

Ava DiGiuseppe

Mrs. Moffat

Global Scholar Program

16 November 2022

Singapore Sister School Pen-Pal Dialogue Sessions

This autumn, the girls from the Academy of Notre Dame and our sister school in Singapore engaged in three virtual dialogue sessions. The virtual call was organized by Mrs. Moffat, from the Academy of Notre Dame, and by Mrs. Tham, from our sister school. Each of the three dialogue sessions was structured with a discussion topic, and we were provided with educational articles to help us in our deliberations. After we joined the virtual call, we were organized into small groups with a combination of girls from our school and from our sister school to discuss our topics. At the end of our discussion, we were given reflection prompts that helped us to summarize all that we talked about. The purpose of our dialogues was to help bridge an understanding between girls from different backgrounds. Although we have had such beautifully unique experiences, our perspectives on modern-day challenges share great similarity.

On the virtual call, I was grouped with three of my sophomore classmates from the Academy of Notre Dame and two girls from our sister school in Singapore. We began chatting about our discussion prompts, such as education, social media, and the impact of cancel culture. After we were able to talk through our thoughts on these topics, we formatted them into our reflection piece. The conversation quickly shifted from a formal, intellectual debate to a relaxed exchange about teenage life. We each shared our favorite school subjects, places that we dream of traveling to, and extracurricular activities. I was able to share my love for the arts during the more relaxed portion of our discussion, and was so delighted when a girl from our sister school,

Lisa, shared the same interests. I feel so grateful that we were each able to share our passion for academics and extracurricular activities together.

Post-dialogue, we shared our social media accounts with each other so that we could stay in touch after our meetings. Although we connected virtually, I felt that we were each able to share a part of ourselves and be perfectly understood in exchange. In addition to learning more about the girls from our sister school in Singapore, I learned so much about the aspirations of my classmates, Reagan, Mary Kate, and Isabella. The connections that we made, especially in our discussions about travel and hopes for the future, helped me to see the everlasting importance of international connections. Our dialogue has inspired me to combine both a global perspective and academia in studying at international universities.