

# 40 YEARS OF OVERLAND HISTORY

1978-2018

## FUN FACTS

Overland opened 40 years ago in 1978. It was named after the Central Overland and California and Pikes Peak Express, also known as the Pony Express, which was a stagecoach trail that delivered mail and goods in the American West in the 1860s. The original school name was to be Tumbleweed, but that name was rejected by the community and parents who later approved the name Overland High School. Not a lot of people lived in the neighborhood in 1978, so there were only about 1,800 students at Overland in the early years compared to the over 2,300 students we have now. In our first year, though, there was only a freshman class of 389 students. No other grades attended Overland that year. Over time our school has changed drastically. Here are some fun facts about Overland's history.

### GRADE LEVEL COMMONS

Overland used to have four different commons designated to each grade. Students would have their lockers in their commons, and that would be their locker for the next four years. Each common would have its own color as well. Since the students were divided into four areas, they also had four separate lunch lines. Freshmen would eat lunch with freshmen, sophomores with sophomores, and so on.

### PRINCIPALS

Overland has only had four principals in 40 years: Joseph Adamo, John Buckner, Jana Frieler, and Leon Lundie.

### OTHER PLANS

Smoky Hill High School was originally planned to be built here instead of Overland.

### FRESHMEN RULE

The first class of students at Overland in 1978 were only freshman. There were no seniors until the year 1981.

### LOCKERS

Student lockers used to be in the main hallway.

### NEW FRONT OF BUILDING

The whole area with ASC North and South did not exist at all. A new front door was built in 2003.

### THE IST

Before the IST was built in 2011, the area between Prairie and Overland was a grassy space called the esplanade where students would hang out between classes.

### FACULTY MUSICALS

*Grease* was the first faculty musical performed here at Overland in 2003. Since then, the staff has performed *Footloose* and *Once Upon a Mattress*, and will put on *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* this spring. Theater students teach the staff the music and choreography.

### CLASSES

- Overland used to have typing and woodshop classes.

### GYM FLOORS

- The gyms used to have rubber flooring which was later changed to the wooden floor we have today.

### THEATER

- The color of the auditorium seats used to be orange.

### LECTURE CLASSES

"Nowadays there's not nearly as much lecturing going on. Kids are doing the work; Hands on work, group work, cooperative work," says social studies teacher Ted Newell, who was a student of the first freshmen class in 1978.

### WHAT'S THE SAME?

Aside from these differences, one thing has stayed the same: kids. Even though each generation has its differences, teenagers will be teenagers. "Kids are very ambitious and do as well as they can. Back then, the same. Kids are kids," says Newell.