

Onward **Kokomo!**



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Read one KHS success
story on this card
and many more online.

www.onwardkokomo.com

Gene's Success Story ...

"I am Kokomo High School Class of 2020 valedictorian Gene Yang, son of Aiyun Zheng and Guoming Yang. I attribute my early successes to the intellectual freedom that the Kokomo School Corporation provided throughout my educational career. I enjoyed having academic choices, which allowed me to take advantage of the KEY High Ability Program, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. At many other schools throughout the state, and the country, students may be confined to a certain curriculum or a particular academic path. I chose to focus on the IB program not only because I would receive an education with rigor that parallels many college courses and rivals AP classes; but also, because I would have the freedom to explore my academic interests through a curriculum that values discussion-based learning.

"I learned many valuable lessons from my talented Kokomo teachers. I wish to thank my 8th-grade biology teacher Mrs. Beverly Noel for challenging me to explore outside my comfort zone, while helping me accomplish things beyond my imagination. Due to Mrs. Noel's influence, a Purdue University professor recruited me to help with lab research. During the past four years, I have spent weekends, summers, and other breaks conducting independent research focused on locating a cure for Alzheimer's with guidance from that Purdue professor.

"I am graduating as an IB Diploma Candidate, and I plan to attend Duke University in the fall to pursue double majors in computer science and biology as a pre-med student; I also intend to become a licensed EMT during my undergraduate studies. I am grateful that all expenses for my undergraduate career at Duke will be covered as a National QuestBridge Scholar and a National Gates Scholar. My ultimate goals include pursuing medical school, becoming a neurosurgeon, and helping in the development of medical innovation startups."



[GENE YANG]

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The Kokomo High School Class of 2020 definitely experienced unprecedented times during its final semester at Kokomo High School. I was very proud of an incredible senior class, especially the class officers, for handling the pandemic with grace and flexibility, while preserving the many traditions of passage - Senior Recognition Evening, the Annual KaiWalk, and Graduation with a Twist - virtually. The KHS Class of 2020 understands "Legacy Matters!" Congratulations to the KHS Class of 2020 for earning \$7.4 million in scholarships to colleges around the world.

The KHS College Prep Academy features 25 Advanced Placement (AP) courses (corporation pays all AP exam fees), an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program, Project Lead the Way engineering classes, and award-winning Music and Arts programs. Congrats to all KHS Class of 2020 graduates and their families. If you would like to join the KHS academic family, please contact Principal Angela Blessing via email at ablessing@kokomo.k12.in.us.

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