

Syrena Lea Chowanski

I was born into chaos. June 14th, 2001 is the date of my birth and not even three months later was 9/11. I was not a very loud child and I did not grow up around many kids my age; except my little sister born fifteen months later. I had my learning streaks and moment of stumbling like any child. I love games, and puzzles that allowed me to problem-solve on my own. I have a huge loving family that participates in all my events and activities and supports me in all I do while growing up. Now, as a high school student at Carson High School enjoying opportunities that my parents and my education have provided me. I am pretty sure that I am the sole product of my nurturing. Everything in my life has influenced me into what I am today.

As mentioned earlier, I have a huge family between both sides. My dad's name is Byran, my mother's name is Hope and I have a younger sister named Lindsay. My sister and I are not twins; although we look and act very much alike we clearly have our differences. My parent's families believe the saying "it takes a village to raise a child" really does come true. From them, I learned how to be social and to be careful/considerate of what I do and say. The hardest thing of being apart of a large family is how one-minded it can be. In 2013 my parents almost went through a divorce, my dearest friend and drum instructor died, and our family dog and cat, both died within that year.

I learned to educate myself quickly, causing my determined nature now, because I did not grow up with kids my age: not in my family nor my neighborhood other than my little sister. I remember my father telling me the story of how I surprised everyone with my knowledge. When my sister and I would get into trouble he would set us on the steps and lecture us on what and why we did wrong. I learned that if I said "okay," to what he said, I could leave and continue playing. My mother caught on, but my sister and my dad did not. My mom told dad what I was doing and dad did not believe her; so, he did his thing where he would set us up on the steps and sure enough, I did what mom said I would do and Dad was dumbfounded. I was four or five years old. This story stuck with me and is what I contribute to my quick wit.

That story has stuck with me as my problem-solving skills and determination still pertain throughout my life. It contributes to my dreams as I get older. Right now, my short-term goal is to complete high school with an honors diploma, fine arts endorsement, and associates degree. This I will accomplish since I was able to be apart of the Jump Start Program at Carson High School; which allows me to take college classes for college credit the same time I am receiving high school credits. Then I plan on applying to the University of Reno and majoring in Music Education to become a band director of my own classroom one day. I want to teach others as so many great teachers have taught me.

I believe that I am solely the product of nurture since every step I have ever taken and every opportunity I have ever gotten was influenced and made possible by family and friends around me. Especially my mom who goes out of her way to make sure I have everything I ever need. She keeps track of everyone's lives to make sure everyone has everything. She goes to every event I have ever participated in, she is the one I confide in, and best of all she is the one I love most. She is who I look up to: I want to be a wonderful and successful person just like her one day and her guidance has made everything possible for my little sister and I today. I do not doubt that the things I do are influenced by her. From her nurturing ways, I believe I became the stubborn, independent woman I am today.

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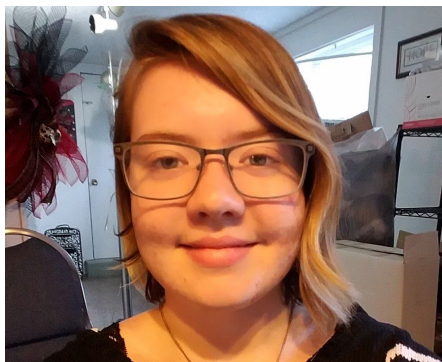
- Born: June 14th, 2001
- Parents: Bryan and Hope Chowanski
- Sibling: Lindsay Chowanski

This Picture was taken roughly July or August 2001 consisting of just my father, my mother, and I.



This photo is taken of my parents, my little sister, and I; it was taken at my Uncle Mike's wedding in 2017.

This is a picture of my boyfriend, Nathan, and I at the gun range; it was taken in August 2016.



This is what I look like presently; taken in November 2018.