Spring ISD Senior Accepted at Every Ivy League School and Headed to Harvard This Fall

May 7, 2021 | 3,698 views

Spring Early College Academy senior Cody Chou on the school’s campus, housed at Lone Star College-North Harris.

Spring Early College Academy senior Cody Chou had some big decisions to make about what he wanted to do after graduation. He also had a lot of options. That’s because Chou was accepted to nearly all of the schools he applied to – including every Ivy League school and a host of other top-ranked colleges and universities around the country.

Even though Chou had high grades, high SAT scores and exceedingly high hopes, he still admitted feeling overwhelmed as the acceptances, from school after school, kept rolling in. “I think it was a mixture of shock and disbelief,” Chou said, “but also happiness and joy because I made it.”

The Ivy League schools – including Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale – are all known for their strong academics, instant name recognition and their far-reaching and influential alumni networks. They’re also known for how tough they are to get into.

Harvard University, where Chou is headed this fall, had a 2021 admission rate of just 3.4%. A full sweep of the Ivy League schools is rare, and the feat puts Chou – who is also a Spring ISD EMERGE Fellow – in an elite group of talented seniors poised to take on the world after graduation.

“I just think he just likes to be the best that he can be,” said Spring Early College Academy chemistry teacher Rodney Schmitz, who has coached Chou for four years on the school’s Science Olympiad team. “I think he just looks at everything as a challenge that he can face, and as just another mountain to climb, and he wants to try and climb that mountain, just to see where he can get.”