

Student Reporter

Dublin High Students Explore UC Berkeley on Campus



Heeyoung Kim
Grade 10
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UC Berkeley's optometry building and eye center serves students and the local community.
[Source: Author, Heeyoung Kim]

Dublin High School students recently visited the University of California, Berkeley, via the BART transportation system, exploring the campus with student tour guides who shared insight into academics, campus life, and Berkeley traditions.

Founded in 1868, UC Berkeley is one of California's oldest universities and is known for its blue and gold colors, which

represent its mascot, the Golden Bears. During the tour, students walked through the large campus, including libraries, research facilities, performance spaces, and even Strawberry Creek, a stream that runs through campus and is used by biology students for environmental studies. According to the tour guide, strawberry plants grow near the creek each spring.

One highlight of the visit was

getting to learn about Berkeley's undergraduate colleges. The College of Environmental Design, the smallest undergraduate college, allows students to explore architecture and creative design while being provided with their own personal studio spaces and labs. The College of Engineering includes majors such as civil, chemical, nuclear, and electrical engineering, which are less commonly offered together at other universities. Visitors also learned that since computer science cannot be taken as a minor, data science is a strong alternative.

The group of Dublin High School students also visited academic landmarks such as the physics department, where J. Robert Oppenheimer once conducted research in the university's largest library, supporting Berkeley's approximately 45,000 students. Another stop was the optometry building and eye center, where patients can receive eye exams and glasses.

The tour guide, a second-year UC Berkeley student majoring in economics and business, explained that Berkeley feels like a "mini city" because of its location

and access to public transportation. She stated that UC Berkeley students can ride the BART station (a famous train station in California for transportation) for free, making it easier to explore the surrounding area. She also described that taking a single economics class helped her realize which majors she wanted to pursue. "Berkeley gave me the chance to see all my options and follow what I was truly interested in," she said.

Students also learned about campus traditions, including the Campanile, one of the tallest bell towers in the world, which rings daily, and concerts are held. The guide warned students never to step on the Memorial Glade selsa, as it is believed to curse students, keeping them from earning a 4.0 GPA unless they run to the tower in under 30 seconds. The tour concluded with Berkeley cheer and information about housing, with most freshmen living in dorms and sharing rooms such as doubles and triples. Overall, the visit gave Dublin High School students a closer look at college life and the opportunities available at UC Berkeley.

Student Reporter

Del Norte Nighthawk Marching Band Visits Disneyland



Kristine Park
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The Del Norte Nighthawk Marching Band drum majors wave to the onlookers as they march through Main Street, U.S.A. in Disneyland.
[Source: Author, Kristine Park]

The Del Norte Nighthawk Marching Band recently had an exciting opportunity to perform in a parade at Disneyland, changing a typical band performance into a memorable experience. Marching down Main Street, U.S.A. in one of the most famous theme parks in the world, the band represented Del Norte High School with pride while being surrounded by guests, festive decorations, and classic Disney magic. For many students, this performance stood out as the highlight of their marching band season.

Preparation for the parade began weeks in advance. Band members participated in hour-long rehearsals that focused on both music and marching technique. To simulate a real parade environment, the students practiced by marching through the school campus rather than staying in one spot. The three drum majors led the group with baton twirling and also helped keep time and direction. The brass, woodwind, and percussion sections worked together to stay balanced and in unison in order to deliver an animated perfor-

mance. These rehearsals were key in preparing the band for the long parade route and the challenge of performing while constantly moving.

On the day of the performance, students arrived at school bright and early, at 5:30 a.m. The students, in high spirits, loaded the buses and headed to Disneyland, eager to start the day. For many, the excitement outweighed the exhaustion. One band mem-

ber shared, "I've gone to Disney every year, and it has been super fun. Not everyone gets to march through Disney, so this is a really unique and special opportunity, and I'm glad to be able to experience it." Being able to perform in such a well-known, memorable setting made all the preparation feel worthwhile.

The band performed "Christmas Promenade," a piece by Jay Dawson and a lively medley of

well-known Christmas tunes. The music matched the festive atmosphere of Christmas at Disneyland perfectly, adding to the excitement of the parade and drawing attention from guests along the route. As the band played, Disney characters were even seen in the crowd waving and dancing along to the music, which made the experience even more special for both the performers and onlookers.

When they were not performing, the members of the Del Norte Marching Band were still able to enjoy the park. Band members spent time going on rides, exploring the park with friends, and enjoying the magical kingdom of Walt Disney. The balance between responsibility and fun made the trip even more rewarding and memorable. My favorite part of this trip was being able to play music and perform at the same palace I explored as a child. From the early morning call time to marching past cheering guests and waving Disney characters, this parade experience definitely created lasting memories for everyone involved.

Student Reporter

Nine Wins: Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 Game of the Year



Robin Ryul Kang
Grade 11
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What began as a mere hobby for a group of about 30 people would go on to impact a major part of the gaming community. Clair Obscur: Expedition 33, developed by Sandfall Interactive in France, was initially released on April 24, 2025, on major platforms including PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S, and Windows. Eight months later, this small-budget game from a fairly niche company would win the most awards ever recorded in The Game Awards, an annual event that celebrates excellence in the video game industry, honoring achievements in multiple areas of gaming.

