**Evan Kim, Junior**

**Hobbies:** Animating, Rubik's Cubes, Sliding tiles, Wordle (and all its variations), Texnique, Poker, Basketball, Consuming Korean BBQ, CSP

**Clubs:** Physics Club, Math Club, Online Physics Olympiad Organizer, Science Bowl, Science Olympiad, Astronomy Club, CSPL

**Experience:** US Physics Team (2021, 2022), USAPhO Gold (2021, 2022), US IOAA Guest Team (2022), International Science and Engineering Fair (2022), NSB Nationals (2020, 2022), PUPC 4th Place Globally (2020), Science Olympiad Nationals (2022), AIME Qualifier (2019-2022)

**Autobiography:**

My 4$^{th}$ grade teacher had a huge impact on my life. My favorite memory from that year was when we shrunk down in her bus and went through Arnold's body, learning a whole lot of Anatomy along the way. Wait, hold on, that can't be right.

Reading the Magic School Bus series sparked my fascination for science. Even before I got to elementary school, I had already pored over all the Magic School Bus books that I could get my hands on, learning something new with each read. I remember my favorite ones were the anatomy one that I mentioned earlier, the "Electric Field Trip", and "Sees Stars". And so, when I got to elementary school, I was raring to go to science class with Mrs. Waters each Wednesday (my elementary school had these extra classes on Wednesdays) and learn even more about how the world around me worked.

As I neared the end of my elementary school years and entered middle school, I began fueling that love for science into competitions. My first one was Science Olympiad, and my favorite event was optics. While I was missing some prerequisites (since this was my first experience with physics at an in-depth level), it was still exhilarating to see the physics play out right in front of my eyes as the laser bounced off of 5 mirrors and hit the target point or as the two polarizers completely blocked out the light. Through experiences like these, I fell in love with physics above all other sciences because there was nothing else that could provide such an exact, quantitative explanation for *why* things worked.

In 7$^{th}$ grade, I was introduced to more "competitive" physics through Science Bowl. Originally being brought onto my school's team to be the "math guy," I started studying physics as well because of my previous experience with it, which made me love it even more. Learning physics would just be so exciting; I still remember the thrill of proving the kinematics formulas on my own (simple, I know, but not for me at the time).

Then, around the end of my 8$^{th}$ grade year, I was introduced to the Olympiad. My arrogant self at the time believed that I knew everything that there was to know about physics (since, of course, I had mastered middle school Science Bowl physics). I tried out one F=ma exam, and a couple questions in, my misconceptions were already being exposed. It turns out that middle

school Science Bowl physics is not a very rigorous test of your knowledge (who knew!?). Knowing this, in my 9$^{th}$ grade school year, I pushed myself to fill in all those gaps in my knowledge, and after many problems, many scribbles, and consistent practice, I qualified for the USAPhO. Soon after that, my school also shut down because of the pandemic, which gave me seemingly limitless time to study new physics for the USAPhO. And even though it got cancelled, I still learned so much in that period, which no doubt contributed to me being here today.

I've always been very curious about the world around me: 50 chrome tabs opened with a different question on each was a defining feature of any computer that I touched. And so, I'm thankful that I was able to find physics, which satiated those curiosities. I'm also thankful for all the dominoes that lined up to bring me to this point: from the magic school bus books to my physics club advisor, Mr. Saxby, who helps bring exciting thought experiments to life. And lastly, I'm excited and honored to attend camp (in person!) where I'll be able to meet others who share this passion for physics!