

Stillwater student excels at one of state's leading STEM schools

Submitted

Stephanie Kim has always had a strong connection with academics but interacting with other students didn't come as easily. Since attending the [Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics](#) as a member of the Class of 2022, she has found it easier to engage in conversations and activities with her classmates, as well as maintain a rigorous academic schedule. As a result, her self-confidence has greatly increased and her spirit, uplifted.

Stephanie learned about [OSSM](#) from her older sister who graduated from the school in 2019. As an advanced student at Stillwater High School, in Stillwater, she excelled at academics but often felt socially excluded. Based on her sibling's experience, she knew [OSSM](#) offered

both a challenging curriculum and a warm, nurturing environment with like-minded students. Those factors led to her decision to apply.

"I knew I had the potential to push myself in a more academically challenging environment, and [OSSM](#) provided me with that," Stephanie said. "I also heard about the warm and welcoming environment that [OSSM](#) provides for students. That drove me to want to attend [OSSM](#) even more."

Located in Oklahoma City, [OSSM](#) is the state's leading public and STEM high school, offering a two-year residential program to high school juniors and seniors. Although she initially found it a bit intimidating, Stephanie especially likes the residential aspect and credits it with the positive change in her life.

"I feel like the sup-

pressed extroverted side of me is starting to make an appearance," she said. "Since I am constantly around people who understand the stress and struggles I go through, I've become more comfortable in my own skin and with showing people who I really am. Being at [OSSM](#) has also driven me to focus more on my academics and has taught me how to utilize my time well."

After graduation Stephanie hopes to earn bachelor's through doctorate degrees and become a professor at a university.

[OSSM](#) was created by legislative action in 1993 with the purpose of educating students who desire careers in science or mathematics. Its curriculum is college level and includes courses such as endocrinology, human embryology, organic chemistry, zoology and many more.



PROVIDED

Stephanie Kim.

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