

From the Principal's Desk:

Working in the middle school is similar to panning for gold. I panned for gold once and was quite disappointed when I spent a long period of time sifting through the debris, but never found a nugget. I did find a tiny flake that I could barely find again once it was placed in a tiny glass jar. Panning for gold takes hard work and time. It requires patience, faithfulness, and a never-give-up attitude.

When working with this age group one has to sift through the debris. The debris consists of all the "stuff" that middle schoolers go through: physical changes, a desire to please their friends, testing the boundaries, figuring out what kind of person they want to be, changes in friendships (sometimes daily), self-consciousness, etc.

The flakes are glimpses of what we hope our children will become: intelligent, responsible, caring adults who desire to follow Christ. We see the flakes at different times in a student's life: completing homework without being told, saying "thank you," admitting a mistake, thinking of someone else's need, speaking to you as a friend, realizing a flaw then attempting to change, doing something simply because it is the right thing to do, or taking the initiative to have a quiet time with the Lord.

It is easy to focus on all the dirt and rocks, but then we will never find the gold. The gold is there, but it needs to be uncovered. That is what the middle school years are all about: sifting through the debris, finding the gold, and beginning the molding process. Not too many people are prepared or willing to invest so much time to sift out the flakes.

Our middle school teachers are prepared for the challenge. They love middle school students. They love them by teaching them, laughing with them, discussing topics with them, and, yes, even disciplining them and holding them accountable. They are good at sifting through the debris because they have a passion to see their students become what God has intended them to be. We want to help bring out the gold in the students' lives.

Scott Prohaska