

Daniel Baptist – Nativity School Lighting the Way – Saint Xavier High School

How do I affect people? That is a question I try to ask myself right before I go to bed at night. I want to have a positive effect in people's lives. I am not trying to sound morbid, but when I die I want people to remember as a good person who affected their lives in a positive way. So, I try my best every single day to do that. Anywhere I am, whether that is in school, athletics, or anywhere else, I, Daniel Baptist, with the best of my capabilities affect people positively.

Firstly, I think I do a lot to make a good impact in people's lives at school. In school I do my best to be kind. That is subconsciously my goal every time I go to school. Things I do to try to achieve this goal, include opening doors for people, greeting people in the morning, and helping people whenever I can. I actually remember the time I held the door for about ten minutes straight on a winter morning. In regards to the students that I attend school with, I do my best to set a good example. I behave well in class, try my hardest in class, and respect all. Also, I try to make friends with everyone I can, because everyone deserves to have a friend. This behavior also goes along with how I treat the staff. I do all that I just stated. In addition, I occasionally say, "good morning," "thank you" and "have a great day" to teachers after class. I even talk about things outside of school with some teachers, like basketball, my favorite sport. I really think it makes the teachers happy to know they have a good relationship with a student even outside of school. This is how I affect people's lives positively at school.

Secondly, I make a good effect on people when I am doing sports. At basketball and football I try my best to high five everyone at games and practices. I always perform my hardest whenever I play and practice. I intend for others to look at me and follow suit. When someone makes a mistake and is feeling down about themselves, I try to pick them up. I just try to make their mistake not feel as big as they think it is, tell them there is always a next time, and to just try their hardest. Also, whenever a player goes down, whether they are on my team or not, I always rush to pick them up. I do so, because this is what I want them to do for me if I were in their situation.

Lastly, I affect people everywhere else I go. Sometimes I do stuff for random strangers outside, like holding the door for them or asking how they are doing. Whenever someone asks me how I am doing, I respond and then ask them how *they* are doing. Sometimes, I think people don't really engage themselves with others like they should. I always try to make others feel important whenever I speak to them. I know the world isn't all about me. There are more than seven billion people who are just as important as me. So, I try to make them feel like they are. Also, during the summer I planted gardens for people at a Christian camp with other teenagers. I had a great time knowing what we were doing was going to positively affect people. In addition, I had an awesome time making new friends and trying to help them have a good time. At home I

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try my best to listen to my parents and do what they say. I do chores, actively participate in extracurriculars, watch over my younger family members, and perform well in school. I do all this to affect people the best way I know how, so that I make a difference in their lives.

In conclusion, I want to say I truly believe I have done many things to positively have an effect in people's lives in school, during sports, and everywhere else. I just try to have an optimistic attitude and joyful personality whenever I do this. However, I think I could still do more. I could say, "thank you" to teachers every time after class and not just sometimes, because they give me my very precious education. Also, I could volunteer at St. Vincent DePaul on Thursdays for my school. During charity events, such as can food drives I could have a better effort in collecting more for the needy. To summarize, I have done a lot to positively affect people's lives, but I strive to do more. Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to receive the 2016 Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship.