

Look Closely

and get to know
ARIDA NIFASHA

Moving from her home in Africa, Arida Nifasha '20 begins new life with foster family
story/design by k. tiffany

Arida Nifasha '20 was only 6 years old when SHE MOVED FROM HER HOME BURUNDI, AFRICA to the United States. Nifasha was adopted along with her two brothers and her older sister and lived in Virginia for 12 years. Two years ago, her sister adopted and became her legal guardian, and the two moved to Colorado.

"Africa was a beautiful place. Even though we didn't have a lot of money, we still had everything we needed. One meal a day was good enough for us," *Nifasha said.* "When we were adopted by my foster mother, we knew our lives would change."

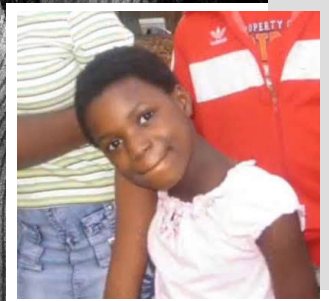
Nifasha's native language was Kirundi and she was fluent in English after one year of living in the U.S. when she was seven years old. Nifasha also faced the culture shock of moving countries. When Nifasha first came to America, everything was overwhelming and

different from Africa, according to Nifasha.

"It was very overwhelming. Everything was so different from the weather, to the places, to the food. The way people prepared food was also different because in Africa we cooked our food on wood over a fire," *Nifasha said.* "Here in America, you have ovens and microwaves and all of these appliances. Eventually I got used to everything and overcame the struggles of coming to a new country."

Since being in Colorado, Nifasha has taken advantage of her new education opportunities so she could make her family proud.

"I'm thankful for all of the opportunities I get in America, especially with school. I take education to heart. School is most important to me because where I used to live, education wasn't mandatory and the education system wasn't good at all," *Nifasha said.* "Being able to get an education here makes me want to work hard and be a success in life."



"THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE, THE DAY WE WERE BLESSED BY GOD, WAS WHEN ME AND MY BROTHERS AND SISTER WERE ADOPTED BY OUR FOSTER MOTHER AND ABLE TO COME TO AMERICA."

ARIDA NIFASHA '20



Shelby Adams
Girl's Soccer 9-12
Haven Adams-Dietrich
FFA 11-12, FCA 10-12, Link 11-12, Volleyball 9-11, Swim & Dive 11, Track & Field 11-12
Chase Addison
Sources of Strength 10-12, Link 12, Cross Country 9-12, Track & Field 9-12
Isaias Aguirre
Nayeli Aguirre

Alyssa Alarid
Emilee Albert
Payton Allee
Maddalyn Almen
Axel Alonso Valladares

Jayla Anaya
NHS 11-12, Girl's Soccer 9-10, Track & Field 11-12, Cross Country 12
Sydney Anderson
Wyatt Anderson
Daniela Andrade Rodriguez
Carlos Anguiano

Alexia Apodaca
Link 12, Softball 9-12
Alexa Archuleta
Band 9-12, Jazz I 11-12, NHS 11-12, Art Club 9-12, Link 11
Nolan Archuleta
Baseball 9-12, Football 9-11, Avid 9-12, Yearbook 11-12
Fatima Arellano Guzman
Luke Arguello

Maria Armenta Cisneros
Laney Arreola Tuttle
Sources of Strength 9-10, Girl's Soccer 10, Girl's Swimming 10-12, Colorado Mountain Bike League 9-12
Melanie Arteaga
Jose Avila
Shawn Bailey
Boy's Soccer 9-12

Hugo Barajas Bermudez
Isabella Barone
Newspaper 9-11, Girl's Volleyball 10-12, Girl's Diving 12
Vivianita Barrientos
Anahi Batrez
Ryan Battreal
Drama 9-12

Brandon Beilman
Berkay Bek
Nolan Bendure
NHS 11-12, DECA 11-12
Joseph Bernatow
Alejandro Betancourt-Aragon
Baseball 11-12