

Kevin Aguas

Interview: Edwin Rangel

My name is Edwin Rangel I am 16 and I go to century high school.

Were you and your family born in the untied states, or did you migrate here from another country?

Well I was born in the United States but my parents emigrated from Mexico and from Mexico City.

What was your family situation before migrating to the United States?

My father lived in a poor family and worked at a very young age and had very little education. My mom lived in a middle class family was educated and worked less.

How did your parents meet?

Well they met after they had moved to the United States

what prompted you to come to the U.S?

Well my parents came for better job opportunities a better life more freedom better opportunities for their kids

what do you mean by job opportunities?

Well in Mexico my mom worked as a secretary in the United States she works cleaning building offices and she gets paid more as a janitor then she did as a secretary.

Why did you and your family decide to move to Hillsboro?

We decided to move to Hillsboro because my mom's relatives lived here and they told us there were a lot of job opportunities for a better life.

How does your family emphasize education? Did they support it?

Yeah they did because they grew up knowing how it is to have a bad education having to work at a young age so they taught me and my younger brother everyday that we needed to study hard and do really good in school because they don't want us to have the same life as them.

How do you feel about that?

Well I feel its true because my father and his brothers would always tell me stories about how they wanted to go to school and they never had the chance because they had to work at a young age and I feel its true so I try hard.

What are your feelings towards the school system in the Hillsboro school district?

Well from my parents point of view they tell me that in Mexico they learned a lot of stuff that we learned about in high school and over there they learn it at a very young age. And over there they are a lot more stricter on education if our luck enough to get an education over there.

Describe your first experiences with the school in the united states

Well the first time I went to school I was put in an all Hispanic class all the subjects were taught in Spanish the teacher was Hispanic. And all the kids were Mexicans.

Did they put any emphasis on teaching the kids English?

Yeah they did there was a point in the class where they would try to teach us some English. Once they knew that you enough English they would transfer you to a English class for a couple of days and they would check if your doing good and if you are they would leave you in there.

How did you feel being segregated from the other kids?

Well it felt weird because whenever we go to out to recess or something most of the Hispanic kids in class would usually hang out be together and all the other kids, Americans kids would have their own groups and we usually wouldn't have any contact with each other

Did it feel awkward being placed in an all Hispanic class?

Sometimes but if they notice that your starting to pick up English or you know a lot of stuff in English you could survive in an English class they would send you to an English class for about 30 minutes each day and see if you interact with all the other kids or if you participate and finally they would stick us in that class.

By English class do you mean English as a subject, or and all English speaking class?

Yeah I do

How comfortable do you feel at school today?

I feel pretty comfortable I'm involved with athletics I have a few advanced classes.

Do you feel any drive to succeed in high school?

Yes my parents tell me everyday to do better because they don't want me to have the same life and I feel the same way because I don't want to have to work as a kid or have my kids work as kids so I do. And I believe education is the key to success in today's society.

Were you involved in ESL and if so how were you involved

I was in ESL from elementary to the beginning of 8th grade and I've had English ESL, ESL social studies ESL math and in every ESL class I had I was the top student and after a while I was transferred I was taken out of ESL for sure and ESL got me ready for more English type classes

How do you feel about being in ESL and not being put in regular classes?

Well sometimes I felt like they were trying to tell me that I'm not good enough or that I'm not smart enough so that just made me want to try harder.