



Earl of March Secondary School

#4 The Parkway, Kanata, Ontario, K2K 1Y4
(613) 592-3361 Fax: (613) 592-9501

March 2, 2018

Dear parents and guardians:

Re: Upcoming Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

On April 10, 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 2018 OSSLT. Students who are absent will have to wait until the spring of 2019 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. Students can prepare as they would for any other secondary school test.

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 results are private and will give you an indication of how well your child is mastering the required literacy skills, which are the foundation for success in all subjects and in life beyond school. 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.

You can use your child’s results on the OSSLT to understand his or her strengths and areas for improvement, and to monitor and celebrate his or her progress. The results can also help you in discussions with teachers. As a school community, we use these results, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives. This benefits not only your child but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

We are supporting our students’ preparation for the OSSLT through an assembly and in-class practice. If students need additional help, they should contact Leigh Ann Horner, or see their guidance counsellors. For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, visit www.eqao.com.

Sincerely,

Jon Harris

Principal