

From Turkey to Portland

Change comes naturally with life, it just depends on how people handle it and the situations they're thrown into. In the case of Rashid, he was 13 years old when he had to leave his native Turkey and move to the United States because of his father's work.

Rashid remembers his life in Turkey as calm and comfortable. The family lived near Ankara, where he went to school and spent time with friends. He also enjoyed watching TV and playing video games. Rashid's family included parents, and his younger brother and sister.

The family did not struggle financially; there was little family or school drama. When her learned of his family's upcoming move to America, Rashid had very mixed feelings about leaving from all he had ever known. He knew some English, but not enough to be considered fluent. The thought of being dropped in a new country frightened him and he knew he would probably never see his friends in Turkey again.

When the time to move actually arrived, Rashid was as excited as he was nervous. His family settled in Portland where Rashid was placed into Cedar Park Middle School. Soon after that her got placed into a AVID. Rashid felt like he was acclimating well to the new social and cultural climate.

After a year or two in America, Rashid had a group of friends, was close as close as ever with his family, and had academic success.

Asked how he felt about about what would have happened if his family had stayed in Turkey, Rashid responded by saying he is glad that his family moved over to America, because if they hadn't he wouldn't have been the person he is now. He is grateful for the opportunities, connections, and skills he has found, and wouldn't trade that for any other version.