The narrative of the game is unique compared to other games; what starts as a simple quest to defeat the Paintress, a creature that erases people of a certain age every year, develops into a story of family grievance and a conflict between two people whom the players would have never expected. With amazing plot twists and heartbreaking moments, Expedition 33 captured millions of players over the span of just eight months. The game's OST is deemed one of the greatest as well. With tens of different genres of captivating music, the game doesn't fail to impress its players even from the initial menu screen. Along with other factors that this game presents, Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 won 9 out of 12 nominations at The Game Awards, includ-

ing: The Game of the Year, Best Game Direction, Best Narrative, Best Art Direction, Best Independent Game, Best Debut Indie Game, Best Score and Music, Best Performance, and finally, Best Role-Playing Game.

However, some parts of the gaming community aren't too fond of this success. Typically, when a video game wins numerous major awards over a short period, backlash is expected. On social media, the single most hated video game is ironically Expedition 33, most of them coming from players who have never played the game before. Their common reasoning for their opinion is that "It's French," and that "It's a turn-based RPG," (turn-based is a strategic combat system where instead of players moving their character, they choose their next moves from different options) or "The prologue is boring," which is the first 45 minutes of the game, essential to setting up the conflicts of the story. The first reason obviously cannot be considered a valid argument, but the rest are personal opinions. However, this occurrence is common almost every year in any type of awards, including the Oscars, Emmy Awards, Anime Awards, Grammy Awards, etc.

Personally, after playing the game, I believe Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 deserved every award it received. Through its immersive world, mindblowing



A student immersed in Clair Obscur: Expedition 33, experiencing its world firsthand.
[Source: Author, Robin Ryul Kang]

soundtracks, heart-throbbing and twisting narrative, engaging combat, interesting character progression, and balanced difficulty,

it proves that for a great game, it only takes a small, passionate team that is willing to put the effort in.

Student Reporter

Weekend Away at Church Retreat



Kaylyn Wee
Grade 10
Ayala High School



Everyone who attended the Inland Church's 225 Winter Retreat gathered together to take a group picture to celebrate their amazing weekend of fun and praise. [Source: Author, Kaylyn Wee]

Recently, I was able to participate in Inland Church's 2025 Winter Retreat for Junior High and High School students. Being up in the mountains at Alpine Retreat Site, the three days were spent with fellowship, games, worship, and new memories. With no social media accessible to students, the experience provided an opportunity for connection with others and a time to grow in faith. The weekend was filled with various activities and fun, which were planned out in detail beforehand

by the wonderful staff who served the students; I am very thankful for the opportunity to be part of this community. Starting from the first day, all students were separated into eight groups. In these groups, we were to make a team name, compete in games, create a 5-7 acting skit with different limitations assigned to each group, and overall, to gain the most amount of points to win in the top 2 for prizes. There were 3 total games; one involved a variation of music

and the game "telephone," one involved melting cotton candy towers with water guns, and the last was to avoid doing a specific action or saying a specific word to prevent their teammates from getting shot by water. Teams had around 4 hours to prepare their skit, and each team was assigned a different genre and limitation. For example, I had to do an action skit, and our limitation was to add a mukbang scene somewhere in our skit. By the end, my team won third place in the skit category and second place overall!

We only had one full day and 2 travel/ half days for the retreat; nonetheless, we had at least one worship session each day. During our full day, we had one in the morning and one in the evening with sermons delivered by a guest speaker from Atlanta, Georgia. We had a time for silence, just to pray and prepare ourselves for worship, and we also had a praise team (who were all students in our high school ministry). These sessions lasted for around 2 hours, and the last full day, our evening session was around 3 hours, with the last hour dedicated to friends and siblings to pray for one another.

After worship, there was always a time for small group discussions. Each grade was assigned a staff member to spend around 30 minutes to talk as a group, whether it was about the sermon or anything that was happening in our lives. When this ended, everyone met in the cafeteria for a late-night snack. There were always snacks, ramen, drinks, and occasionally Korean fried chicken. This was a particular time for people to get to know each other. On the last late-night snack day, people wrote encouraging notes to their teammates, friends, other people in their grade, and even the guest speaker; these notes were a simple way to show gratitude and share positivity.

Overall, my experience at Inland Church's 2025 Winter Retreat was unforgettable. It was a time for memories to be made, spiritual growth, and to make meaningful connections. Every part of this getaway was impactful, from energetic games to purposeful discussions. After the retreat, I felt more refreshed and closer to my community. This retreat was more than just a weekend trip, and I again feel so thankful for this opportunity.

Student Reporter

The Getty Museum Experience: A Los Angeles Highlight



Heesue Joy Shin
Grade 10
New Covenant Academy

Recently, I visited the Getty Museum in Los Angeles with my family, which is a major tourist attraction in the city. I didn't know what to expect because I hadn't heard or seen much of the Getty Museum, but it exceeded my expectations, and going there really inspired me to paint more.

