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.

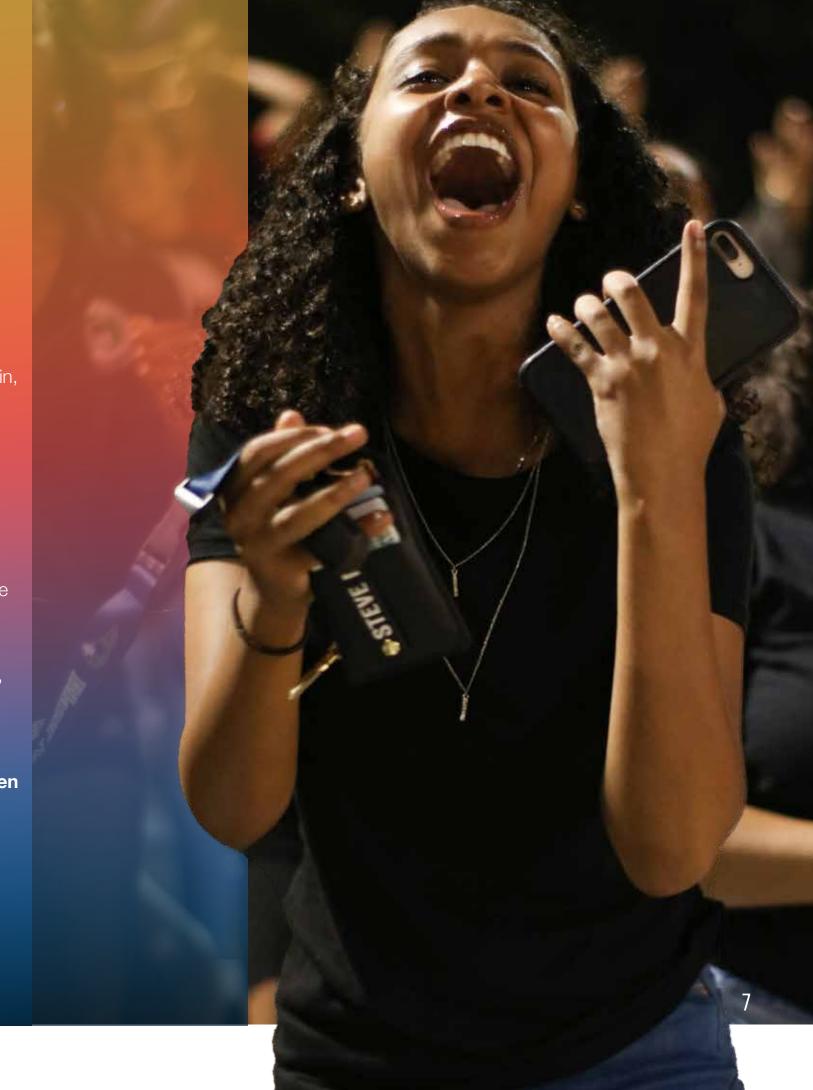
Still we ask our parents to pick us up at the bridge even though there isn't one,

and still we **RISE**

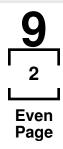
every morning, ready for anything, like **freshman Kierra Johnson** who makes sure her second-grade sister gets to school on time.

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.







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and still we

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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 Reprentative Jason Crow.

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

and we **RISE**

LUP IN IHE AIK, sopnomore Jack Laustsen attempts an Ollie."I skate because it is my safe place. It keeps me calm and makes me happy, Laustsen said. PHOTOBY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVER/

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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,

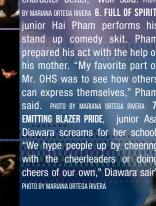
and still we give during Miracle Minute to raise money for Destene's Quinceañera.

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.



	V
ve RISE above it.	



