

# Hijabs represent religion, race and style

By Jess Hess and Ari Houston

While some Perry students express their personality through mom jeans and turtlenecks, others, like the Syrian and Congolese refugees, mostly their faith, but a bit of fashion.

**"If I were to just take it off or something, I'd feel weird"**

- Rayan Anbarji

A hijab is a veil that covers a Muslim woman's hair and frames her face. Hijabs are the most common headscarves worn in western countries, but there are also three other types; a niqab, a chador and a burqa.

Although many Muslims choose to wear the veils, some like junior **Annie Bambang**.

"For me personally, my dad raised me not as strict as other Muslims such as praying five times a day, and he says it's my choice to

wear a hijab," she says. "I do wear a hijab on the Muslim holidays such as Eid al Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, because it's blatantly disrespectful to walk into a mosque on a sacred holiday with your hair showing."

Senior **Rayan Anbarji**'s hijab represents who she is "because I had a choice to wear it. [For] a lot of girls, we have a choice."

Anbarji first lived in Syria as a little girl before moving to Egypt then, after living in Egypt for four years, she moved to America. She started wearing her hijab when she was 13, and has worn it since. "If I were to just take it off or something, I'd feel weird," said Anbarji.

Much like other types of clothing, there's a plentiful variety of options, and the way a girl chooses to style themselves is a means of self expression. Anbarji herself wears a black hijab, simply because she likes it and the black

hijab matches the rest of her clothing.

Both girls agreed most Muslim women view it as a way to express their culture, style, and their conservation of modesty.

Anbarji mentioned, "many people who see the hijabs as oppressive are non-educated to the Muslim faith or simply don't want to wear it."

"We believe that our body is a big gift for us and we can't just show it to anyone. We take it off in front of our cousins and our families, and of course when we get married," Anbarji remarked.

Although having to adjust to the different cultural style of America Anbarji and Bambang have never faced discrimination at Perry Meridian. Even EL teacher Kelly Harmon says "I have seen my students experience a great deal of acceptance from their peers and community in recent years."



Senior Rayan Anbarji models her all black hijab. Anbarji has been wearing hijabs since she was 13 (Photo by Alexis Lee).

## How to tie a hijab



### Step 1:

First drape one-fourth of the headscarf on top of the head. The other three-fourths should hang off of the head to the other side of the body.



### Step 2:

Pinch the scarf together underneath the chin, then pin the pinched portion of the scarf together to keep the hijab in place.



### Step 3:

Flip the three-fourths portion of the headscarf across the other shoulder then pin the side of the scarf to the side of the head by the ear.



### Step 4:

Tuck the remaining portions underneath another layer of clothing, the hijab ready to wear.

Model: Senior Ari Houston