Wrestler Olivia Lukash finds out that her biggest win is from the wrestling community.

weet. The whistle blows, and freshman Olivia Lukash immediately goes into her beginning stance with confidence and a look of determination in her eyes. She is ready for her first wrestling match ever.

The idea to join the wrestling team came from Lukash's curious attitude towards wrestling and her yearning to try something different.

"I just wanted to step out of my comfort zone and try something new," Lukash said.

Although wrestling is, at least historically, thought of as a more male-dominated sport, Lukash never felt out of place.

"All the guys are very inclusive and don't tend to look down on you because you're female," Lukash said. "As long The people and environment Lukash has a message for as you do the work, they will treat you the same." very safe place that has a

Lukash notes that wrestling close community." isn't the same rigorous and **OLIVIA LUKASH** rough sport that it is portrayed as. She says there is a soft side on the team that determination and are willing to commit to it, makes them excited to go to practice every day. This community has helped her prepare for fun."

the first of many wrestling competitions in her high school career.

"The people and environment are my favorite part," Lukash said. "It's a very safe place that has a close community."

are my favorite part, it's a all people considering joining wrestling.

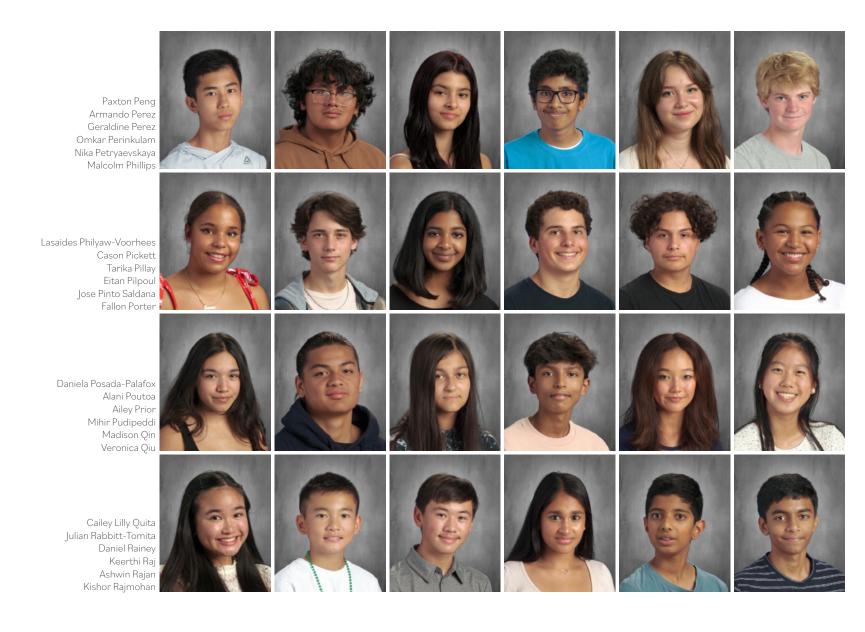
"I definitely would [recommend wrestling]," Lukash said. "If you have the

it's a great place to be and is super uplifting and



Olivia Lukash goes head to head with her opponent from (far left, bottom) THE STARTING SECONDS Olivia Lukash focuses on her game moves as the match begins \*What always helped ne was reminding nyself there was most ely going into their first year of wrestling, Lukash said. right) **GETTING** OME ADVICE Olivia lukash listens to her coaches before her upcoming match. "My coach would always eassure me that Í was strong and could do vhat I needed to win,' Lukash said.

IN THE GAME





freshmen 120 people