



March Interviews

Interviewee: Meagan
Capacity: Club Leader

Hello Meagan, how are you today?

Hi Darcy, I'm good thank you!

We are here to interview you as part of club leadership for Anime Club.

To start off, could you please introduce yourself?

Sure thing! My name is Meagan, I'm the leader of the Anime club. I joined the KSG server in August of 2021 and have been Anime club leader since October of 2021.

Nice, thank you. Would you like to introduce the rest of your leadership team as well?

Currently, I'm the only member of Anime club leadership. *[laughs]*

Could you please give a brief introduction to Anime club for those who have never been in it?

Yeah, Anime Club is a fun club on the server. Our main activity is watching anime together but while we watch we also take a look into kinda the "behind the scene", in the sense of we look into: who created the anime that we're watching, when this anime was released originally or if they're based on a preexisting story or not and we get to explore anime together.

That sounds very interesting. I know personally that I appreciate all the background information that you provide during the meetings.



Thank you! That's one of my favorite parts too, cause anime is a hobby of mine so I love getting to research those things and also share it with you guys.

And we like hearing about it too. You guys watch anime during the meeting, so how long do the meetings usually last then?

Usually only an hour, we try to keep it within an hour.

And how many episodes do you normally watch then?

Two episodes per meeting. In our club we have this thing called the “preview method.” Every month what we do is preview 2 anime together, and every week we would watch 2 episodes of an anime: for the first 2 weeks we would watch episodes 1-2 and then 3-4 of something and then the last 2 weeks of the month we would preview a completely different anime and watch 2 episode a week up until the fourth episode.

Did you always host the Anime club this way?

No, this is a new method that we started, maybe, a little past halfway through last year. What we were doing before was watching entire seasons of anime together and we noticed that a lot of club members would get behind very easily, it was difficult for new members if they were joining while we were right in the middle of something so they would get lost or there would be too much to catch up on. So when we changed to the “preview method.” It helped us, one, in being more consistent with our meetings, cause we have a pretty set schedule we stick to, and then also it eliminated the chance to fall behind because even if you can't make it to every single meeting of the week as long as you make it to two meetings you're able to still keep up to the club quotas and not fall behind on what we're watching. And then also this way we can kind of watch more together because it takes a lot less time to watch 4 episodes than it would to watch 12 to 24 episodes. Also if somebody doesn't



like what we're watching they're not stuck for two months watching an anime they're not really a fan of. There are lots of positives to it.

Yeah definitely sounds like it was a good change. I think you mentioned sticking to a pretty strict schedule, what did you mean by that?

Well, every two weeks we only watch four episodes of an anime which means that every month we are only going to preview two anime and we are only going to watch the first four episodes.

I see. And do you guys normally stick to that in the club then; you don't choose to watch more if everyone wants to?

Yeah, in our official club meetings we only stick to the four episodes, but what often has been happening with our members is that they'll head into the *bathroombreak* channel in the main server or they'd make a little "Watch Club" and finish it together outside of club's hours but I usually try to join those as well cause they're very fun.

What would you say is your favorite part of the club?

I guess my favorite part is how we get to chat with each other while we are watching, cause a lot of the anime we watch in the club I have actually already seen before, and getting to talk to people while we are watching and see people's reactions to shows that I really like or in the case of an anime that I haven't seen is fun for me to have a similar reaction to other people that are watching for the first time as well. Just to get to talk about what we're watching is really fun.

And is it ever boring to re-watch an anime in the club?

Personally, no. I'm just an avid re-watcher of everything anyway. Even outside of Anime, I love rewatching shows that I've seen before cause there's a comfort that comes with that so I honestly find it a little more fun when we



get to watch something that I've already seen in the club, cause it's interesting for me to see people reactions and it's also fun for me to give little fun facts about the show. It also makes it a lot easier to answer people's questions about the anime if I'm familiar with it.

That is very true. I think you've mentioned it but how long have you been the leader of the club?

I started in October of 2021, so a year and a couple of months.

Ok, and have you been there since the beginning of the club?

No, I joined in September of 2021 but I think the club had started around mid-2021 before I joined the server. So, I ended up joining in September and then becoming the leader of it a month later.

Did you end up going straight into being club leader then?

Yes, I did.

And would it be possible to run me through how that happened, and what your experience was like?

Sure! It was actually very sudden. Obviously, at that time I was not only new to Anime club but also fairly new to the server, which I'd been on only for about 2 - 3 months and I was really enjoying my time at Anime club. Then all of a sudden the leader at the time was unable to be on the server anymore and they were very quickly asking for a new leader and a new co-leader so, at the time, me and an old club member just volunteered to help because I had time on my hand (I thought - I like anime and, I have time so why not volunteer ?) and literally the next day they were like "Meagan are you still interested in being a leader?" and, I was like "I'll help wherever I can and if that means being a leader then sure" and they were like "ok Meagan you're the new leader now". It was very abrupt and everybody in the club was so



nice so it was really easy to step into that role, and also outside of discord server, I was a part of some leadership board in college so this type of role isn't unfamiliar to me anyway.

Oh, I see. There used to be other people on the leadership team; what about them? Were they the same people from the start or did it change a lot?

It changed a couple of times, I think in a little bit over a year we had two major changes of leadership. We originally had one girl who joined as co-leader with me and we were in leadership together for a few months while our secretary at that time had been there from the previous leadership. After a couple of months, one had to leave and the other had to step down so there were two new people and then now those two had to leave the server so it's just down to me.

How has your experience been as the leader of the club?

I'd say that for the most part it has been very great. There have been a couple of stressful times, especially with the changes in the leadership but nothing that I can't get over. Even if there are a lot of members who come and go we always have a really good wave of people that makes the club fun. Because I can only do so much but what really makes the club are the club members. You know it'll be a good meeting when the talkative people are there. [laughs]

Quite often people don't like when somebody talks during a show/movie, so it's quite nice to have people that want to talk during it.

I understand the people who don't like to talk while watching something because I'm like that in person but if we're just in a chatroom without voices distracting me it's much easier and more fun to talk about things.

Yeah, I understand. And what would you say is the best part about being a part of the club leadership?



I think the best part for me... every anime we watch comes from the member suggestions but I think that being the one that gets to have the final say and being able to pick what I think most members would like to see based on those suggestions, it's really fun to me.

How do you choose which one from all the responses?

I narrow it down by "have we watched it before?" because sometimes new members would submit something we already watched in the club. Then, I also try to keep in mind the ratings of the show, cause we had minors in the club and I don't wanna show an anime that is really inappropriate so I keep an eye on possible content warnings. But then I also look into what kind of genres are being submitted cause one of the points of our club is being exposed to a lot of different types of anime because it's a very diverse genre of media, so I also take into consideration what genre of shows people are watching and try not being too repetitive in what we're watching.

It sounds like you put a lot of effort and work behind the scenes...

I do put in a lot of work but I enjoy it. It gets a little bit overwhelming sometimes but like I said anime is a hobby of mine and it's fun for me.

Do you have documents or sheets to help you with the organization?

Yes, I have a Google Drive folder where I keep most of the documents and, I write down what we have seen in the club and then also what has been suggested. So yeah, I have a little google drive. *[laughs]*

What is a fun memory that you have with the club or the club leadership?

One of my favorite memories was my first Halloween. I joined the leadership in October of 2021 so, I wanted to do something big for Halloween because up until that time I hadn't done any event, so I put together this trick-or-treat activity for the members where I made a PowerPoint where



there were two doors, and behind each door had to do something with bts or anime and every member would take turns trick or treating and pick a door, and if they'd picked the right door they would get a little treat. That day was so fun that it ended up becoming a tradition for the club. I also did it last year for Halloween and if the club is around long enough we would be also doing it for Halloween this year.

And did it count as a meeting or was it a special event thing?

It did count as a meeting because I think in both cases it fell on the day, actually one year it fell on Halloween and then I think the next year we just did it a day early. So it did count as a meeting, but instead of watching anime we had like a game day. We also put on some games that had to do with anime, like the "guess the anime opening" game.

Oh, I do remember now, I was there as well.

Do you think there might be opportunities for other events or anything like that?

Yeah, when we have an extra day in the month, as it happens sometimes, I'll try to do game days or special event days on those. So, if that comes up soon then yes.

