

RISE

aurora, colorado

OVERLAND HIGH SCHOOL

2020  
TRAIL  
vol 42



and still we

RISE

trail 2020



Special Instructions: Follow School's art for color placement. SPOT UV GLOSS THE WORD "RISE" AND ALL PHOTOS ON FRONT LID.

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Spine Size

JOB# 06510-000

School: Overland High School  
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 Grain None Emboss: None Deboss None Metallay: None  
 Die Cut None Laser Cut None Foil: None  
 UV Coating: UV GLOSS

06510-000  
 Date: Jan 16 2020  
 Artist: JZS  
 Plant: KC



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**ENDSHEET: IN CELEBRATION**, senior Kamare Hampton cheers after the football team made a touchdown. "My favorite moment this year was the game against Regis (during) which I made my career high in tackles," Hampton said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**HUDDLED WITH HER TEAM**, senior Mariah Perez meets with her teammates before a volleyball game. "The most fun part about volleyball is the bonds created during the season," Perez said. PHOTO BY CAM BARRER

**HOLDING A DRAGON**, senior Massery Soumahoro and junior Ozoda Lapasova represent Chinese club in the Homecoming parade. "My favorite part of the dragon is the body because it is very expressive in its movements," Soumahoro said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**SHOWING CLASS PRIDE**, sophomore Sarahy Jimenez stands during freshman orientation. "I was the only link leader in my class. I didn't know I was the only one so I just popped out confidently," Jimenez said. PHOTO BY CLUE VOZ

**HYPING UP THE CROWD**, senior Virginia Edwards waves a flag at the Homecoming game. "My favorite part was the band because they pump everyone up," Edwards said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**ABOVE HER HEAD**, senior Finn Beazer holds a sign cueing the audience to cheer at the fall play. "It helped the audience involved in the production," Beazer said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**WITH A SMILE**, senior Jaiden Cunningham takes a spirit bus selfie with elementary schoolers. "I think we are living in a time when kids are growing up really fast so I was trying to hype them up," Cunningham said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**COVER: POINTING TO THE SKY**, senior Tulga Basanjay celebrates a kickoff return. "I wanted to show my support and school spirit," Basanjay said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**SERVING THE BALL**, junior Reihan Abar leads the yearbook team in a volleyball competition at Rocky Mountain Journalism Camp. "Being the only hijabi at camp, I could tell some were shocked at my performance because of the stigma around hijabis not playing sports," Abar said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**BLAZING IN HAWK**, senior Jaden Driver helps pump up the crowd with the marching band during the Homecoming assembly. "I was shouting the Overland fight song," Driver said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**IN MID AIR**, senior Jahiem Roper and junior Kamare Hampton bump shoulders in excitement. "I was celebrating a touchdown with Kamari," Roper said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**ON STAGE**, sophomores Vincent Liebchen and Jovan Dalton hold up fellow cast member, junior Connor Spring, during the production of Love Rides the Rails. "The goofiness of it all will always hold a special place in my heart," Liebchen said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

**AFTER A WIN**, junior Sebastian Reyes celebrates by jumping on teammate junior Bogdan Malakhau's back. "I took my jersey off to show off my E-shirt and then Sebastian ran over to celebrate with me," Malakhau said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

and still we

# RISE



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Front ES



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Front ES



We went into the year with a lot of questions

about the new principal, **Ms. Aleshia Armour**, about her Motivational Mondays and Stay-Woke Wednesdays, and about what happened to the pedestrian bridge.

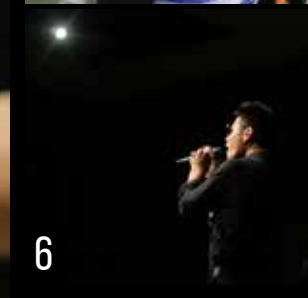
We slowed down for the new speed bumps on our way into the parking lot, and we got to know our new admin, coaches, and advisers.

Still we ask our parents to pick us up at the bridge even though there isn't one,

and still we **RISE** every morning, ready for anything, like **freshman Kierra Johnson** who makes sure her second-grade sister gets to school on time.

We adapt to the changes, and through pain we find strength, like **junior Amira Nash**, who cared for her father as he battled cancer,

and like **senior Kit Gamez Scriven** who learned to walk again after being paralyzed for three months.



1. GOING FOR THE SHOT, senior Joseph Editone III takes a touch shot against Grandview to bring the team within two. The varsity basketball team ultimately lost by three points. "This basketball season was fun and enlightening, although it didn't go the way many of us had planned," Editone said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA  
2. FILLED WITH JOY, junior Meream Camara participates in spirit week. Camara came up with her outfits the week the spirit days were announced. "I'd go home and think about all the stuff I have then, throw things together to see what fits," Camara said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE  
3. FLEXING IN HER JAMMIES, senior Abrianna Robinson stands at a basketball game. Robinson wore pajamas that she had since she was little for Wish Week. "They have always been super big on me," Robinson said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA  
4. RISING ABOVE, senior Wray Szenderski is lifted up during Chicago the musical. "It took some mental preparation and a couple practices to just not care if I was going to fall," Szenderski said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE  
5. AT LUNCH, senior Habiba Elamo dances for East Africa day. Elamo dressed up to showcase his heritage. "I love everything about my culture but my favorite [part] was our music, cultural clothing, [and] most importantly, our connected and caring community." PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE  
6. AT THE BAND CONCERT, senior Ezra Pohan sings a solo. Pohan was in band and choir. "I like singing because I've been doing it since I was a kid so I have a lot of experience with my voice and I love to share that talents with others by creating music." Pohan said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA  
7. YELLING IN SUPPORT, junior Soad Mackawi cheers on the football team during a blackout. Mackawi attended all the football games to support the school. "It's important to show school spirit because our team performs better when they have support," Mackawi said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

and still we

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Special Instructions												



# RISE

Did the changes break us?  
Did we give up when it got hard?

We overcome the unthinkable like **senior Rifat Emam** who moved from Sudan with his single mother, struggled to learn English, and will attend Stanford in the fall,

and still we **RISE** like **senior Zachary Gerstner** who qualified for All-State Band at the University of Northern Colorado.

We take pride in our culture like **sophomore Rediet Petros** who greeted us in Amharic on the morning announcements during Black History Month,

and we give back to our community like **senior Wesley Shwarz**, whose 400 service hours helped him earn a Congressional award from Representative Jason Crow.

With each new challenge we're reminded of who we are,

and we **RISE**

1. UP IN THE AIR, sophomore Jack Laustsen attempts an Ollie. "I skate because it is my safe place. It keeps me calm and makes me happy," Laustsen said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

opening  
04 DIVISION  
page by editorial staff

Job # 06510 School Overland High School

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We made TikToks in StuCo like **junior Christina Ho**, and we shared WWIII memes to start off the new year.

We accepted dares from **junior Riko Swindal's** YouTube channel, and we debated waves vs. curls with **senior Elias Jemal**.

We adjusted to the green hall passes, and looked forward to hearing **"It's a great day to be a Blazer"** in more languages than we knew existed.

Even with all the changes, we kept the traditions that define us.

Still we clap between "O-Town" chants as we jump off the spirit bus at each feeder school during Homecoming week,

