

Edina Chinese Association Youth Committee Hosts 2026 Graduation Party at Edina Library- by Megan Wang, Andreas Walexon, Guihong Chen

The Edina Chinese Association (ECA) Youth Committee successfully hosted its inaugural official event, the 2026 ECA Graduation Party, at the Edina Library after one month of elaborate planning. The event welcomed approximately 40 attendees and celebrated 15 graduating high school seniors from the ECA community.

The program opened with a seminar featuring six panelists—three attending in person (Helen Chu, Eric Zhao, and Kevin Zhao) and three joining virtually (Claire Cao, Raiden Chen, and Kaining Zhang). The Youth Committee members—Andreas, Evelyn, Megan, Ellen, and Helen—invited each panelist to address ten curated questions submitted by students and parents, covering topics such as:

1. Effective time management
2. How to select courses strategically
3. Choosing meaningful extracurricular activities
4. Turning point from worrying about fitting in to confidently carving your own path
5. Building strong relationship with teachers, counselors and mentors
6. Crafting a thoughtful college list and choosing a major
7. Aspects, qualities, or achievements that made your application stand out
8. Strategies for college essays
9. Highlights of college essays
10. The role of parent support

Each panelist also offered personal advice to current high school students. They emphasized depth over breadth—pursuing genuine interests, building sustained commitments, and prioritizing well-being throughout the application process. They also shared practical tips such as starting essays early in the summer, meeting regularly with teachers and counselors, and visiting campuses to assess fit.

Following the structured seminar, an open Q&A session allowed audience members to engage panelists on additional subjects including :

- Thoughts on AI
- How research experience influences college application
- Managing stress
- Whether they used paid outside counselors
- Identifying an influential adult for your application

Although this portion of the event was less structured than the earlier panel, the speakers remained eager to share their experiences and offer guidance to younger students. They encouraged the audience to cultivate both deep domain expertise and transferable technical

skills to stay resilient as AI adoption accelerates. Practical suggestions included joining freshman clubs and exploring widely, keeping records of activities and hours, and meeting counselors regularly. The audience deeply appreciated the six panelists—their generosity, wisdom, and authenticity made the event truly meaningful. We learned a great deal and wish them all the best as they begin their college journeys.

The event concluded with a graduation ceremony recognizing each of the 15 graduates. Attendees enjoyed a reception featuring a custom-designed graduation cake created by Youth Committee member Evelyn Ge.

The ECA Youth Committee extends its appreciation to all participants and volunteers. The organization congratulates the Class of 2026 and wishes them continued success as they begin their college journeys.

















CONGRATULATIONS TO
CLASS 2026!!!