Nice, I'm looking forward to it.

How long have you been watching anime?

Over 10 years, because I started watching anime when I was in middle school and (I'm going to make myself feel old) I don't know the exact amount of years but it's definitely over 10 years.

I wouldn't call you old but it is quite some time. [laughs]

It's honestly one of my longest hobbies.

That's really cool. And how did you get into it?



I had some friends that introduced me and it just all went from that. I can vividly remember one afternoon riding home on the bus with my friends and them telling me about *Fullmetal Alchemist*, *Ouran High School Host Club* and *Sword Art Online*. *Fullmetal Alchemist* and *Ouran High School Host Club* were the two that I remember them saying, “Oh you need to watch this.” So, I started out with *Fullmetal Alchemist* and all went downhill from there, or uphill depending on how you look at it. [laughs]

Definitely uphill. [laughs] So, your first anime was *Fullmetal Alchemist* from your friend's recommendation. That's very similar to me, I had a friend who wrote me a list of recommendations.

Oh really? I love that. I think that's the best way. Because with anime there's so much out there that it gets overwhelming especially when you're just getting into it for the first time. I think the best way to go is to get people's recommendations because they can help you navigate the depths.

100%, especially if they're friends and know what you are going to like.

Yeah, when people ask me for recommendations for beginners I always ask them, “What genre do you like?” I could recommend you a million things since there's (like) a million different genres so I ask, “Do you like romance? Do you like sports? Do you like action or do you want something more slice of life?” and then based on that I can give you a recommendation.

Honestly, that's very similar to me. It just makes sense because you'll like different things so if you recommend what you love it might not be that person's cup of tea.

Exactly.

If you have someone who avidly watches a very wide range of anime, is there an underrated or overlooked anime that you would recommend?



Well, I have to talk about my favorite anime of all time. [laughs] We are actually watching (it) in the club right now. It's called *Terror in Resonance* and we are watching it because someone sent it in the suggestions form. I think it's an anime that gets overlooked a lot because it was big when it came out but then quickly was swept under the rug because I think the ending was not everyone's cup of tea. (But) I think it's truly the most well-done anime I've ever seen, in terms of the story and the animation and the amount of detail and work that went into creating the show, and it's also very short. I just think it is a masterpiece.

And what do you like about it?

I really like the artistic style of it and I don't know how to say it but the 'vibes' of it. [laughs] It's very different in how it makes you feel compared to other animes that I watched because it's not a big in-your-face action/adventure storyline, it's more of a low key mystery psychological show that's done very artistically.

I get what you mean, I don't know how to explain it either but I get what you mean.

I'm glad you agree though.

Is it just anime by the way or do you read manga as well?

I read a little bit of manga, but definitely not as much as I would like to. If I had to pick which one I like more, I'm more of an anime person cause I like more visual and auditory parts of it.

Do you have a favorite manga?

I do, it is called *Sasaki and Miyano*. We watched the anime on Valentine's Day just by chance and everyone enjoyed it. We also ended up doing a group watch outside of the meetings to finish watching.



Would you say that *Terror in Resonance* or *Sasaki and Miyano* are the ones that you enjoyed watching the most with the club? Or is there another one that has been your favorite - specifically to watch with the club?

That's a good question. I would definitely say that *Sasaki and Miyano* was a highlight based on the fact that everybody was enjoying it and that is very close to my heart.

How do you plan things each month? In terms of assignments, for example.

Assignments are definitely a bit tricky, especially because we are a fun club. There are members who are new to the anime world so I don't want the assignment to be too difficult, especially for those who don't know many anime outside of the ones we watched in the club. I usually try to go down the game route or just give you guys the chance to talk about what you liked. We've done things in the club like crosswords, puzzles that are based on what we watched or making a poster of your favorite anime that you watched. Once, I had everybody picking an anime opening sequence and then they gave me a K-Pop song that they would put over it instead of the actual anime opening.

When you had other members in the leadership team how did you usually operate in terms of tasks breakdown?