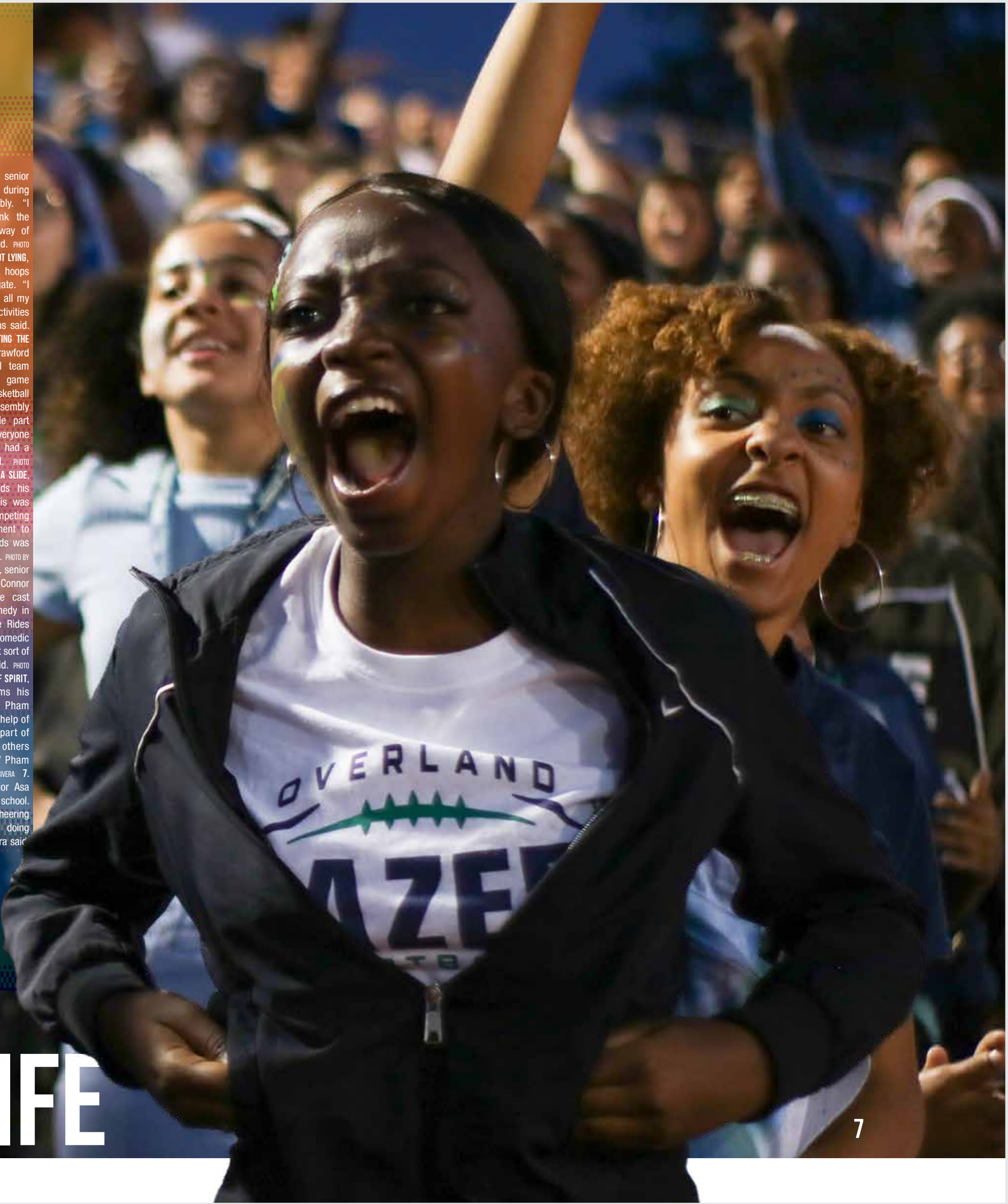
and still we give during **Miracle Minute** to raise money for Destene's Quinceañera.

Still we walk to get fries like **freshman Kalum Harris**, who offers some to his classmates as he strolls into 3B English right on time.

We don't follow the crowd, We **RISE** above it.



1. MOVING AND GROOVING, senior Rachel McMillan dances during the homecoming assembly. "I love Overland and I think the assemblies are a great way of showing it," McMillan said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 2. HIPS NOT LYING, senior Anika Williams hula hoops at the homecoming tailgate. "I just went to have fun with all my friends and do all the activities they had planned," Williams said. PHOTO BY SAJA KHALED 3. CELEBRATING THE THREE, sophomore Aaliyah Crawford cheers on the basketball team during the Wish Week game against CT. Although the basketball team won 90-55, "The assembly was the most memorable part of Wish Week because everyone accepted Destene and we had a good time," Crawford said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 4. WITH A SLIDE, senior Sekou Souare ends his Mr. OHS performance. This was Souare's second year competing in Mr. OHS. "The excitement to compete with all my friends was just amazing," Souare said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 5. DURING THE FALL PLAY, senior Asher Wolf hits junior Connor Spring with a cane. The cast incorporated slapstick comedy in their performance of Love Rides the Rails. "I searched up comedic villains to help emulate that sort of character better," Wolf said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 6. FULL OF SPIRIT, junior Hai Pham performs his stand up comedy skit. Pham prepared his act with the help of his mother. "My favorite part of Mr. OHS was to see how others can express themselves," Pham said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 7. EMITTING BLAZER PRIDE, junior Asa Diawara screams for her school. "We hype people up by cheering with the cheerleaders or doing cheers of our own," Diawara said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA



# STUDENT LIFE

student life  
06 DIVISION  
page by editorial staff

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Did we hide in shame from imperfections? Did we turn a blind eye to hate?

We fight against injustice by creating clubs like **Racial Equity** to make school more inclusive and **Students United for Immigrant Rights** to protect our own.

and still we pursue our passions like **senior Jaiden Cunningham** who performed in front of 5,000 people at the Bellco.

