why he's missing a hand.

People might wonder what happened to me and why I'm missing a hand. Sometimes I tell people that a shark bit it off. After they react, I tell them I'm joking and that I was actually born this way.

Even after the fun and games, he empowers himself through Christ and credits Him for being the way he is. Regardless, he lacks no confidence in himself.

"Having only one hand was not my choice, but it's cool to see how I'm doing with just one hand," he said. "I think God made me this way for a purpose, and it's to show His power and grace through living."

## NINTH GRADE



Layton Anderson  
Brendan Andrews  
Kevin Andrews  
Victoria Babineaux  
Cameron Bates  
Ryker Beall  
Jennifer Bennett

Chandler Benson  
Kyle Berry  
William Boudreaux  
Daisy Brooks  
Mackenzie Brown  
Sadie Bryant  
Aaron Camp

Dillon Clark  
Shelby Cook  
Haylee Cox  
Jackson Crane  
Bryan Crossland  
Courtney Cubine  
Lucas Damos

tenth & ninth grades 191  
design by m. malone & a. rodriguez

WORK ORDER

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Job # &JN& School &SN&

Special Instructions

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MAC WIN

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Con HJT QPP

Pro ePro OLP

Prep Juneane

Place Kim T

Proof

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