

Hello! My name is Schekina (sha-keen-uh) I'm a Gaithersburg High school class of 2024 alumni. I've been in the sneakers program since 6th grade with Mrs. Isabella Wise and transitioned into SNEAKERS with Mrs. Deb Lopez in high school.

SNEAKERS was a home and safe place that I needed in school, I struggled a lot with advocating for myself, creating boundaries, sustaining healthy relationships and self esteem issues before I started sneakers, having these two people in my life showed me how to properly advocate for myself, how to love myself and how to be safe and see signs in people that aren't healthy. I was able to confide in my instructors when I was going through mental health struggles, when I was struggling with my self esteem. I left high school not only with straight A's with the support of my instructor, they pushed me to do my absolute best in anything and everything I did at school, they showed me the true beauty in education. I left Gaithersburg high school and SNEAKERS feeling confident, strong and motivated to start my education at Loyola University Maryland. I currently work at an eye doctor and I'm able to interact with patients and be the best version of myself with total and utter confidence and joy. The things I learned in SNEAKERS aren't just things that are silly and small. They were life experiences and lessons I needed to be taught and I'm so happy I had Mrs. Isabella and Mrs. Deb to do that.