Still we work towards a better future for all like  **juniors Grace Jargba** and **Saron Eguale** who qualified for **HOSA** nationals with their project to end period poverty in Liberia,

and we come together by inviting the audience to join us as we sing **Silent Night** at the candlelit **Winter Choir Concert**.

We face conflict head on, because we know that together we come out on top.

# CLUBS



1. **FORK IN HAND**, freshman Eric Ta eats ramen during Chinese club. Ta also took Chinese in eighth grade. "We get to know more about Chinese food instead of all the generic stuff portrayed from places like Panda Express," Ta said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA  
 2. **COMING TOGETHER**, senior Anab Omar and Rofaida Elmezughi participate in planning for culture week and Overland's own African-American history month celebration. Omar and Elmezughi both said Overland is a great place for Muslim students. "The Muslim community here is pretty big and that makes me feel safe and comfortable," Elmezughi said. PHOTO BY SAJA KHALED  
 3. **AT DEN BOTANIC GARDENS**, freshman Rubi Guzmán teaches people how to make paper flowers. Guzmán volunteered at a Day of the Dead event with SUFIR and Spanish Club. "I felt happy, I felt that I was helping the community," Guzmán said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA  
 4. **READY TO MAKE HIS MOVE**, senior Zinedine Boumghar snacks on some Cheetos while focusing on his next move against his opponent. "I focus more on creating weaknesses to take down my opponent," Boumghar said.  
 5. **JAMMING OUT**, Mr. Steve Helfant plays his guitar. Helfant was an English teacher who became the guitar club sponsor after his son taught him to play. "Watching my nine year old son pick up so fast, I was like, 'dude, teach me,'" Helfant said. PHOTO BY ALFONSO GALICIA DELGADO  
 6. **MASK ON**, sophomore Ivan Jimenez uses a welding torch. "I'm putting metal together, basically gluing it," Jimenez said. PHOTO BY ALFONSO GALICIA DELGADO  
 7. **PERFORMING HER SOLO**, junior Febriany Pohan plays the saxophone. Pohan also plays the piano and violin. "Band is like an escape to me; I have so much fun playing my instrument, and I enjoy coming to band to play with other musicians," Pohan said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

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We could have given in to defeat when **boys varsity soccer** missed the playoffs by a crushing 3-3 tie.

We could have been intimidated when **freshman Cassidy Bell** and the rest of **girls swim** went up against teams four times their size.

We could have given up when the Coronavirus cancelled spring sports before many teams even played their first game.

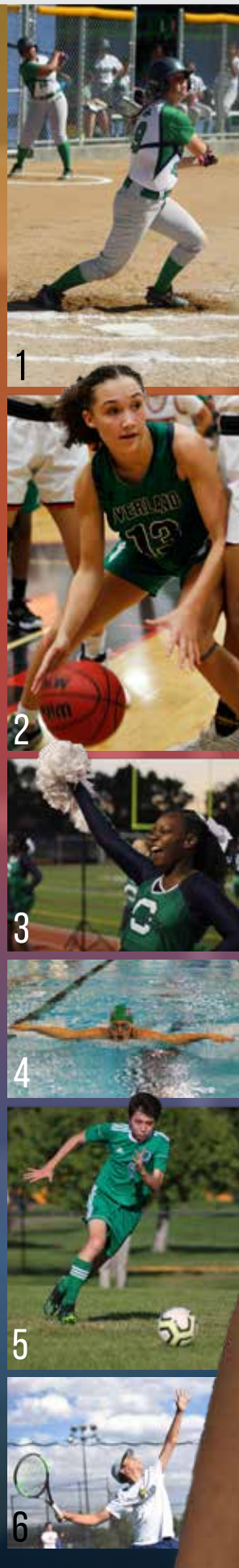
Instead, we **RISE** like **senior Graham Ike**, who tore his ACL the third basketball game of the season, but still showed up to support his team in the playoffs.

Still we push through the pain like **junior Eleef Atwi** who returned to track after a year off due to shin splints.

and still we challenge stereotypes like **freshman Vianca Mendoza**, the second girl on the wrestling team.

Give us any hurdle, and we **RISE** above it every time.

