

like the back of your hand

Living in a world full of kick flips and ollies, a group of skateboarding enthusiasts spend the majority of their free time at their cement and metal playground surrounded by whooshing, clacking and cheering of other riders.

"Being at the skate park is fun and I would consider it home. The people there at the skate park play a big role in that - sometimes you can go there and not worry about anyone, especially when they're older people there because they don't get in your business as much as some teens do," Otis Jones '21 said.

The riders have worked hard, often over several years, to master the basics of skateboarding and move on to difficult tricks.

"I have been skating since I was six years old. I enjoy skateboarding because it's always something new and the skate community is a great place to be," Yamin Palmer '21 said. "My favorite thing is when I fall a bunch of times learning a trick and I finally get it, like grinding the rail. It took me about a month to learn, but I got it about two years ago."

The skate park is known to be an environment full of people who aren't afraid to take risks.

"I once tried an Ollie down a steep hill and it didn't end great," Tyler Steinbrunner '21 said. "I landed on the board, but I fell forward and sprained my ankle."

Skating is an experience that allows riders to feel at peace, pushing themselves to get better at the thing they love to do. It allows them to feel at home on their board, rolling across smooth cement.

"The feeling of going fast and getting air is something I like to experience often," Jones said. "Watching myself grow with my friends by my side is very fun to me. It's cool to see the older people you look up to and see how far they've come."

1. WHERE THE HEART IS: Laying on a blanket, Emily Zaretsky '20 and Chloe Stolzman '20 talk about their day. For many, the people in Castle Rock were what made it feel like home. "Castle Rock is home because of all the memories I have from when I was young," Zaretsky said. **2. SKATE PARK:** Coming off an edge, Tyler Steinbrunner '21 jumps into the air on his skateboard. It was common for him and his friends to be found at the park. "I like skateboarding because there's a lot to it. It's all about practicing with your friends and trying something new and taking a risk," Steinbrunner said.

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