My family and I drove to the Getty Museum and parked in the parking lot, which you have to pay for, but that's all the fees you will encounter. The Getty Museum is free for anyone to visit. Next, we took the elevator and arrived at the floor which had some statues and a small train area. To get to the museum, you have to take the free train, which only has one destination: the Getty Museum. After we got off, we climbed up the stairs and walked into the entrance hall.

We were overwhelmed by all the buildings and different areas, so it was helpful to pick up a map at the entrance hall, so we could figure out where to go. The map included the names of the Pavilions and what type of artworks are displayed there. We visited the closest pavilion first, which was the North Pavilion,



The Getty Museum oversees all of Los Angeles, just one of the amazing things to see when visiting. [Source: Author Heesue Joy Shin]

displaying sculptures and paintings. There were a lot of religious statues on the first floor; all very ancient. It was super interesting seeing how the people of the past made these artworks. Then we went to the second floor, which had religious paintings. The small boxes of explanations next to the paintings were very helpful in understanding what story

the works were portraying.

Next, we went to the East Pavilion, which also displayed sculptures and paintings, but it displayed more European and Baroque artwork. They had furniture from the 17th century, and all the paintings were more classical. From there, we visited the South Pavilion, which had paintings and decorative arts.

It displayed 18th-century European artwork, featuring styles like Neoclassicism and Rococo. I think personally, this was my favorite pavilion because I really enjoy looking at these styles of painting the most.

We continued our visit in the West Pavilion, which had more modern art. This area displayed paintings, sculptures, pencil drawings, and a center for photographs, and also had a gift store. There was an area here where artists could sit and sketch a statue from different angles, which was cool. In this pavilion, a Van Gogh piece was displayed, which was interesting to look at. There were also abstract, realistic, and landscape paintings. This was a very fun place to look around.

Lastly, before we left, we visited the Central Garden, which is an area with a circle of water and plants/bushes growing in a circular pattern. I think that this is something to definitely visit when at the Getty Museum.

Overall, this was a very fun experience, and I would definitely visit again. It can inspire artists and everyone with the paintings and artworks in this museum.

Student Reporter

Empowering or Outdated? Teens on Pride and Prejudice



Linda Li
Grade 11
Crean Lutheran High School

Recently, I picked up a book that had been sitting on my bookshelf for almost two years—Pride and Prejudice. I was first introduced to the novel once I became capable of reading and comprehending advanced literature, and I was later required to reread it in my Honors British Literature course. At that time, one of the most debated questions among students was whether the ideals presented in the novel are still relevant in modern society.

After finishing the novel, I was unable to come up with a clear answer. That ambiguity was exactly what made me realize that I needed to read it again. Reading the novel again offered new insights, and instead of skimming through the pages, I began questioning what the author was truly trying to convey. When I initially encountered the novel's protagonist, Elizabeth Bennet, I was intrigued by her character—playful, witty, intelligent, and independent. As a young girl entering my teenage years, I imagined myself becoming an "Elizabeth Bennet 2.0" as I grew up.

However, this idea was challenged once I turned into a 15-year-old high school student. I clearly remember discussions in my Honors Brit Lit class, where students—especially female students—debated whether Eliza-

beth Bennet was inspiring or outdated. Some students argued that her courage to challenge social norms by refusing to marry for money, particularly when she firmly rejects Mr. Darcy's first proposal, makes her an empowering feminist figure.

This perspective is also apparent when Elizabeth is compared to other female characters in the novel, such as her best friend Charlotte Lucas, who marries the conceited and pompous clergyman Mr. William Collins. As a realistic woman, Charlotte is fully aware that marriage is often the key to financial security and social stability. Compared to Elizabeth Bennet, she chooses to conform to societal expectations imposed on women at that time and seek freedom within limitations.

Other students, however, view Elizabeth as a more complicated figure. They argue that Elizabeth Bennet lived in a society where marriage largely determined a woman's future, which differs greatly from the current society, where women are provided with more opportunities for independence and personal growth. Some also point out the fact that Elizabeth Bennet ultimately marries Mr. Darcy, whose affluence and social status play a significant role in her eventual happiness.

Although people may hold on



Pride and Prejudice empowers many teenage girls, although there are those who find it outdated. I encourage everyone to read this classic and judge for themselves. [Source: Author Linda Li]

to different opinions regarding the impact of Elizabeth Bennet on today's world, I believe she remains an empowering role model for teenagers. In a time when women's happiness depended solely on a successful matrimony, Elizabeth chose to follow her own values, which is evident when she boldly rejects both Mr. Collins's and Mr. Darcy's initial proposals. They symbolize absolute, author-

itative figures in a traditional society. Despite the modification regarding societal expectations, the confidence and independence Elizabeth demonstrates remain memorable to modern readers. Her character inspires teenage girls to value inner character rather than appearance, as Elizabeth Bennet's intelligence and wit are what ultimately captivate Mr. Darcy.