1. AT THE BOX, senior Eden Worden watches the ball after batting. Worden wore two belts, green and blue, every home game for good luck. "When I go up to bat, I am thinking about 100 different things, but mostly about getting a good hit that can help my team score," Worden said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 2. DRIVING TO THE POST, junior Anjane Prescott drills through Eaglecrest opponents. "When I'm not on the court, I am thinking about how I can adjust to the defense to score and I watch what aspects the other team lacks," Prescott said. PHOTO BY ALFONSO GALICA DELGADO 3. PUMPING UP THE CROWD, junior Nessiah Hayes Dawson cheers with teammates. "Being around the other cheerleaders really helps calm my nerves," Hayes Dawson said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 4. TAKING A BREATH, junior Kaelani Miller competes in the 200 I.M.. "I feel like the weight of all my problems is lifted when I swim, it's a stress reliever and all that matters at that time is to swim," Miller said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 5. FOCUSED ON THE BALL, junior Komil Khatamov moves down the field. Khatamov prayed before every game. "Self improvement always motivates me on the field to do better and try my best no matter what," Khatamov said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 6. PERFECTING HIS SERVE, sophomore Badreddin Messaudi practices his technique before his match. Messaudi said that confidence was the most important tool for success. "My goal is to put the ball in the box. It doesn't need to be fast or neat," Messaudi said. PHOTO BY CAM RAMIREZ 7. AFTER A WIN, senior Hassan Al Izzi reaches for a high five from Coach Ben Harrison. Al Izzi danced after every basket he made. "Hassan is always a crowd favorite,"



# ATHLETICS

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Does it come as a surprise that we put in the work? That our teachers stay late to host study sessions, and upperclassmen tutor peers during their offs?

When a snow day cancelled the PSAT, we worked harder to prepare for the real thing like **junior Minatallah Ahmed**, who dedicated two evenings a week to study with her Blue Sky SAT tutor.

We brave the cadaver lab for **Ms. Mills's** anatomy and physiology class, and we create catapults in physics.

and still we achieve like **seniors Brandon Baggett** and **Isabella Livits**, whose names will be added to the banner in the West gym after earning perfect ACT scores, and like **sophomore Scooter Thomas**, the only sophomore in A.P. Calculus.

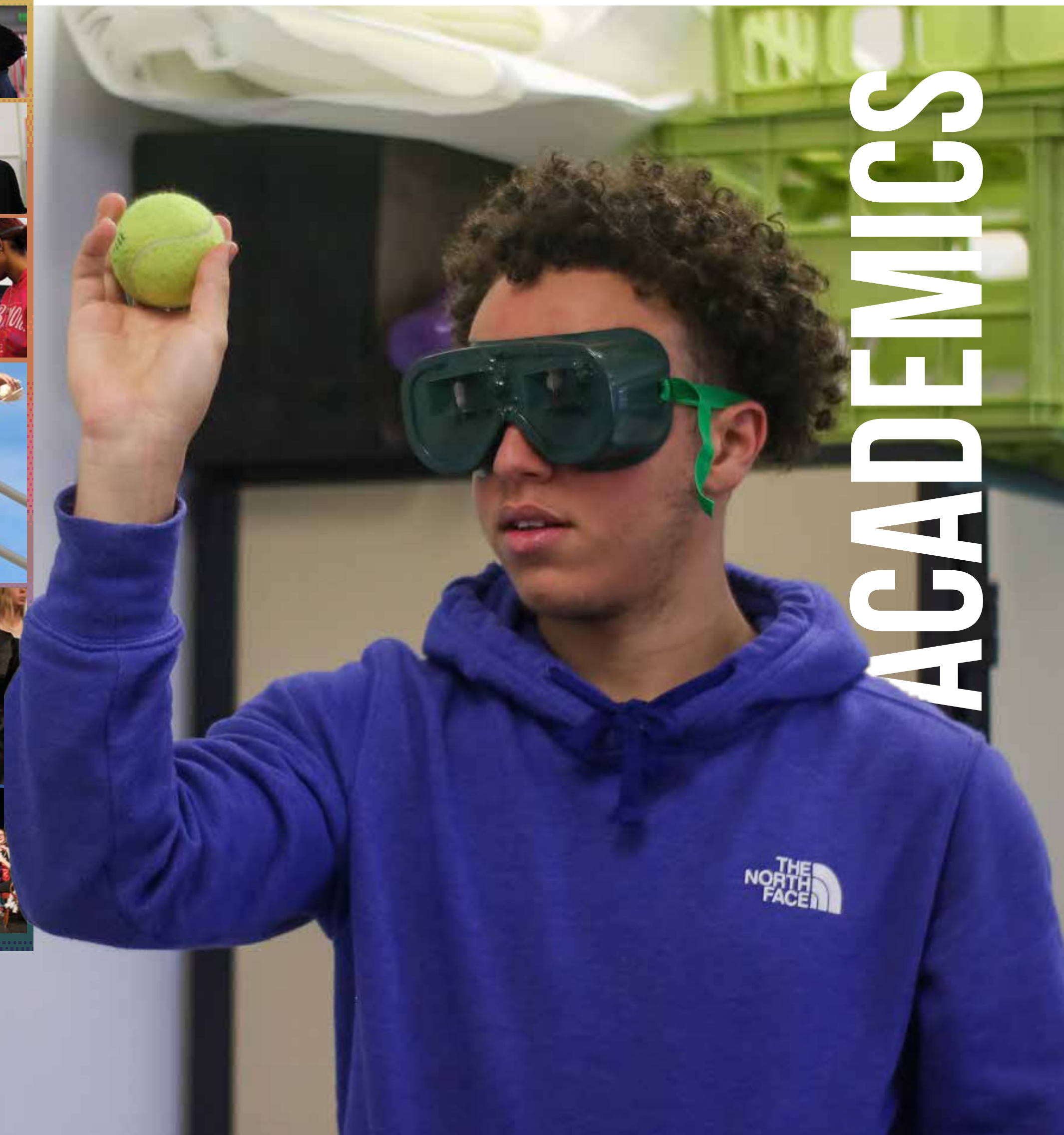
We find our voices like our ten state finalists in the Poetry Out Loud competition.