To be honest, we struggled with that a lot in the past. How it used to be was that I would run basically all the meetings and the co-leader would step in whenever I was absent and I would make all the PowerPoints and all the assignments and stuff. But hopefully moving forward I would really like to split up the hosting. We could do 50/50, and I wouldn't mind doing the PowerPoints. It was not good in terms of how we split tasks management. I kinda did 90% of everything.



Would you be happy to keep doing the assignment by yourself or would you like help with that?

Yeah, I would never say no to help but I really never minded doing it because I enjoy it.

On a more negative side, what are some of the challenges that you faced being part of leadership?

I would say that even though this is a fun club, it still takes time and effort from my personal life. I mean two times a week I need to set that time aside, especially when one of our meetings is on the weekend I have to be mindful of things like “Do I have weekend plans?” or I wake up very early for our weekend meetings as well. I’d say the hardest part is the time it takes from my personal life but at the same time it is not so much.

How do you overcome the difficulties of the club?

I think that the fact that the club is based on a hobby of mine definitely makes me look forward to everything I like to do. Even if I have to sit down for an hour or two to make the PowerPoints for the month, even if sometimes I’m kind of busy and I might get a bit stressed out then I’m like “but I get to research about my favorite anime” and suddenly I’m looking forward to looking into all the fun facts I get to learn. I get to look forward to watching anime with the club members and that makes it very easy to overcome any kind of stress about being in the club leadership.

That’s so interesting - the balance between the way you actually have the passion for it and how it helps you counter what might otherwise be just work, I guess. (It’s) a bit like how they say you should have a job you’re passionate about.

Yeah. What’s funny is that that statement has always scared me in my life, I guess. Because I’m one of those people who struggled with finding a career for myself, especially since graduating college. I’m terrified of turning my



hobbies into careers because “what if I get tired of them?”, but I also have Anime Club where I’m doing all this work for my hobby and it has been so enjoyable!

I get it and I’m glad that it isn’t the case with the Anime club.

You said you graduated from college, what did you major in?

I majored in International Affairs with a major in Japanese Language and Culture.

That’s so cool. Did the major in Japanese have anything to do with anime?

I would say, maybe. With my major in International Affairs, I needed to pick a language to focus on and Japanese just happened to be a language my university actually offered. I think if we are looking back to middle school Meagan, my interest in Japan as a country, with history and culture was introduced to me through anime. At the same time I wouldn’t say that the reason I picked Japanese as a major in college was because I’m a fan of anime.

Interesting, are you still learning Japanese?

Recently I haven’t been. I’d say since graduating, I kinda took a break from it so that I could start learning Korean actually. The reason I joined the server was (because) after I graduated college, Korean was a language I wanted to explore next, you know. At that point, I had been studying Japanese for 3 years and, I kinda felt a little burned out from college and, I felt that my level of Japanese at the moment was good enough (I definitely need to go back and learn more especially now that I’m forgetting it). I felt pretty content with the amount that I had learned so I wanted to explore another language and Korean was the one I was interested in and I ended up finding the server!

How did you end up interested in learning Korean?



I would say it was through K-Pop and Korean Pop Culture. I listened to K-Pop for almost 10 years, I think I got into that in high school so it's been 8 or 9 years so far. Through K-Pop, I was then introduced to K-Dramas and Korea as a country and a culture, and then just consuming all of that kind of content got me interested in learning the language.

Interesting, it's kinda relatable in a way even though for me K-Dramas played a bigger role but it's a similar thing I guess.

Yeah, even if K-Pop was the one that introduced me I think that K-Drama and variety shows are where I really started picking up phrases in Korean. That made me want to learn the language because I was memorizing phrases that I would hear over and over so it wasn't necessarily from the music.

And when you started actually learning Korean did you find that you had already kind of a basis from all that content?

Yes. It was mind-blowing to me because I didn't have that experience with Japanese but with Korean, there were a good handful of phrases or things that I would get "that's how you write that!" or "that's how that works" you know?

Yes I do know, cause I had the same experience. [laughs]

And did you find that learning Korean was a bit easier for you coming from a Japanese background?

Yes, definitely. They have a very similar grammatical structure which was very helpful. Also, Japanese was my first foreign language so when it came to learning Korean it just made my life a lot easier, seeing as I had that foundation on how to learn a foreign language.

