

DAY IN, DAY OUT.

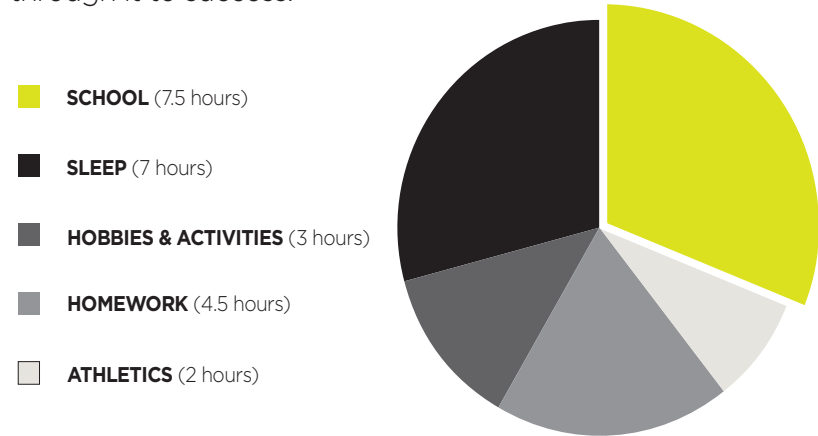
THE GRIND

where does the day go?

Freshman Emmett Burger shares his grueling daily workload, and his ability to grind through it to success.



JUGGLING Studying biology in his room, freshman Emmett Burger manages his time between his five core classes.



UNSTOPPABLE Studying in the library under the light of a single lamp, senior Eric Li (right) continues to strive to produce his best work, even though he is already into college. The blue senior shirt does not mean relaxing for Li, who continues to excel in the classroom and set records in the pool.

Senior Eric Li reveals his grueling workload, and how he grinds through it to achieve success.

My eyelids won't obey me. No matter how hard I try, they keep slipping down, urging me to fall asleep. I reach up with my hand, rub my eyes, and glance at time ticking at the top my computer screen. I watch in sleep-deprived fascination as the digits hit 1 a.m. I silently shut my laptop, pack up my bags, and start to get ready for bed. Monday is over. Four more days to go.

It's part of a cycle that makes up my life as a student. Wake up at seven. Be at school by 7:45. School from eight to three. Work out or do homework from three to four. Swim or play water polo until six or later. Eat, shower, and do homework until around one in the morning. Rinse and repeat.

While much of my motivation comes internally, much of it originates from the support of my family, teachers and coaches. Coach Oprea summarizes my life in both swimming and academics in one of his sayings: "99 percent isn't good enough. Go 100 percent all of the time. Find your limits because they are much higher than you think."

People ask me why I work so hard. They tell me to ease up because I'm into the college of my dreams: Yale. But I guess I'm immune to 'senioritis.' Part of it is just the principle of trying my best and excelling. Part if it is learning for the sake of learning and increasing my skills so I can take advantage of the opportunities around me.

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— senior ERIC LI as told to Andrew Lin

Part of what drives me is learning for the sake of learning and increasing my skills.

— senior ERIC LI



MACHINE Along with his rigorous school workload, senior Eric Li also captains the swim team, winning gold in all four of his events at SPC.

second trimester struggles

With the trimester coming to an end, teachers demand more of their students and the academic load begins to pile up as students have to balance both school and athletics.

It's like three times a year, all the teachers assign tests, quizzes and papers during one week, so it's tough as a student. **But we make it through. Usually.**

— Junior EDDIE YANG on the academic rigor of the end of the trimester



EDDIE YANG'S FINAL WEEK OF SECOND TRIMESTER SCHEDULE

5 HOURS OF SLEEP EACH NIGHT

4 TESTS AND TWO PAPERS DUE

30 MINUTES OF FREE TIME A DAY

10 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

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