

Hi. I'm staying in the small town in Michigan. It's been almost a month and half since I came here. I heard that studying abroad is not always fun and there are many painful things before I came here. But to be honest, I don't feel like that so far and I'm surprised myself. I had a lot of things that I've never done before. I will show some parts of my experience here.

## 1. Homestay

I was assigned to a host family of five. There are three boys close to my age. At first, I was worried about my homestay, because I had never lived away from my parents and lived with boys. But they are very kind and give me various experiences. So, I'm having a great time. For example, on the second day here, I joined the party called "Baby shower". This is the party originated in US. For the women who are 7 to 8 months pregnant the family, relatives, and friend's gather and pray for a safe delivery. On the other day, I went to the "Romeo Michigan Peach Festival". This is the old-fashion car parade. I rode a back side of the truck called 1996 Dodge Indy Ram with my host brother and threw candies to the children watching the parade. I think people here value more on spending time with their families and neighbors.

## 2. School

The school is completely different from Japanese one. There is more freedom for students. There is no dress code, students are taking a class while eating chewing gum, listening to music with earphones on, and sitting on the sofa in some classes. My school is the big school around here. The site is very large and it's like a university in Japan, so I was looking for the school map every time when I move to a classroom from another in the first week of school. Now, I remember the location of the classroom and got used to school life. There are many classes that I can't take in Japan. The US history is the hardest class for me. I don't have enough knowledge and have to read a lot of historical materials that include many unfamiliar English words. My favorite is Algebra II. As I had heard in Japan, the math here is easier. I feel it is interesting because as the same question I learned in Japan, the formula and the way to solve the problem is different. There is a football field in my school. Almost every Friday, we have a football game there. Many people living around the school come and watch the game. Also, there are theme of the game every time, like all black, Hawaiian, or construction. People watching the game usually wear themed clothing and accessories.

In next month, October, there are exciting events for me, Homecoming and Halloween. I want to have a good time every day. Thank you for reading and see you next time.

