

SANCHEZ Alexander Tomas

●Ceramics, Japanese Music and Instruments, Japanology

Ceramics, music, and Japanology were really cool classes to experience. I feel like I learned a lot from going to these classes. I've never done ceramics before this class and it was amazing to experience how to make objects and I had a great time there, additionally the teacher was very helpful and super nice. All of my music classes are perfect. I really like traditional Japanese music class it's probably one of my favorite classes of all time. The students try to help me understand what's going on so I've made many friends and I got to learn instruments that I would never get to learn in America (now I am pretty good at the Shamisen). Lastly Japanology is pretty fun too. It's very informative, Schmuckal-sensei is enthusiastic and it's overall a great time with a lot of knowledge being bestowed. Overall, my experience is all my classes here have been amazing and the Tamagawa experience is something that I will cherish.

JARVIS Johanna Blair Marie

●Basketball (WESTSIDE) and Volleyball (VDR)

As someone who doesn't play sports that much, I would say that the existence of clubs vs. circles have been one of my favorite things about Tamagawa clubs so far. A big issue in regards to playing sports back home was the lack of group basketball opportunities. We had teams, but there were no sports clubs for someone who wanted to join to play recreationally. Circles at Tamagawa gave way to those who wanted that. I joined Westside (Basketball) and VDR (Volleyball) to finally have my chance at doing sports without the sense of competition, good sportsmanship, and something that goes along with my schedule! Since I've joined, I've met so many new people, made new friends, and gained back my love for sports! I also love the sense of community it brings since it's common to have dinner with friends afterwards!

●ESS (English Speaking Society)

ESS has been so exhilarating and fun— where do I even start? Though it's been pretty easy as an English speaker in a club for practicing, my favorite part is meeting new people and sharing some games I play at home to use for practice (ex. Charades, Hangman, Pictionary). The club president, Seika, and vice president, Eiji, make the club's overall aura so welcoming, and I just love passing time with them. Hopefully, as time goes on, I'll gain more confidence to use it as Japanese speaking practice for myself...

●Academic Communication

As one of my sit-in classes, it has been such a pleasure being able to experience the Academic Communication class with Asakawa-sensei! Since the class is taught in a fluctuation of English and Japanese, I've enjoyed being the example student to help out the class in speaking and even discussing cultural differences. I've also been put through the

same pressures of presenting in the class as part of my journey in learning more Japanese. Recently, my most enjoyable moment so far was having the lovely opportunity of being interviewed by the class. I was struck with some great questions and was surprised a bit with some topics we got to discuss! Overall, I love how interactive the class has been so far, and how much I'm learning from my classmates as well!

### ●Japanese Traditional Dance

A temporary, month-long class I got to participate in was Traditional Dance class with Okamura-sensei! I was originally interested in the class after watching Tamagawa's Taiko and Dance dancers. In the class, I was able to learn how to put on a Kimono and Obi properly. Then, we slowly eased from learning Ougi signs (such as spring, writing a love letter, reading a book) to a dance choreography. The choreography required precision, strict posture, and timing. Though I felt challenged and disciplined while learning these dances, I was delighted to have experienced learning the decorum associated with Japanese traditional dance. One of my biggest challenges was getting used to dance commands in Japanese, especially keeping count to not say よん or なな when counting steps. Now that I learned an entire choreography and proper etiquette, I can't wait to show my friends and family back at home!

ABDULAI Sophie-Satu

### ●Japanese Music and Instruments

The only comments I have on traditional instruments class is that it is easy to follow, most student are always there to help and understanding. Overall it truly does fill like we are apart of the class instead of observers!

KOVACEVIC Marko

### ●Japanese Archery (Kyudo)

I've been having a great time with the Kyudo Club. Both in regards to the sport itself, and the people who go to it. I still feel like I'm only scratching the surface, but even at this point I've been given an entirely new perspective on how a sport can work. As well as learning a lot about Japanese customs and pastimes from hanging out with team members outside of the club.

### ●Japanology

Japanology is an awesome class. Schmuckal-sensei is so lively and enthusiastic, and shows such genuine excitement when teaching. She always has time for my plethora of questions and has even helped me plan my trips around the country. I personally find the subject matter of the class to be really engaging, as I have had an interest in Japanese history for a long time, and this class has really helped me better understand the development of Japan and its culture throughout its whole history.

### ●Ceramics

Ceramic was a joy, despite missing the first day the teacher was able to get me up to speed with the rest of the class in a surprisingly short time. I have always loved the appearance of Japanese ceramics, but now I feel like I have a whole new level of respect from having to actually make some myself.