

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On **Wednesday, March 27th 2019**, Grade 10 students will write the **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**. Any student in Grade 10, 11, or 12 (with a few exceptions) who has not yet successfully completed the OSSLT, and who is not currently enrolled in the Literacy Course (OSSLC), will write on March 27th, 2019.

The Literacy Test, administered by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), is used to determine whether a student has the literacy (reading and writing) skills required to meet the standard for understanding reading selections and communicating in a variety of writing forms expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up 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.

In order to create a positive environment that will optimize the conditions for successful completion of the OSSLT, we have modified the instructional school day for all students at Preston High School as follows:

8:05 AM – 8:20 AM	Student Arrival and Set-Up for Test
8:20 AM – 11:55 AM	Literacy Test
11:55 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM – 1:30 PM	Tutorial Session 1 (For Periods A and B)
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	Tutorial Session 2 (For Periods C and D)

It is important to note the following about the day's structure:

- Students who are not writing the test will only have access to the cafeteria while the test is in progress, for quiet, independent study. As school staff will be administering the test, no regular classroom instruction will take place in the morning. The library will be unavailable during the whole day because this space is required to support the administration of the test. School buses will run at their regular times.
- When the test period is complete, teachers will be available to provide all students with tutorial assistance in all subjects and at all grade levels. Teachers will announce to their students, and post in their classrooms, the location for their tutorial sessions.
- Regular attendance reporting procedures remain in effect for this day. Any student who does not attend school will be marked absent. Non Literacy test writing students who report to school for tutorial sessions must sign in at the attendance office.

These adjustments have been made across the Waterloo Region District School Board in order to facilitate the administration of the OSSLT in a manner that provides for the best conditions possible for the students who are writing. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the Literacy Test, or the schedule for March 27th, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Bender
Principal, Preston High School