

# CHOOSING *my* SUCCESS!

## OVERVIEW FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES



### FOCUSING OUR DIRECTION

*for intentional transition  
planning to secondary school*

“Education directly influences students’ life chances and outcomes.”  
—Ontario Ministry Of Education

**“WHEN STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO DESIGN AND PLAN THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY ARE ENGAGED, THEY ACHIEVE AND THEY FIND THEMSELVES APPLYING THEIR LEARNING IN THEIR DAILY LIVES.”**

—*Creating Pathways to Success*, 2013

**“What students believe about themselves and their opportunities... significantly influence the choices students make and the degree to which they achieve their goals.”**

—*Creating Pathways to Success*, 2013

**“75% of all teens say their parents influence the decisions they make.”**

—*Teens Can Be Resilient in High School*, 2016

**“...every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of ancestry, culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, physical and intellectual ability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or other factors.”**

—*Achieving Excellence*, 2014

THE WHY

# CHOOSING *my* SUCCESS!

- When students are at the centre of their own learning, they view themselves as architects of their own lives.
- All students are encouraged to balance personal dreams with realistic assessment of skills, interests and values in choosing future programs.
- Self-knowledge is key to this decision making process.
- Students need ongoing support to learn how to make informed, responsible and appropriate choices that will help them progress successfully through secondary school and beyond.
- Students need program pathways that are clearly aligned with their strengths and learning styles.
- By making careful and evidence-informed choices, students will see their future program as viable and credible, enabling them to achieve educational goals that align with their life goals.
- A successful pathway plan provides focus, holds out the prospect of success, develops workplace-specific skills and gives students hope for their future.

*Adapted from Building Pathways to Success 7–12, 2003*

*Adapted from Creating Pathways to Success, 2013*



## CORE STUDENT SUCCESS BELIEFS

All students can be successful

Success comes in many forms

There are many pathways to success

# THE WHAT



## OUR DDSB COMMITMENT

Ensuring all Grade 8 students transitioning to Grade 9 will make thoughtful, evidence-informed pathway choices for their personal success.

“In the DDSB, we have the ability to change a student’s trajectory and pathway for life success and we will.”

–Lisa Millar, Director of Education



## WHERE TO GO TO NEXT

Ensuring all students reach their potential in high school requires deep learning and focused direction setting between families and schools. The DDSB *Choosing My Success* transitions guide has detailed and helpful information about transitioning to high school that Grade 8 students and families can use to support this important planning.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



# EDUCATION AND CAREER-LIFE Planning Process

## THE HOW

### Creating your **PATHWAY** to success

A pathway is your individual journey that includes opportunities and experiences in your school, at your home and in your community. The four step inquiry process is ongoing and cyclical. It helps you to establish your own personal goals and individualized pathway for your future. As you navigate your pathway, you will regularly return to the four questions, equipped with a greater knowledge of yourself and your opportunities and a growing understanding of how they can successfully shape your future.

Who am I?

- What are my strengths and accomplishments?
- What is my learning style?
- What factors shape me?

What are my opportunities?

- What opportunities are available to develop my skills at home, school and in the community?

What is my plan for achieving my goals?

- What is my plan?
- What are the resources I need to implement my plan?

Who do I want to become?

- Reflect on opportunities explored.
- What are my career/life goals?

\*Remember to actively use Career Cruising to explore and map your journey.

Creating Pathways for Success puts students at the centre of their own learning, viewing them as the architects of their own lives.

—Creating Pathways to Success, page 7

