

Hugo Ojeda
Football 9-12.
Gabrielle Omapas
Tennis 10-12;
Symphonic Orchestra 10-12;
Pre-Med 12.
Johanthan Onstad
Carlos Ortega Rivera



Jasmine Owens
Volleyball 9-10; NHS 11-12.
Rosa Padilla
Choralaires 9; Drama 9-11.
Sasha Parker
Volleyball 9-11; Tennis 9-12;
Golf 11-12; National Honor
Society 12; IST Scholar 10-12;
Pre-med 10.
Shantella Parker
Lacrosse 10-12; Basketball 10.



Alexander Pena Avila
Student council 11;
Basketball 9-12.
Ivan Pena
Student Council 9-12.
Marisol Perea
Kassaya Perez Meilein



Maria Mena Perlera
Jordan Petersen
Kenia Pinzon
Girls Basketball Varsity head
Manager.
Lucas Podrasky



Cassidee Raffa
Duke Rangel
Timothy Ranone
Hockey 9-12; Drama 9-11.
Da'zhaun Reid
Varsity Football 9-12; Track and
Field 9-10.



ATWIST OF
FAITH
one student explains how
and why he decided to
convert religions

Senior Ross Howey's path to Islam began in a Christian church. In his home state of Indiana, "I went to a Christian church and the pastor there was saying that the only way I could get closer to converting people to Christianity was to learn more about their religion," Howey said.

The pastor's words started Howey on a journey to learn about Islam. **ALTHOUGH HE WAS SENT TO CONVERT PEOPLE FROM ISLAM, HE DISCOVERED HE FELT CALLED TO PRACTICE THE RELIGION HIMSELF.** He first learned about the religion from his peers in Indiana.

When Howey moved to Denver, Colorado in 2018, he became more immersed in Muslim culture than he was in Indiana. "I knew I wanted to convert when I walked into the mosque near Denver University and talked to this guy there, he really opened up my eyes and answered some questions I was concerned about," Howey said.

After getting to know the imam, Howey officially converted on July 13th, 2018. "The reason I converted was just because of the religion itself, it made more sense than any others I've studied and looked at before," Howey said.

The senior started at Overland in the fall as a newly-converted Muslim. He joined the Muslim Student

Association (MSA), and began to build community with his new peers.

Fellow MSA member, sophomore Reihan Abar, said she admired Howey's decision to change faiths. "I think it's amazing that someone who previously knew nothing about Islam had an open mind and learned everything there is to know about being a Muslim," Abar said.

Although Howey still hadn't told his Christian parents about his new religion, "the Muslim community has totally embraced Ross," Abar said.

Howey said that many of his Christian friends admired his decision to convert. "The good reactions, I embraced them, but the bad ones, I got to know why they were offended, and I had to move on from them," Howey said.

Howey said his change of heart came from having an open mind. "If you're not open, you're always gonna put up this wall in your life, and you're never gonna learn something new. **THAT NEW THING YOU LEARN MIGHT BE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR LIFE, AND THAT'S WHAT ISLAM WAS FOR ME,**" Howey said.