

## **Principal's Message**

Welcome to Westisle. You and your child are about to embark on the final leg of your public school journey. Your years at Westisle will prove to be some of the most exciting and life altering to date and we are pleased to be traveling along with you on this journey. Times are changing and the demands are put on students today are quite different than those of a few years ago. Careful planning and a good relationship between the home and school can certainly make your child's stay at Westisle enjoyable. We look forward to getting to know you and your child.

As noted above, times are changing. While a few years ago high school marked the end of formal education for most, today a good high school education is merely a starting point, a springboard into further, more specialized study. Because educational demands have changed so drastically over the past number of years, it is vital that high school courses are chosen carefully, keeping options open while at the same time allowing students to take advantages of all that Westisle has to offer. This balance may seem hard to achieve at times but with some good advice the process should run smoothly.

Success in high school requires some thoughtful planning and commitment. Hard work and regular attendance are a must. Researchers have noted that the most important thing parents/guardians can do for their child's education is to take an active interest in their child's schooling. When parents are involved in student's education, the children do better in school. When we show interest in our children they respond in kind.

It is important that parents help students to choose the appropriate courses. All high school students must choose their courses with their futures in mind. Even courses chosen for the grade 10 year should reflect future goals. We are not saying that students need to know exactly what they want to be in the future but a general idea of this will help to keep options open. You are encouraged to choose courses that will offer a challenge to the students but will not be so difficult that the student will not have success. Please take into careful consideration the recommendations of the teachers and counselors. The grade 9 teachers take their recommendations seriously and want your child to be successful at Westisle. Please consider their suggestions seriously. As well, keep in mind that Westisle is a composite school offering extensive vocational, technical, and business, as well as an academic program.

We know that you will consider this information when helping your child with their course selection. If you are unsure about anything, please feel free to contact your child's school or us here at Westisle. Working together is the key to success so feel welcome to contact us during this process and for the remainder of the school year.

Charles Murphy  
Principal