

China or bust: It's a small world after all!

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It's a small world.

"And it's getting smaller all the time," said Andrew Maseloff after returning from a business trip to Beijing, China, where he met My Chinese 360 instructor Ning Wu.

QCHS sophomore Derek Maseloff started taking Mandarin Chinese through Infinity Cyber Academy during his Freshman Center school year. He developed a great rapport with Mr. Wu as they spoke to each other over Skype and other internet tools. Derek's father, Andrew, happens to make many business trips a year to China and Southeast Asia.

"I always teased Derek that I would show up on the other end of the camera when he logged in," Andrew said.

Before his recent trip, Andrew emailed Wu, proposing a few possible dates when they could meet each other. "He jumped on it," Andrew said. "We met at my hotel and spent an hour talking."

Like an international Back-to-School Night, Andrew was able to "put a face to a name." Derek and Ning have developed a bond. This was a way to further that relationship. This type of program means a lot to my son."



Andrew has learned firsthand how important China is in the international business world. "Everything is happening there," he said.

Wu's English is much better than Andrew's Chinese, which is enough for the American to be polite, he said. "It's easier to understand him if you are next to him than on the phone. While I want to learn about his world, he wants to learn about the world outside of China. He teaches English. He wants to learn about the American culture, about the background of the people who speak English. He's young, personable, enthusiastic. He gave me confidence that this [myChinese360] is a good program, a good fit for my son."

Andrew, an engineer, works for Skippack-based Palmer International. He goes to Asia to work with customers who help develop innovative products. This time, he worked with a company that takes the liquid out of a cashew shell. The liquid is an irritant that works well in brake applications, paint and other coatings. Andrew promised Derek that if he sticks with Chinese, he will take him to China during his senior year to meet Mr. Wu.

Source: <http://www.qcsd.org/qcsd/lib/qcsd/qc9-10.pdf>