

## RIO PIEDRAS puerto rico

**Finding Home:**  
"I would say Puerto Rico is my home because the majority of the family lives there and I believe home is where the family is. You can be born in Japan, but if your whole family lives in the states, I believe that's not really your home."

**All About The Community:**  
"In Puerto Rico, when you move into a house, everyone brings you gifts. You learn about each other. The personality that we have as an island is very different than the United States."

### enrique mujica '20

## KHMELNITSKY ukraine

**Many Languages:**  
"It's an experience to live without your family, to live without your friends, start a whole new life and speak your third language all the time. I speak Russian, Ukrainian and English, but Ukrainian is my first language."

**Future Leaders Exchange Program:**  
"The program is really competitive to get into. It's international, so it covers about 35 different countries; the Ukraine is one of them. This year there were 12,000 people from the Ukraine applying for this program and only 200 got a scholarship."

### olena derevyanko '19

## OAHU hawaii

**Big Differences:**  
"I'm from Hawaii. I moved here for my dad's job at the start of the school year. One of the biggest differences is how Hawaii is very hot and humid. School here is very different; in Hawaii my school had 4,000 kids, but here the school is way smaller."

**Living Here:**  
"I would say Colorado is my home. I don't really miss Hawaii. I like how you can go to the beach in Hawaii, but I love the snow and am happy to be living in Castle Rock."

### cason vela '22

## DUBLIN ireland

**Constant Rain:**  
"I lived in Dublin, Ireland for 2 years. I really miss the consistent weather. It was always 60 degrees and raining, but at least I could count on it being 60 degrees and raining."

**A Different Way:**  
"It's hard to compare the two because they are so different. I feel like Castle Rock is more sheltered. You go to Europe and you see a lot of things they do over there that we should do here."

### brian larsen '19

# when home isn't CASTLE ROCK

After they move to Castle Rock, students from a variety of states and countries bring a different perspective to living in Colorado.



or those of us who've lived in Castle Rock for our entire lives, the homey aspects of the town may often be ignored. For some, this replacement home is anything but customary.

### A NEW EXPERIENCE

"Now that I have been living here for three months with a new family, they have become my second family and this school has become my second school. I would say I have two different homes on two different continents," Olena Derevyanko '19 said.

Derevyanko was part of an exchange program called FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange Program), which allowed her to leave the Ukraine to come live and study in the United States for a year.

"I live in a big city. It's probably five times bigger than Castle Rock. I was going to school there as a normal Ukrainian kid," Derevyanko said. "I just wanted a new experience because if I came to the U.S. as a tourist, I wouldn't be able to really know the culture."

### SEEING THE BEAUTY

For others, the decision to make Castle Rock a permanent home gave them a different perspective.

"Being in downtown Castle Rock with the lights going across the road gives you a small town vibe. I like living in Castle Rock," Kendall Kelly '22 said. "I think the move made me more outgoing because I had to meet new people and I learned new things."

Kendall and her sister Camryn moved to Colorado from New York when they were 10, so they still looked at their new setting in a distinct way.

"I have a place to compare Castle Rock to. I see the mountains differently than someone who has grown up here. I don't take them for granted," Kendall Kelly '22 said.

For Brian Larsen '19, the whole idea of having one hometown was erased when he went to live in Ireland for two years

before returning back to his native home of Colorado.

"I went to an all-boys Catholic school that was much different from Castle View. The school was very awkward to me. We had to do mass in school every day and I had to be a part of it. It's super religious over there - everything is centered around Catholicism," Larsen said.

To him, it was clear that the time he spent overseas changed him.

"I have seen a lot more of the world than a typical person from Castle View. I've seen more of the world and can say America kind of sucks in some ways, but it's also better in some ways," Larsen said. "I feel like living in Ireland made me into the person I am today. All my comedy and my language I took from

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Kendall Kelly '22

the Irish."

### COMFORT IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE

For some, constant relocations never really gave them a place to call their home.

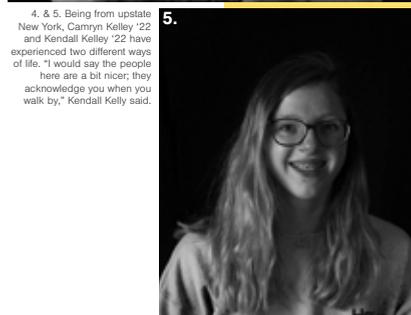
"I have moved six times just between Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado. I would say my home is wherever I'm currently at," Alexander Curry '20 said.

Curry moved from Omaha at the start of the second term, suddenly thrown into a new school and new town.

"I miss being comfortable in Omaha because it was everything I knew. I was ready to graduate there and then we moved here. I had mixed feelings about the move. But now, I'm happy to be here. I've had different experiences than someone who has lived in Castle Rock their whole life," Curry said. "I'm hoping that by the time I graduate, I can look back on Colorado and be happy with what I have done here."

Every unique experience and every living situation brought a special perspective to Castle Rock, enriching the town's population and culture with each new person.

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2. After having lived in three different states, Alexander Curry '20 had an extensive perspective of living in new places. "I would stay in Colorado if I got to choose between the 3 states I've lived in; I would say just overall it's a better state. I miss Omaha, but I'm starting to miss it less," Curry said. 3. Cason Vela '22 moved from Hawaii to Colorado. "I love the snow here and am happy to be living in Castle Rock," Vela said.



6. For Brian Larsen '19, relocating to Ireland gave him a chance to discover a new way of life. "I lived in Dublin Ireland for my mom's work and we lived there for 2 years," Larson said. 7. Living in the United States has given Puerto Rico native Enrique Mujica '20 a chance to play soccer at a more competitive level. "I feel like for my plan in life to play college soccer and possibly go pro, the opportunity is much bigger here than in Puerto Rico," Mujica said. "The soccer here is much better just because we are a baseball island so not many people share the same passion I do."

Photos by: Alyssa Wilde