

Dayton Dragons MVP: An Educational Success Story



**Instead of adding to the teacher's workload,
this MVP actually takes it away**

It's not often that a teacher gets a student in class who actually reduces their workload. With Dragons MVP student Danyale McLean, however, that's exactly what happened.

Danyale is not your typical fourth grader at Simon Kenton Elementary in Springfield. She's actually more of a teacher's aide. You see, Danyale was born with a teacher's spirit. In addition to her own studies, you can always find her helping other students in Ms. Churchward's class.

"The teachers need help because there are a lot of students in my class," Danyale said. "If one of the other students doesn't get something, I'll go try to help them understand it. I think it's good to help other people. It feels good to have people depend on you."

Danyale's assistance and mature-beyond-her-years attitude has definitely been noticed by her teacher and those who surround her.

"She loves to help others who might not be as gifted as she is," Ms. Churchward said of Danyale, "and she offers her help in such a sweet way. I can trust her to help teach the students instead of just giving them the answer."

"It's always great to have additional help in the classroom, so it's nice to have someone as dependable as Danyale. Having her around has freed me up to give more attention to the students who need more of my time."

In addition to helping out her classmates, Danyale has also helped those in her school and community. She's part of a first grade tutoring program and helped her class make blankets for a senior living community nearby.

"The MVP Program is great because it allows me to recognize great kids like Danyale," Mrs. Churchward said. "It feels great to be able to give attention and rewards to good kids."



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