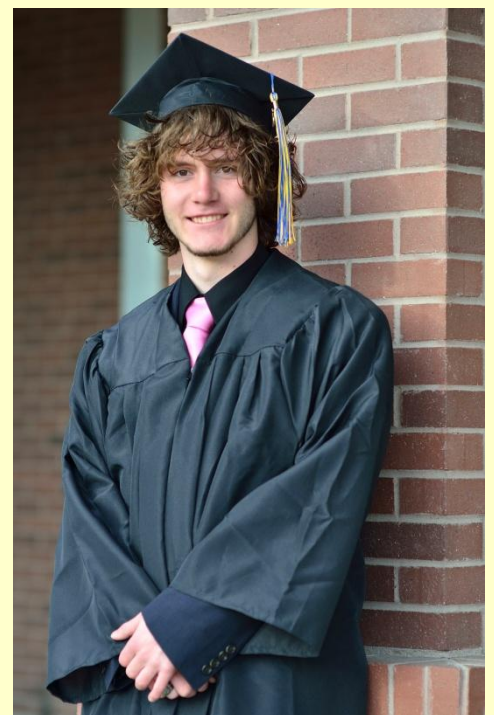


MY LIFE AT ITINERIS

Itineris

By Cory Ortiz

My time at Itineris is the best time of my life, a time that has really shaped who I am. I started school Copper Hills High School, a public school just west of Itineris. At that school, I was involved in track and field, cross country, and many clubs. I had a couple friends I associated with every day I was one out of about 2,500 students. At Copper Hills, I took average classes and pulled off a 3.5 GPA. The choice of coming to Itineris and following in my brother's footsteps was not an easy choice. I knew I was going to have to give up all of the sports I was involved in and probably most of my friends. I came to one of the information nights then submitted my application without looking back after a bad experience with one of my teachers at Copper Hills. Little did I know, I was signing up for a school that was going to change my life.



Itineris starts up at the Beginning of your junior year with something called Success Camp. This is a two - day introduction to what it will take to pass at Itineris. The course load for junior year is a tough one. The classes I was taking consisted of General Biology I, AP US history, Chemistry, English, and Biotechnology 1010. My second semester, I even decided to take a night class and a Saturday class so I could free up my summer. All together this made for a rough year. The first real shocker about how different Itineris came, which was typical, with the first biotechnology exam. I was not exactly prepared for my first exam, along with the rest of the school. We failed miserably. This came as a wakeup call for what a real college class is like. After this exam, however, I found myself adjusting to the more in depth class load. My friends and I made large study groups which became an essential part of my time here at Itineris.

Because of the dynamic schedule of Itineris, people are able to go out for lunch or study for a couple hours during the day. This time became essential to me for relaxing time or cramming in some last minute homework. I always enjoyed spending my time in the middle of the day outside, if the weather was nice or at a coffee shop getting to know someone in a more intimate way. This always has helped me to relax. Spending a little time each day relaxing made the day easier and the next class less stressful.



I found myself associating with people from Itineris who cared about their education which is something I did not have at Copper Hills. I also have become good friends with a lot of the faculty and staff of Itineris. This has helped me further my intellectual understanding. I was one of those kids at public school who did nothing but skate by and play sports because I felt like I was just a number. I seldom did homework or study. I really didn't have much care for what was coming for my future. My GPA went from a 3.5 to a 3.7 switching schools. This is incredible because, realistically, my grades should have dropped with more difficult classes. At Itineris, I felt like more than a number to the staff. I believe, because of my choice to attend Itineris, I am a more rounded, college ready, student. The people who came into my life because of Itineris are friends who I know I am going to have for life. They aren't the type of people from Copper Hills who were friends while they needed something.