Yeah, it makes sense, it's much more difficult when you are a pure English speaker to learn Asian languages.



Yeah, it's really difficult but I'd say that Korean overall is a bit easier to learn than Japanese so it hasn't been as bad as learning Japanese was!

And would you say that the server has helped with your learning Korean journey?

Yes, I'd say so. Especially with the server being accessible and the fact that there are so many resources to kind of check your work. When you are teaching yourself it is hard to know if you are really doing things correctly so to have that help on hand was definitely helpful.

I'm glad to hear that. So, how would you describe your workload as the leader of the Anime Club, in your own words?

I would say... I actually don't know. From one perspective it is quite a lot especially since I'm the sole member of leadership and I do the job of the leader, co-leader, and secretary but I wouldn't say that it really affects me that much in my personal life, just because I have the time to put into it. I don't have a job right now and I'm not going to school anymore because I graduated. So, if I did have a job it would be more difficult but because I have so much time on my hand it's really not that bad.

Oh I see. Have you not had a job since you became (the) leader? If you don't mind me asking.

Yeah, I haven't. I have been looking for a job for the past two years now which is so unfortunate, and so I haven't had a job since graduating and that just happened to be around the time I joined the server, cause I graduated early in 2021. So yeah, I haven't had a job since I started. I have just been job searching, sending on applications and things.

I mean it is a very difficult time right now...

Yeah cross my fingers I'm actually applying to be a teacher in Korea right now so...



Omg, good luck. I hope you get that!! Would you move to Korea if you get the job?

Yes, I would. I'm applying for the fall of this year. If you pass the interview, which is between April and June, they start sending you out in August. So we'll see. It'll still be a few months if that happens but I'm working toward it right now!

And do you know if it would be a long-term move?

The contract is for a year I believe, but I know a lot of people extend it. Right now I'm just looking for a year and we'll cross that bridge when I get to it, I guess.

Please update us!

I will, I will.

And how do you manage Anime Club responsibilities? With - I think you are also secretary of K-cooking club, and your real-life job applications.

I keep a little weekly schedule for myself, to keep things organized and not get too overwhelmed. On my calendar, I have the meeting times for both K-Cooking club and Anime club and then now that I'm working on my teaching certificate I write down: "ok this week I'm going to make sure I do so many modules of my certificate". And then if I'm going to make a PowerPoint for the club I'll put that as well and then each day I just kind of plan out what to do so I don't get too overwhelmed trying to do everything in one day.

That sounds like a really good system, are you normally able to stick to your daily plans?



For the most part, yes. Of course, there are weeks when I get very lazy and stuff, but keeping myself on a consistent schedule is really helpful for me and my mental health in general, so I try to be pretty consistent with it.

Cool, I wish I could do that...

It actually became more of a need haha. I think being in college really, really got me into doing that cause I would have so many homework assignments that I had to do them all on the same day. I would have to plan my days by how many assignments I'm going to get done or otherwise I wouldn't be able to get everything done. It was a really stressful time and I adapted that to my everyday life now.

That's a really cool skill to pick up for sure.

And what are your goals for the club? If you have any.

Well, I would love to have new leadership members to help me, of course. But also I just like where the club is at right now in terms of what we are doing, and how people are enjoying their time. I think maybe incorporating some more fun activities (would be since we're mainly just watching anime right now. I think having more game days or maybe taking a deeper dive into the behind-the-scenes of some anime would be very fun. So, maybe trying to incorporate a bit more diversity in what we are doing during the meetings would be a cool goal.

And would that be something you look forward to doing in the future then?

Yeah, if we can make it work. [laughs]

How do you think the club might be improved? If there's anything beyond what you already said.



I mean as I said bringing new activities in the meeting times could improve the club. Otherwise, I think since our last improvement in changing to our “preview method” we are in a pretty good spot.

I would agree, that single change was brilliant!

Yeah, it was a single change but it made all the difference.

Is there an anime that you haven't seen yet and would like to watch with the club?

Just one that I haven't seen or that we haven't watched in the club? It's a hard question.. I'm trying to think of one...

I think that the question was specifically one that you haven't seen, but I guess you could also give one that the club hasn't seen.

