

Culture exchange

Hong Kong students visit Scott County

By CAILIN LONG
Georgetown News-Graphic

Kei Chun Ning kept his hand-held camcorder steady. As Cassandra and Catherine Porter danced across stage, Ning, otherwise known as Nico, watched their performance on the small screen attached to his video camera, capturing each moment of Thursday's ceremony welcoming he and 19 other Hong Kong students to Scott County.

Since Nico's arrival Tuesday, he has taught freshman class president Brandon Hunter, who is hosting Nico during his visit, much about his culture. He has also taught Hunter an important lesson — to save his money.

"When I go to Hong Kong, I'm taking all kinds of money because electronics are cheap," Hunter said. "I'm going on a shopping spree."

From Jan. 17-31, seven students from Chung Sing Benevolent Society Mrs. Aw Boon Haw Secondary School and 13 from Fanling Kau Yan College are making themselves at home with students from Georgetown and Scott County middle schools, the Scott County Ninth Grade School and Scott County High School. They are shadowing the student whose family is hosting them during their stay to experience life the way Scott County students do.

During their spring break, a group of Scott County students will have the opportunity to experience life in Hong Kong.

"It's an exchange of cultures," said Paul Staker, counselor at the Ninth Grade School and a member of the student exchange pro-



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Scott County High School seniors Cassandra Porter, behind, and Catherine Porter perform a ballet routine for the students visiting from Hong Kong.

gram committee.

Learning about other cultures and exchanging experiences is part of the invitational education theory being implemented in schools in both Scott County and Hong Kong.

"There are several schools in Hong Kong that are implement-

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— Brandon Hunter,
Scott County
ninth-grader

ing the concepts of creating inviting schools with invitational education," Superintendent Dr. Dallas Blankenship said. "They're implementing a lot of the same concepts of invitational education which focus on having dedicated people, including teachers, involved in creating an inviting classroom."

The four qualities of an inviting school include respecting self and others, trusting in self and others, viewing the world optimistically and behaving

intentionally. While visiting Scott County schools, students and the teachers and administrators here with them will examine the five Ps of invitational education — people, places, policies, programs and processes.

"Some of the other concepts are to look at the places, the schools and the environment of those schools, to be an inviting facility, as well as programs, policies and processes in schools to make sure they're contributing to making the educational experience an inviting experience," Blankenship said.

Hunter felt that the best way to learn about the culture in Hong Kong was to invite a delegate to exchange information with him. Hunter said he learned more about Hong Kong during the first two days of Nico's trip than he could have during two weeks in school.

"It's one of the best experiences I've had in my lifetime," Hunter said.