And we stand out and like **freshman Amilya Peji** whose photography helped us win the most Gold Keys in the state.

Our knowledge **RISES** beyond the confines of any classroom.



1. **DRAWING HAIR**, freshman Diego Valenzuela celebrates a surprise birthday party for his fellow classmate by playing Draw the Hair on Mr. Sense. "I kind of liked drawing over the teacher's face... since he's bald, I was drawing a hair line for him," Valenzuela said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 2. **PREPARING FOR THE SHOW**, senior Travis Deane admires the fake fire. Deane said the role of stage manager took a different mindset when he acted. "Once I had to act, I switched over from serious to funny," Deane said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 3. **DISSECTING THE BRAIN**, senior Michal Barton slices into a sheep brain. "It was fun to actually see inside because it's so similar to the human brain," Barton said. PHOTO BY ALFONSO GALICIA DELGADO 4. **HOLDING THE EGG**, junior Jacob Albright tests to see if his project withstands impact in the 200IM. "We started with a very circular object without knowing the impact, next time we would definitely change our priorities to allow it to survive," Albright said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 5. **BELTING OUT A NOTE**, senior Shivonne Kelly sings for the choir concert. "We prepare for concerts by thoroughly combing through our pieces of music and paying attention to every detail, to make sure that sounds beautiful," Kelly said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 6. **UNWRAPPING GIFTS**, senior Amberlee Gibson laughs with her friends as they perform. Gibson said that the performance was exciting but nerve-racking. "The hardest part of the skit shows are trying to come up with ideas that will be enjoyable for the audience and enjoyable to act in," Gibson said. PHOTO MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 7. **FOCUSED ON HIS THROW**, senior Anis Benyoucef throws the ball in AP Psychology. The lab was meant to give the experience of having visual impairments. "The distortion glasses make you think that everything is to the left when in reality, the basket is right in front of you... it really makes you appreciate your sight," Benyoucef said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA



# ACADEMICS

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academics  
104 DIVISION  
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It didn't take 21 performances at **Culture Night** to know that we've always been an international school; We just claim it now.

We are the hopes and dreams of our families, so we push ourselves to make their sacrifices worth it.

Still we support family-owned shops by drinking boba with friends at Wonder Tea and Bean Tree Coffee.

and still we rep our own designs like **senior Jasmine Harrell-Delaney** who modeled fashion club's dress down the runway at the Denver Paper Fashion Show,

and like **juniors Osman Gutierrez** and **Alamin Albadani** with homemade "Yee Yee" stickers on back of their trucks.

And we flex our food like **sophomore Hadjar Righi** because snap always eats first.

We don't need to be the same to lift each other up.

