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Abby Hansen  
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Jessica Harder  
Madelynn Hardy



francis  
bourges



Sitting in the library with headphones on, tapping his fingers to the beat. Cracking a joke to his friends, which makes them laugh so hard they're practically crying. Playing violin until his fingers feel as if they're falling off. Jumping hurdles on the track until he's drenched in sweat. Meet Francis Bourges.

"Francis is hilarious," Yeshuwa Hicks '16 said. "We became friends back in the day, and now he's one of my best friends."

Born in Maryland, Bourges remembers spending most of his time as a child doing outdoor activities.

"I started playing soccer when I was little and always played it outside with my friends," he said.

But when he finished first grade, his family moved halfway across the country to Iowa, where the rest of his relatives live.

"We thought it would be better to be closer to most of our family, and I am a family man," he said.

Once he got to Iowa, Bourges quit soccer and tried out new things, like the electric guitar and violin.

"I started playing the electric guitar in second grade and was looking for something else to do around fourth grade," he said.

"When they gave us the option to join orchestra, I thought it was a good idea, and all my friends were joining, too."

He grew to like the violin and began to focus on orchestra.

"I like the pieces we play and I like playing," Bourges said. "But I don't enjoy playing the same thing over and over again. It gets repetitive and boring."

Sports offer a nice contrast to music for Bourges. Starting at Northwest Junior High, he joined the track team in the spring and tried hurdles for the first time.

"I didn't start taking it serious until the end of sophomore year, because I hate losing," Bourges said. "I like working out and wanted to accomplish something [in high school]."

In high school, he took a shot at football, playing cornerback.

"I didn't want to graduate thinking 'What if I went out for football? It could've been fun,' " he said. "I didn't want to miss out on an experience that I would never get again."

Athletics entered his life at a young age because of his family.

"Everyone in my family did or does some kind of sport, and if you don't do anything, they'll make fun of me," he said.

As track season rolls around, he plans to make another appearance at the State meet in Des Moines.

"State is a lot of fun," he said. "We get to spend the weekend with our friends, hang out and miss school."

"Hurdling at State is more nerve-racking but [it's] a really big accomplishment that I'm proud of."

—By Ally Bauer

seniors

158 people

159

9

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