



St. Mary's High School

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November 1, 2021

EQA O

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2021 - 2022

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the literacy test is a requirement of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. All students across the province write this test. Results on the OSSLT help to understand strengths and areas for improvement, and to monitor and celebrate progress. The results support discussions with teachers and help to guide school improvement initiatives. This benefits all students in the school and results are used by the school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

This year, the OSSLT will be written in November. The test format and content have changed since the last writing and this note is to inform you of those changes and give you some key information.

OSSLT Test Dates

- **November 24th**: Grade 11 and 12 students
- **November 25th**: Grade 10 students

**If needed, there will be another window for students who need another attempt in the spring.*

Test format

- The OSSLT is an online format, split into two different sections and consists of the following:
 - ✓ 31 multiple choice questions to test reading and writing conventions
 - ✓ 1 short answer question
 - ✓ 1 essay response

Students writing the test

- All students **currently in grade 10 and grade 11** (including remote learners)
- Students in **grade 12** who are **not on track to graduate**

**Students in grade 12 that are on track to graduate will have the literacy requirement waived this year.*

***REMOTE learners – further information will be sent following this communication*

Schedule for Nov 24th & 25th

- **Only** students scheduled to write the literacy test will attend school (on their scheduled day as noted above)
- All other students will be assigned asynchronous work to complete at home
- Students can email teachers through online class platforms for any support needed on these days

Students with an IEP: Available Accommodations

Several tools are built into the test and can be accessed by all students. If your child needs accommodations beyond these tools and these accommodations are noted on their IEP, they will have access to extra features.

Materials needed for the test

- ✓ The test will be completed on a school provided device
- ✓ **Any students with a school issued chromebook, must bring it with them fully charged**
 - Please bring the charging cord on the day of the test
- ✓ Each student may bring water and a snack for their break between sections of the test
 - Snacks and drinks will also be provided by the school
- ✓ The test features a notepad that students can use to plan and brainstorm
 - Paper and pens will also be provided

Bus Schedules

WCDSB School Buses will pick up students at the regular morning time. Departure from school will be at 12:30 pm. If a student requires extra time to complete the test, they can arrange alternative transportation or take Grand River Transit (school will provide GRT bus tickets to any student in need).

Schedule for students writing the OSSLT – exact times following 9:05 am may change

- 9:05 Morning Exercises & Announcements
- 9:30 Instructions and login, begin Booklet A
- 10:30 Booklet A is completed*
- 10:30 **Break**
- 11:00 Instructions and login, begin Booklet B
- 12:00 Booklet B is completed*
- 12:00 Questionnaire Survey
- 12:30 Buses Depart (Please see note below on bus departure)

**All students will have access to extra time if needed (20 - 30 minutes)*

***IEP students have access to double time if required*

Test Preparation and Resources

- EQAO [website](#)
- [Practice test](#)
- [SMH OSSLT Tips Sheet](#): will be received by students during classroom presentations this week
- [OSSLT Presentation](#)
- School website – [Literacy Test Preparation](#)
- Homework Club (every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 2:45 - 4:00 in Room 235)
- Join the GUIDANCE google classroom to receive information and for further resources
 - Gr. **10** CODE – **hbreh7h**
 - Gr. **11** CODE – **na67dve**
 - Gr. **12** CODE – **l3ukp5v**
- Read every day from multiple sources, especially real-life narrative, newspaper articles, information paragraphs and dialogue
- Review writing tips for paragraph and essay writing

For support with questions, please feel free to email tony.paolo@wcdsb.ca.

Sincerely,
St. Mary's OSSLT Committee

Deanna Wehrle
Principal

Michael Ambeau
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