

Career

***"When you love what you do you
will never work a day in your life"
Confucius!***

The career dimension of your child's development is probably at times the hardest and at other times the easiest. What makes a student's career path difficult according to the latest research is that every 5-8 years technology impacts our societal work force and thousands of new jobs are created and thousands are outdated. A student can enter high school with an idea and goal of pursuing a specific job path only to see that job eliminated upon graduation from college 8 years later. As a guidance department, we focus on the individual student, helping them evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. We then expose them to multiple career paths. The focus, therefore, is based not just on a specific skills but many skills that can translate and transfer to numerous career paths.

Obviously not every middle school student will have a career chosen during these adolescent years, but exposure is extremely important. Each child has his or her own personal skill set that defines him or her as a person and as he or she develops those skills during academic experiences, they begin to create a path that is congruent to their skills. However, students sometimes have difficulty identifying their skill sets. As a parent, you may need to encourage or provide opportunities that will enhance specific skills.

This is easiest when you as a parents watch your child develop and you notice the areas of strength and then you provide opportunities for your child to have specific experiences that nurture those areas of strength. During these experiences, hopefully your child personalizes those strengths and pursues all the career opportunities that correlate to them. Keep in mind that these are the years for experimenting with many different options. The opportunities now will help your child make a wise and definitive choice later.

Be careful as a parent not to force a child into a career path that they don't enjoy. That does not mean don't force them to work because they don't like a certain job. Remember we all worked at minimum wage at some point in our lives, and those jobs were not great monetarily but they taught us a lot about life and work. Creating opportunities for your child to work will provide them with valuable experiences that can be instrumental in acquiring a job later in life.