STUDENT LIFE

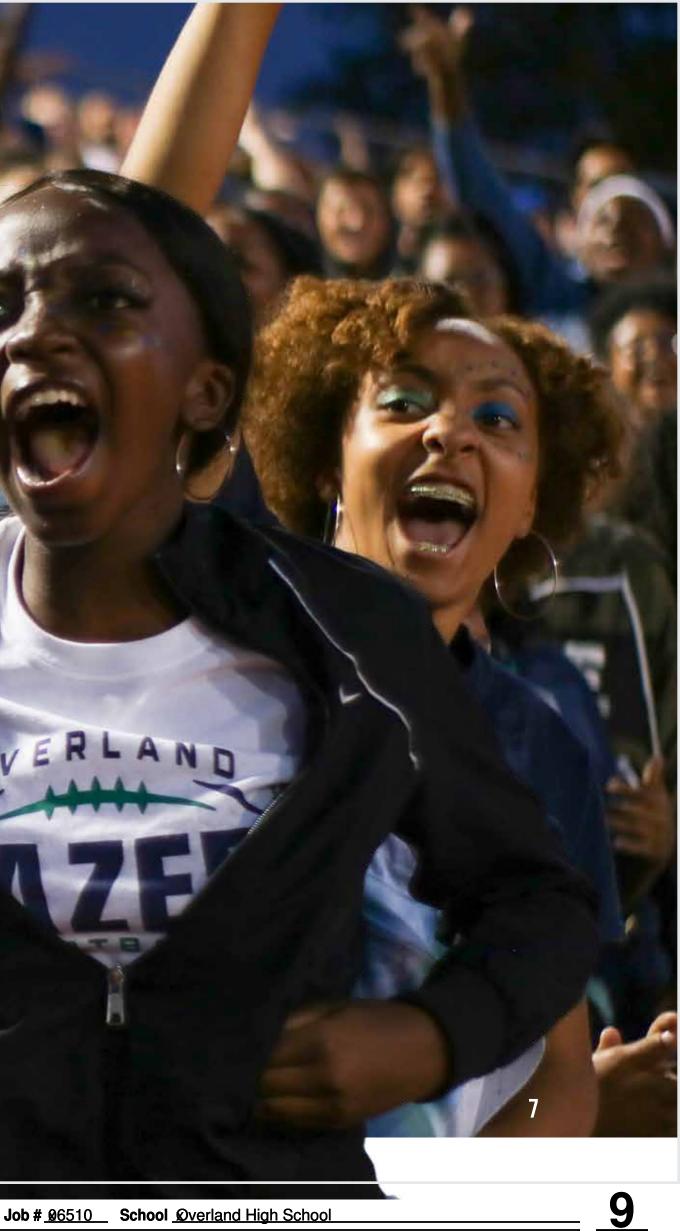
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Odd Page Did we hide in shame from imperfections? Did we turn a blind eye to hate?

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 **38 DIVISION** page by editorial



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FORK IN HAND s ramen during Chinese clu th SUFIR and lub. "I felt happy, I felt i lelfant plays his quitar me the quitar club sponso after his son taught him to play Vatching my nine year old son **D** pick up so fast, I was like, 'dude, ach me,'" Helfant said. PHOT FONSO GALICIA DEL GADO 6. MASK ON. phomore 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. HOTO BY MARIANA ORTEGA RIVER

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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.

athletics 62 DIVISION

4 TAKING A RREATE he 200 I.M. "I feel like th nt of all my problems is lifte swim, it's a str ess reliev d all that matters at that time is ICE 5. FOCUSED ON THE BALL. JUDIO nov moves down the praved before **PERFECTING HIS SERVE**, sop eddin Messaudi practices ue before his match said that confidence was the most important tool fo success. "My goal is to put the ball in the box. It doesn't need to be fast or neat," Messa said. Photo by CAM RAMIREZ 7. AFTER A NIN, senior Hassan Al Izzi reache for a high five from Coach Be lzzi danced aft

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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.

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. DRAWING HAIR, freshman Diego 'alenzuela celebrates a surprise irthday party for his fellow	WHOA NITED			
lassmate by playing Draw the lair on Mr. Sense. "I kind of liked irawing over the teacher's face	2			
ince he's bald, I was drawing a lair line for him," Valenzuela said. HOTO BY ELLIE VICE 2. PREPARING FOR THE				
HOW, senior Travis Deane admires he fake fire. Deane said the role f stage manager took a different				
nindset when he acted. "Once I ad to act, I switched over from erious to funny," Deane said. PHOTO	3			
Y ELLE VICE 3. DISSECTING THE BRAIN, enior Michal Barton slices into a heep brain. "It was fun to actually		.	1	
ee inside because it's so similar o the human brain," Barton said. HOTO BY ALFONSO GALICIA DELGADO 4. HOLDING			The second second	
HE EGG, junior Jacob Albright tests o see if his project withstands mpact in the 2001M. "We	The		120	
tarted with a very circular object vithout knowing the impact, ext time we would definitely			8	
hange our priorities to allow it o survive," Albright said. PHOTO BY LLE VICE 5. BELTING OUT A NOTE, senior	個バケート			
hivonne Kelly sings for the choir oncert. "We prepare for concerts y thoroughly combing through	4			
ur pieces of music and paying ttention to every detail, to make ure that sounds beautiful," Kelly		No. Contraction		
aid. PHOTO BY ELLE VICE 6. UNWRAPPING IFTS, senior Amberlee Gibson aughs with her friends as they				
erform. Gibson said that the erformance was exciting but erve-racking. "The hardest				
art of the skit shows are rying to come up with ideas hat will be enjoyable for the				
udience and enjoyable to act n," Gibson said. PHOTO MARIANA ORTEGA VERA 7. FOCUSED ON HIS THROW, s enior	0		R	
nis Benyoucef throws the ball n AP Psychology. The lab was neant to give the experience of	1000			
aving visual impairments. "The listortion glasses make you think hat everything is to the left when				
n reality, the basket is right in ront of you it really makes you ppreciate your sight," Benyoucef				
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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.

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A 7. ADJUSTING HER LENSE,

tue while on a field trip. "[



people 128 DIVISION page by editorial staff

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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.

Still

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