

Hello My name is Danny Perez,

I am a senior at Godwin Heights High School, I have been in Godwin for almost 10 years. My story is pretty deep, and in order to tell it I'll just have to go through my whole shoe.

The top front: I have a Mexican and American flag, The black line in the middle represents the border and it separating me from from my parents. I placed the two flags for a reason because I am a proud Mexican American son of 2 immigrants.

The inside: I put my graduating year (2018) because I am going to be the first in my family to graduate high school. To me this means a lot and I as an individual, every morning I look forward to the day of graduation, May 23rd, 2018.

On the side: You see the Chicago flag. I was born in Elgin Illinois and moved to Michigan when I was in the 2nd grade. My dad needed to find a better job and the only option was us moving to a new state or moving somewhere that had family. And so we moved to Grand Rapids. I take so much pride in all of my flags.

On the back: I placed the rainbow colors/flag for gay (LGBTQ) pride. Slowly I have been coming out to a lot of people about my sexuality and it has been hard to do it. But knowing the meaning of the flag and the different meaning of the colors themselves is beautiful. As of coming out to different people everyone responds differently, some say cool, or some don't care, and there's always one person who questions it. Being gay is not something you decide to be one day when you wake up, being gay is something you are naturally born with. Now a days people ask me, are you only gay because it's popular or because you just want to be gay?

The other side: This was supposed to be a flower kind of thing that I have seen a lot. I have two main reasons on why I placed it on my shoe. One because every single flower has a different meaning to it and I love anything that has meanings. Second because the flower means, friendship, hope, strength, and independence.

All of the white spots: I left my shoe half unpainted because my life continues and my story does as well. The 17 years I have been living could already fill a book. My story is long and emotional, only close friends and family usually get to hear, but today I invite you to consider The story of Danny Perez.