

March 12, 2012

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), administered by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), is used to determine whether a student has the literacy (reading and writing) skills outlined by *The Ontario Curriculum* to the end of Grade 9. The **successful completion** of this test or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course **is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma**. The results of the test will be delivered to the school and the home during the fall.

On the **morning of Thursday, March 29th, 2012**, Grade 10 students across the province of Ontario who entered Grade 9 during the 2010–2011 school year will write the OSSLT, as will students who are retaking the test. This test date has been communicated to your son/daughter in a variety of ways, including assemblies and announcements. Please note that this test takes place on **one day only** and ***students who miss the test will be unable to write it again until the spring of 2013***. Please ensure that your son/daughter does not have any appointments on this day.

All students writing will report to their assigned classroom unless directed elsewhere by the teacher/SERT. Students will receive information about assigned classroom from their teacher(s) and locations will also be posted at the main office. The OSSLT day will have a timeline as follows:

Time	Length (minutes)	Task
8:35–9:50 am	75 minutes	Booklet 1
9:50-10:05 am	15 minutes	Break
10:05-11:20 am	75 minutes	Booklet 2
11:20 – 11:30 am	10 minutes	Questionnaire

Students entitled to accommodations will receive an additional letter (attached) identifying the accommodations which are permitted and will be provided on the literacy test.

To prepare students for the test, Grade 10 teachers have been re-enforcing the reading and writing skills which will be evaluated on the literacy test in their classes. We will also be meeting with Grade 10 classes during the week of March 21 to review literacy test procedures and expectations.

Parents can utilize a number of practice resources to help their son/daughter prepare for the test. Listed below are a number of student resources available to encourage student success on the OSSLT:

1) St. James Website

Instruction: Go to <http://www.stjameschs.com/>. On our homepage, you can directly connect to the OSSLT practice tests and the Literacy tests (they include answers). There is a countdown as well.

2) EQAO Website.

Instruction: Go to <http://www.eqao.com/categories/home.aspx?Lang=E>. There you can click on "Student Resources" and utilize this resource at home. You will also find Parent Resources and other information there.

3) E-Learning Ontario

E-Learning Ontario is an online resource. To access practice items for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), please follow the instructions below:

1. Type in <http://resources.elearningontario.ca/>
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click Resources OERB.
3. Type in User Name WELCDSBstudent (it is case sensitive)
4. Type in Password oerbs
5. Click submit
6. Read Terms and Conditions page and click **I accept** at the bottom of the page.
7. Click on Search for resources in the middle of the page.
8. Under simple search type in OSSLT and click on simple search and it will bring you to a variety of resources to use to prepare for the OSSLT.

Student instructions for the activities

1. Click on content and read through the material. If there is a link to the web, you need to click on it to explore. While using this website, make your own notes from the content.
2. At the bottom of the page always click NEXT to continue on to the next page.
3. Complete all work within the content – this includes quizzes. These are used as formative tools to assist your understanding of the material.

If there are any questions or concerns about the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, please do not hesitate to contact Miss De Francesco or Mrs. Angerilli at 519-822-4290.

Sincerely,

Mr. Yawney,
Principal

Miss De Francesco
Vice-Principal

Mrs. Angerilli
Vice-Principal