April 2, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Ontario Ministry of Education has recently released a career development policy for Ontario students titled ***Creating Pathways to Success.*** This policy involves “*the implementation of a comprehensive Kindergarten to Grade 12 education and career/life program designed to help students achieve their goals.*” It is based on the understanding that education and career/life planning is a lifelong process that requires all learners to be flexible and able to adapt to changes in themselves and in the world around them. This policy document recognizes the need to place a greater emphasis on students developing knowledge and skills in this area from an early age and throughout their school experience.

***Creating Pathways to Success*** puts students at the centre of their own learning, viewing them as the architects of their own lives. The Waterloo Regional District School Board is initiating this policy in grades 7 and 8 classes during the 2014-2015 school year. Students will be provided with opportunities to document their learning in education and career/life planning in a web-based portfolio titled, *“Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)”.* Throughout the year, students will be encouraged to add artifacts (e.g., pictures/video/audio of student work, links to blogs/websites/Google Drive) and reflections about their learning. Students use four guiding inquiry questions, (***Who Am I?, What are my opportunities?, Who do I want to become?, What is my plan for achieving my goals?*)** to structure their portfolio.

Students will continue to build their digital portfolio as they move through the grades towards their postsecondary destination. Ongoing development of the IPP also provides students with a valuable archive of their learning that can support students in selecting the courses and programs they need to complete secondary school and move on to their postsecondary destination.

Opportunities will be provided for students to **review and share evidence of their learning** at **least twice a year** with their teachers and/or guidance teacher and, where possible, with their parents.

Please encourage your child to reflect on their strengths and interests and document their learning using the Individual Pathways Plan. You may take the opportunity to review your child’s IPP with them by accessing it through <https://myway.wrdsb.ca/> . Students click on “My Portfolio” and log in using the user name and password they normally use for school computers.

We appreciate your active support as students reflect on their strengths and goals, and contribute ideas about the important, ongoing process of career/life planning.

*If you have any questions, please contact Lynda Morris, our guidance counsellor, at the school.*