

Meet Danny



Danny used to get straight A's. After 6th grade his grades steadily began to slip. Things really took a turn when he started high school. He started the year off strong, but then became overwhelmed by school and life. This led to Danny not seeing school as a priority. It also put a strain on his relationship with his mom. He just couldn't get on the right track.

After freshman year, Danny transferred to Colorado High School Charter (CHSC), but he continued to take school for granted and wasn't earning any credits. Then all of a sudden something changed. He started going to church more, got involved with music, and joined the basketball team. He also began working with Julissa, a CYC Student Advocate at CHSC. He has made a real connection with Julissa, he says "she helps me a lot. She motivates me and gives me that extra push throughout the day.

Talking to Danny is easy. Though he's been through a lot, he's an open book. His love of music really developed through CHSC's partnership with [Youth on Record](#) (YOR). Danny explains that when you're making music with YOR, you can't swear or say bad things about females. He says "I think it's great that you have to be respectful with your music. It's also helped me expand my vocabulary and get better at writing.

Everything has changed for Danny. He believes in himself. When asked if his goal is to graduate he says, "Ya, I *have* to graduate." Now Danny is passing every class and maintaining an 89 percent attendance rate. Julissa says "Danny's done a complete 360. His teachers tell me not only how well he's doing in school, but how happy he is now." His math teacher told Julissa "He's actually smiling when he walks into class."

When Danny's mom was able to come to parent night for the first time and hear all the amazing things everyone has to say about Danny, she became emotional. Danny's relationship with his mom has changed for the better. Julissa said "It's been such a great experience to be a part of Danny's journey and see him grow and show people he's not who they defined him as. Even though he's had a rough past, that isn't who he is. He just needed an extra push and for somebody to say 'you need to make a change.'" Danny jumped in and said with a smile "I was always capable of doing the work."



When asked if he would change anything if he were to do it all over again, Danny said “Absolutely I would. I wouldn’t smoke and I would concentrate on my school work all year instead of just the first few weeks.” After he receives his diploma, Danny would love to go to college for music and learn all the different aspects of the music industry.