



SOUTHWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

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October 4th, 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians:

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 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.

The OSSLT is written in March each year however, on **Thursday October 20**, students across the province will be provided an opportunity to write it **online**. This particular administration of the OSSLT is an experimental **pilot** of the new online version.

All eligible students registered in ENG 2PI this semester as well as previously eligible writers are invited to participate. For students with an IEP and writing with prearranged support through our Special Education Department, select accommodations will be available.

Your student's participation is voluntary but strongly encouraged. There's nothing to lose by participating and the possibility to complete the OSSLT early. Students passing this online version of the test will be considered to have met the literacy test requirement needed to graduate. Students will be able to write the regularly scheduled OSSLT in March 2017 if they are unsuccessful in this attempt or if technical issues arise.

More information including how to access a practice online test is available at:
<http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/eqao-online>.

If you have further questions or concerns, or would prefer that your student not participate on October 20th, please contact Ms. Jodie Rideout, Vice-Principal.

Sincerely,

Vida Collis
Principal, Southwood



Waterloo Region
District School Board