



Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: Upcoming Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

On **Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, Grade 10 students across the province will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). It will also be written by students who were previously eligible but have not yet written the test, or who were unsuccessful on their first attempt. The OSSLT is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, in order to determine whether students have acquired the minimum literacy (reading and writing) skills expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

Please note that this date is the **only** opportunity for students to write the 2019 OSSLT. Students who are absent will have to wait until the spring of 2020 to write it.

The test consists of two booklets, each containing multiple-choice and open-response questions. The test is given on one day in two 75-minute blocks. All of the questions are based directly on the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day.

In June, EQAO will send our school a report for each student who writes the OSSLT, and we will send it home at that time. The OSSLT is a minimum-competency test. Achievement is therefore reported as “successful” or “unsuccessful.” OSSLT results do not count toward students’ grades, but successful completion of the test is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. There are supports for students who do not pass, including an opportunity to rewrite the test or to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

This spring at Earl Haig Secondary School, approximately 600 students who are working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma will be writing the OSSLT.

A list of students who are writing the test will be published to staff. Classes and test locations will be posted in advance for all students who will be writing the test. All students writing the test will be provided with a snack during the break. All students are expected to be in their designated classroom at 8:45 a.m.

**The test begins promptly at 9:00 am sharp.**

**SCHEDULE FOR Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

***For students NOT WRITING the OSSLT:***

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Spend morning at home engaged in school work.
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p><b>Tutorial Sessions &amp; Planned Curricular Based Activities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 9 students will be working on Math activities in preparation for the EQAO Math Assessment that will take place in June, 2019.</li> <li>Students in Grades 11-12 are asked to report to designated classrooms where they can take part in subject-based tutorial activities.</li> <li>A listing of locations will be posted in advance of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.</li> </ul>

**Please see over>>>**

### SCHEDULE FOR Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Continued

*For students WRITING the OSSLT who entered grade 9 during the 2017–2018 school year, or were previously deferred, or are retaking the test:*

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Write OSSLT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Booklet 1 - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</li><li>• Break - 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</li><li>• Booklet 2 - 10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</li></ul>
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Tutorial Sessions &amp; Planned Curricular Based Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students in Grades 10-12 are encouraged to take part in subject-based tutorial activities.</li><li>• A list of where teachers will be situated will be posted for all students in advance of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.</li></ul>

*For ELL students and students with an IEP:*

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Write OSSLT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Booklet 1 - 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.</li><li>• Supervised lunch - 11:30 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.</li><li>• Booklet 2 - 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</li></ul>
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students are encouraged to report to designated areas for subject-based tutorial activities.</li></ul>

### PLEASE NOTE:

- **A complete list of names of students required to write this year's OSSLT will be posted on the wall outside the Main Office.** This list will inform students of the location where they will write the OSSLT. Prior to the test day, students **MUST** check to be sure their name is on this list.
- **On the test day, attendance will be taken prior to the start of the test.** If your son or daughter is required to write the OSSLT, but is not present, you will be notified by telephone.
- Only the front (foyer) doors to the school will be open.
- ***There will be no food service on the test day. Students writing the OSSLT with accommodations are asked to bring their lunch with them, as they will not be dismissed at lunch time.***
- Earl Haig S.S. students **NOT** writing the test should come to school beginning at 1:30 p.m., and should spend the morning at home engaged in school work. **They must not visit other schools.**

If you have any questions, please visit the EQAO website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) or contact the school. Additional information is available on the school website at [www.earlhaig.ca](http://www.earlhaig.ca). Thank you for joining us in supporting our students and encouraging them to do their best.

Sincerely,

Ms. A. Colavita  
Vice-Principal