I think maybe one of my favorite anime that we haven't seen in the club yet is *Fullmetal Alchemist*. That's kinda the anime that started it all for me and it would be a very fun one to watch with you guys. But in terms of ones that I also haven't seen, I'm really not sure.

Ok, so you don't have a watch list or something, maybe?

I do but it's so long, I couldn't pick one right now. *[laughs]*

I can relate to that, I think it's a thing with people who watch avidly, the watch list is like 5000 pages long haha.

Exactly, and also, I've been watching anime for over 10 years which means my watch list has been accumulating for over 10 years as well. *[laughs]*

Oh wow, I don't wanna think about how long that's gonna be.



I honestly stopped keeping track of a watchlist because I just watch things based on my mood. There are too many things I wanna watch to keep track of anymore. And there are constantly things coming out.

Exactly!

Even outside of the club, I'm watching 5 anime in my own time that have nothing to do with what we're watching in the club right now...

Genuinely me too. [laughs] And it's also really bad when they are currently airing cause at some point life gets in the way and then you miss an episode or like trail off and have to re-watch half of it to remember what was going on later.

Oh, that's just happening to me. Like I said there are like 5 or 6 that I'm watching right now that are currently airing but there are only 2 that I consistently keep up with weekly and then the rest I pick up every like other week and then I'm behind on the other ones in some form. But I'm still trying to watch them as they come out.

That's very relatable, and I want to discuss some of the airing ones with you in the Open Chatroom later. We actually haven't mentioned it yet, the Open Chatroom. Do you want to briefly explain that?

Yeah, so in our club channel we have two main threads that we use and one of them is the Open Chatroom, which is basically just a place for anybody to come in and talk about what they're watching either in their own time or with the club or anything anime related that you would want to talk about outside of meeting hours. It's open 24/7 and anybody is able to post in it whenever they would like.

Then we also have a second thread which is a suggestion thread for our fellow club members. It's different from the suggestions form, which is to submit to me what you want to watch in the club while the suggestions thread is for if you have a favorite anime that you want to tell people about. I



think some people might have posted their MyAnimeList account so we can follow each other. (MyAnimeList) is a website that we've gone over with the club to keep track of what you have seen and what you wanna watch. So yeah, we have those two major threads.

I think those are both very cool features of the club.

So I recently found out that there have previously been collaborations between clubs on the server and I was wondering if Anime Club has ever had a collaboration?

We haven't.

And would you like to?

Yeah, that'd be fun. I'm not sure which club we could collaborate with because anime is outside of the scope of Korean but I think if the opportunities would arrive it would be fun.

You're right that there's maybe not so much overlap, but I'm sure we could find something!

Yeah I feel like anime club is the only club on the server that doesn't have anything to do with either Korean or Korea! *[laughs]*

True, maybe Singing and Dance Clubs... maybe

Maybe. At least from my experience with the Singing club, we did K-Pop covers so...

That's true. And do you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like for organizers to implement regarding clubs?

Hmm, nothing I can think of at the moment, sorry.



I mean, it's probably good that you don't immediately have something that you're like, "Yes, this is awful and we need to change it immediately", you know? [laughs]
[laughs] Right, no, I can't really think of anything that really stands out to me.

And now, finally, why would you recommend that members join the club?

I think Anime club is a very open place, definitely more than people expect. I think a lot of people would expect that you already have to enjoy anime to join the club but that's not the case at all. We are very accommodating to beginners and I think the club is perfect for people who've never been able to really delve into anime before because as I mentioned earlier there are so many genres. It's really hard to find a place to start, so even if you just have an inclination of interest in anime I think Anime Club is a great place to start your anime journey. And everybody in the club is so nice. We have such nice members and it's a very laid back fun club so, I hope that people would be interested in joining.

Ok so, thank you so much for the interview, Meagan. I hope we didn't take much of your time, and I hope the club continues to grow, and that you have an amazing year. And of course, I wish you all the best for your application. Please update!

I will for sure!

If you have anything else that you wanted to add before we close off go ahead, and otherwise we're done!

Yes. Thank you so much for reaching out to me to do this, I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun doing this, and I hope everything goes well for Yearbook club as well. I'm cheering you on.

Thank you!