

Middle School

FROM THE Middle School Principal

MRS. IVA NELL RHEA



Mrs. Ivey's Pre-AP eighth grade English class practiced revising in a real-life context. They didn't know it at the time, but Mrs. Rhea had provided a draft of her article for the CONNECTION magazine for them to edit. They used their study of effective sentence structures and word choice, made notes, and then submitted their proposed article changes. They were quick to share suggestions and surprised to meet the author.



Building Warriors

Building is difficult work. The initial stage is catching a vision of the finished product, being able to see in one's mind's eye what that addition will actually look like. Next comes the difficult task of turning the vision into reality. Maybe the job takes longer than expected, possibly it costs more than planned, conceivably the final product looks a little different than envisioned.



The task of building a warrior is not unlike building a new home office. However, the vision of the finished product must belong to God. As teachers, it is our mission to catch God's unique vision and then to communicate that vision to the child that we love. Ephesians 2:20-21 reminds believers that Jesus is the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord (NASB). It is important to pray for God's vision for every child that walks upon the CCS campus. We can lose God's perspective in the busyness of the classroom and can easily equate a student with his or her performance on a math test or history project. Seeing a child just as God does is critical to building a warrior.

The qualities of a warrior are not quickly or easily achieved. For middle school students, the ideal of accepting Christ's call to action can be identified through holding a student accountable for the way he or she welcomes new students in class or for speaking up when someone in the hall gossips or suggests cheating on homework. The warrior quality of improving and working to strengthen abilities is built by consistent effort in each classroom and on the court or field. Young teens discover those areas that they love by trying new classes and activities. Meeting challenges with determination is required of a warrior. Developing perseverance grows from encouragement and support as middle school students work through age-appropriate assignments and circumstances that stretch them beyond their comfort zone. Finally, a young warrior-in-training must strive to move past failure and press forward. Teachers extend a hand, lifting up a middle schooler who has stumbled and needs to hear that the race is far from over and can still be won.

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To be in the warrior-training business requires those who recognize the eternal value of a warrior and who are aiming for that prize themselves. Middle school teachers need a full tool kit and the blueprint of God's Word before them daily as they seek to build the qualities of a warrior into the lives of the precious students who walk the halls of CCS each day.