# PEOPLE



7



1. MIXING IT UP, senior Sami Poche stirs ingredients together in the cooking classroom. "Cooking is the only thing that has ever come easy to me," Poche said. PHOTO BY CAM RAMIREZ



2. HOLDING AN AMERICAN FLAG, senior Stephanie Sika waits for veterans to arrive at the Veterans Day celebration. "Veterans are important to celebrate because they go out and fight for us when we are just living our day to day lives," Sika said. PHOTO BY SAJIA KHALED



3. CHECKING OUT THE SCENERY, junior William Patterson takes a virtual tour of the Great Wall of China during Culture Week. "It was originally a defensive wall that would be able to provide defenses until the rest of the Chinese army would reach the wall," Patterson said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE



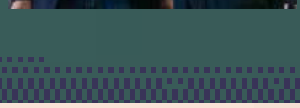
4. FEELING THE ENERGY, senior Camwrin Harris and junior Leslie Koffi cheer at a basketball game. "I love how everyone gets along all because of the guys that put in work on the court," Koffi said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA



5. RIDING THE WAVE, senior Alonso Renteria crowd surfs at the Wish Week assembly. "With it being senior year and all, I thought it would be a fun way to close our last Wish Week," Renteria said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA



6. WITH REPRESENTATIVE JASON CROW, senior Wesley Schwartz accepts a silver medal Congressional Award. The award is given for having 400 hours of community service. "Sometimes it can feel like we are really disconnected from our politicians, so it was really exciting to meet the guy who's helping enact change," Schwartz said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA



7. ADJUSTING HER LENSE, senior Monse Davila photographs a statue while on a field trip. "During the field trip, I learned that art can be found anywhere, even in the smallest places," Davila said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA



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- Gym: 110, 112, 122, 124
- Health Sciences: 126
- ILC: 108
- Math: 106, 118
- Performing Arts: 110, 114, 120, 126
- Science: 112, 118
- Social Studies: 110, 114, 122
- Technology: 106, 108, 118, 124
- Visual Arts: 106, 116, 120

# REFERENCE



1. DURING UNITY WEEK, freshman Luisita Reyes makes paper flowers. The lunch activities brought students to make crafts. "They are really beautiful and I feel like it brings people together," Reyes said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 2. FRENCH FRY IN HAND, junior Adnan Brakmic critiques his food with junior Gabriel Meza at the Food Truck Frenzy. Superintendent Scott Siegfried paid for all students to get free meals for lunch. "They were a really smart thing and everybody liked them," Meza said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 3. PREPARING FOR FINALS, sophomore Collis Vasquez laughs at Cram Fest. "Cram Feast actually helped me a lot because it let me get my last minute work done. And really saved my grade," Vasquez said. PHOTO BY ELLIE VICE 4. AT VILLAGE EAST, junior Michael Sitorus reads Danny and the Dinosaur during NHS's annual Read Across America event. "It made kids get inspired to do something to read or at least be excited for high school," Sitorus said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 5. ATTENDING THE FOOD TRUCK RALLY, junior Ana Hurtado grabs shaved ice. "I decided to go to the snow cone one because I was really craving one and I haven't had one in so long so I thought it would be a good idea," Hurtado said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 6. PULLING TISSUE PAPER, junior Katie Escobar makes flowers at Spanish Club's lunch event at Unity Week. "I think unity week is important because it shows all these amazing cultures we have in our building," Escobar said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA 7. KICKING HER LEG, sophomore Madison Manning performs When Velma Takes the Stand. "I'm an alto two which is the lowest voice range for a girl but the role of Velma required a belter and I spent a lot of time working on my voice in order to hit the notes for the show," Manning said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

Special Instructions

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WORK ORDER

4

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WORK ORDER

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We couldn't have guessed we'd be outside for an hour and a half after a suspicious odor caused us to evacuate.

We couldn't have known how hard it would be to say goodbye to our favorite security guard.

We couldn't have predicted all of the anxieties that came with the COVID-19 pandemic that cut our year short.

But here's what separates us from other schools —

we don't shy away from what's hard; we overcome the unthinkable,

and still we **RISE** every morning, ready for anything.

and still we **RISE**



1. AFTER WEEKS OF PRACTICE, Natassia Campbell performs a step routine at the Wish Week assembly. It was the step team's first performance. "It's really fun and thriving and we gave it a lot of culture," Campbell said. PHOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVERA

Special Instructions

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Special Instructions

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