



## School Liaison

The School Liaison Officer Program began in 1999. It expanded in 2002 when middle school students transferred to the Ferndale High School campus. The liaison officer **provides a continuous police presence on the combined school campus**. The liaison officer is also responsible for complaints originating from five additional school district buildings.

The duties of the liaison officer are geared primarily toward prevention. The liaison officer does not enforce school district rules but the officer is responsible to take appropriate action when someone violates the law. The liaison also provides a friendly face to students and offers appropriate advice regarding law enforcement issues. Students, in turn, participate in this relationship by volunteering information about possible trouble before it occurs. The importance of having a police officer inside the school cannot be underestimated. The on-site liaison officer greatly reduces response time for a population in excess of 1,800 people. The officer investigates all police reports originating from the schools, controls traffic, and attends many after school functions. Calls for service are diverse including truancy complaints, illegal drugs and weapons offences. Most importantly the liaison officer works closely with students, parents, and school staff to ensure the safety and security of everyone on campus.