



1:1 Instruction at Halstrom Academy:

Teen Figure Skating Champion and Science Whiz Finds He Can Have it All

by CINDY REYNOLDS • photography by JEFF NGUYEN, LITTLE BEAR PHOTOS



For 12-year old Vincent Zhou, life doesn't have room for many dull moments. He says this fall, after he memorizes all 118 elements of the periodic table, he plans to see how far he can extend "pi" - so far he is up to 50 digits. Learning and solving math and science problems are something he enjoys in his spare time after he finishes training in the skating rink - 3+ hours a day, five to six days a week. In addition to being a math and science whiz, Vincent last year became the youngest Intermediate Men's Champion to win the US Junior Figure Skating Championships. He now competes at a senior level and is the youngest Senior Men competitor in U.S. history.

While Vincent loves skating, he knows it is not something he will do forever. So along with aspirations of winning championships, he has his eyes set on attending Stanford University and pursuing a career in the technology field. He knows in order to achieve all of this, he needs to attend a school that has rigorous science classes with labs from an accredited program, and he needs flexible scheduling. Several months ago Vincent's family found Halstrom Academy and think it's a perfect fit for Vincent's educational needs.

In 1985, Halstrom introduced Southern California families to a new, revolutionary concept: school with one-teacher to one-student class sizes and flexible class scheduling. Since then, Halstrom has helped thousands of students rediscover their love of learning and achieve their educational goals. From aspiring professional athletes and artists and young working professionals, to unique learners such as students

with social distraction issues or ADHD, students from all walks of life find Halstrom a place where they can reach their full potential in and out of the classroom because school is designed around them and their needs. Since its founding, more than 16,000 students, including Olympic skater Sasha Cohen, television actress Blake Lively, and professional skateboarder Ryan Sheckler, have been able to achieve educational success through Halstrom's flexible scheduling and one-to-one educational model.

"The difference at Halstrom is the 1:1 instruction," explains Vincent's mother, Fay. "It's more efficient and more personal. It addresses each student's strengths and weaknesses, and makes it possible to customize the learning pace to each student. It's great for Vincent because his teachers can adjust to his training and competition schedule, so he doesn't get behind if he's gone, and he can also get ahead on his own schedule." Over the last couple of years he has been able to skip a grade and will enter 9th grade this fall just before his 13th birthday.

"One-to-one teaching is the concept of small class sizes amplified," says Mandy Paterson, a credentialed teacher who has been teaching at Halstrom since 2012. "Through the one to one relationships we develop with each student, we build a rapport which helps us know how we can push each student to achieve their best."

The one-to-one teaching model, pioneered by Halstrom, allows each student, along with his or her parents and teachers, to choose coursework and a school schedule that best fits the student's aptitude and educational aspirations. For some students, tailored and focused teaching in a one-to-one learning environment makes all the difference in school. For others, the concentrated classroom time and flexible scheduling options that come with the one-to-one program give students the freedom to stay engaged in school while pursuing professional aspirations such as sports, performing arts or entrepreneurial aspirations.

"I like that I can get a good, quality education with a flexible school schedule," says Vincent. "It makes the perfect combination. I want to go to Stanford. To get there I need a good education, and I think that's what Halstrom can provide for me."



For more information, call Halstrom Academy at (714) 694-8800 or visit www.halstromacademy.org