

## Meet Monique

Transitioning to high school from middle school is hard. It doesn't matter who you are. While Monique had a lot of her friends make the transition with her, walking into a school with over a thousand students was overwhelming. She felt lost and scared. There was so much homework and finding a silent place to study at home with her mom, dad, 3 siblings and her niece was difficult. Monique also got sucked into the "fun" of ditching class, it seemed like everyone was doing it so why not. She started failing a couple of her classes and she didn't know what to do; overwhelmed from getting so behind left her feeling helpless. She couldn't see a way out.



Monique started working with Emily, a CYC Educational Intervention Specialist, and slowly started to turn things around. When Emily and Monique started working together, Emily didn't even bring up grades because the instant they were mentioned Monique shutdown. The second semester of her freshman year, her goal was to pass all her classes. She worked hard and began to gain faith in her ability to do her work. She met her goal and passed all her classes.

Now in her sophomore year, Monique even checks her grades on her own. Monique says "last year, the thought of wasting my lunch time to do homework was crazy to me, but now I pretty much do homework during lunch every day. I care about my grades." Monique and Emily beam with pride as they announce that Monique has no missing assignments, great attendance and all Bs and As. She stays after school every day to get her homework done. She also joined student council last year and while she was hesitant at first, she loves it now. It pushed her to make new friends and has made her involved with her school in many different ways. She loves her school now! Her favorite class this year is Biology. Her goal is to attend college at Colorado University. When asked who she wants to make proud, she says "my mom." Emily says "it's been so amazing to watch Monique grow. I'm so proud of her and it's so great to be able to see her relax and have fun in high school while staying on top of her grades and her attendance."