

# Dayton Dragons MVP: An Educational Success Story

**A game plan and good coaching gave this student what it took to be an MVP.**



As the final stepping stone before middle school, fifth grade is widely acknowledged to be one of the toughest years in a child's academic development.

In the fall of his fifth grade year at Northridge Elementary, MVP Brian Cruz was one of those students who struggled. In fact, Brian's struggles even had his mother contemplating leaving her job to help him get back on track.

Just like any good MVP, however, Brian made a change to get out of his slump. He forced himself to study every day after school, and he noticed his grades start to turn around. With each improvement, Brian strived for more. By the end of the year, he was a model student in Ms. Clay's class and he made the Honor Roll.



*This MVP made some changes and broke out of his slump in a big way.*

"He just decided one day that he wanted to make it happen," Ms. Clay said. "So he stepped up and did it. He's grown up a lot over the course of this year."

In addition to improving his performance and attitude in the classroom, Brian's mother noticed some remarkable changes at home, as well.



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"He never used to like to study," his mother said. "When he started to get good grades, though, he only wanted to study more. Now he's on the Honor Roll and he only wants straight A's. He comes home every day and studies now. I couldn't be more proud of him."

***The Dayton Dragons MVP Program is made possible courtesy of The Turner Foundation.***