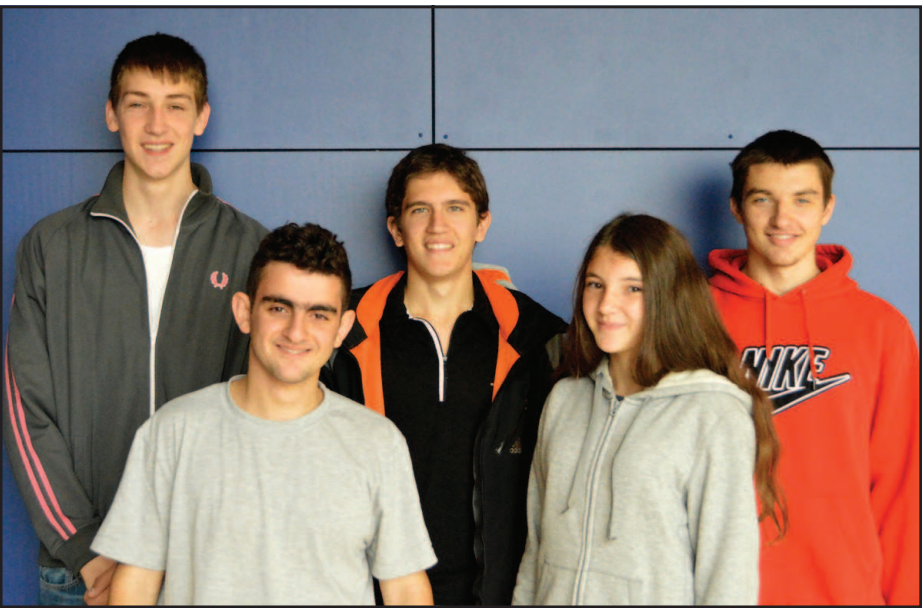


Meet the Exchange Students

Vernonia High School has nineteen foreign exchange students this year. Each year at the start of the school year *Vernonia's Voice* takes time to meet with these students, welcome them to our community and introduce them to our readers. Please meet our second group of exchange students.

Anastasia Mihalcuic is a senior from Moldova who is living with the Nailon family. This is Anastasia's first time traveling outside her country. Anastasia says she likes Vernonia because it is not a big city. She says it is very beautiful here with beautiful views. She says the people are very nice and very helpful. Anastasia says her favorite American food is waffles. She is running cross country this fall and may run track in the spring. Anastasia says after her year in Vernonia she will return and finish one more year in her school in Moldova and then she plans to study abroad.

Anton Yakovenko is from Moscow, Russia. He is staying with the Beamish family and is a senior. Anton says this is the first time he has been outside of the Russian border. Anton is running cross country this fall and will play basketball in the winter and run track in the spring. Anton will return to finish his final grade at his Russian school then he will try to attend university in America or in Russia. Anton says he likes Vernonia because it is very quiet here compared to Moscow. He says he enjoys being in nature and likes all the trees and mountains. He says he also like the people here. "They are so



Julius Haake , Shavarsh "Archi" Muradyan , Anton Yakovenko, Anastasia Mihalcuic and Alex Plaschevici.

lovely. You won't have any problems at all." He says his favorite food is pizza-- "Everyone likes it!"

Shavarsh "Archi" Muradyan is living with the Dave and Diane Benes family. He is a senior and is from Armenia. Archi says he has never traveled before. He is playing football this fall and will wrestle in the winter. He will play golf in the spring. Archi says he likes all the foods in America, his favorites are taco soup and nachos. Archi says he will return to finish his studies in Armenia and then he would like to return to go to college in the U.S. and study banking or business and also train for sports. Archi says he likes Vernonia because it has a very similar landscape to his home state in Armenia. He says the people of Vernonia are very friendly and are very clever and smart. He likes that everyone here knows each other and help each other.

Alex Plaschevici is staying with Shelley Hennesy and Joe Fennell. Alex is a senior from Chisinau, the capital city of Moldova. He says he has traveled to Russia, Romania, and Ukraine. Alex is playing football this fall and plans to play basketball in the winter and baseball in the spring. Alex says his favorite American food is tacos. Alex says he likes Vernonia because everyone knows each other and knows the families

they are staying with. Alex says he will return home to finish school and then hopes that he can return to the United States to go to college.

Julius Haake is from the city of Bremen, Germany. A senior, Julius is living with the Cheney family. Julius says he has been to the United States twice before, once to New York and another time to Florida. He has also traveled around Europe visiting Spain, France, England and the Czech Republic. Julius says he likes Vernonia because it is a small village and you get to know people very quickly. Julius is playing football this fall and will play basketball in the winter. When asked his favorite American food, he says he likes Reese's Pieces. Julius says he will return to Germany to complete two more years of schooling and then plans to go to university either in Germany or America.

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