

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to Dake Junior High School. At Dake, we believe in high academic achievement for all students while maintaining a comprehensive education that supports learning in a variety of areas. We continue to emphasize a positive, safe and respectful learning environment that fosters academic achievement, social development, school pride, and a sense of belonging for all members of the Dake community. As is the case in every school in the West Irondequoit Central School District, learning and achievement are the focus in all of our interactions with students. Our 2009-2010 School Based Improvement Plan will be placed on our district web site in late October. The plan includes specific academic data, our overall instructional focus for the year, and targeted goals for each department. Our philosophy is to approach teaching in a research-based way, emphasizing the most up to date learning strategies to promote critical thinking in our students as well as strong writing skills that carry over to the high school. Rest assured, we have the finest professional staff with whom I have ever been associated, and they are constantly striving to support all students to achieve at higher levels. Please take a minute to look at our academic performance that is highlighted on this website. We are very proud of our student achievement.

Our culture and climate are important components to our success as a junior high school. I believe we have a very positive culture at Dake. We continue to improve our culture by involving students in leadership opportunities, such as Peer Mediation and Natural Helpers, which teach students to be leaders within the school environment. We have a thriving student government that is involved in various leadership decisions as well as a Principals Advisory Group, which periodically meets with me to discuss how things are going at Dake. The key to a positive culture and climate is a committed faculty and staff and a respectful student body that are willing to learn and grow. Thankfully, we have both at Dake.

Finally, home-school communication is a key to the success of all of our students. Monthly parent/principal coffee hours, monthly newsletters, and an e-mail system which allows parents/guardians to sign up to receive regular e-mails detailing events at Dake are mainstays in our communications plan. Parent conferences, individual e-mails to parents, and written weekly progress reports to parents may also be used. I would encourage you to call your child's school counselor if you have any questions regarding communication between home and your child's teachers.

Take care,  
Tim Terranova  
Principal