



## SOUTHWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL

30 Southwood Drive, Cambridge, Ontario N1S 4K3 (519) 621-5920  
Fax (519) 621-3342

February 27, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

### **Re: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Special Schedule**

On **Wednesday, March 27, 2019**, Grade 10 students will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Any senior students who have yet to complete this graduation requirement will also write on March 27, 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.

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 the questions are based directly on the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*, which teachers teach in the classroom every day. Students can prepare as they would for any other secondary school test.

In order to create a positive environment that will optimize the conditions for successful completion of the OSSLT, **the instructional school day for all students at Southwood has been modified**. The following is the timetable for March 27, 2019:

**8:15 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.** Literacy Test (2 booklets with a break in between)

**11:55 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** Lunch

**12:50 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.** Tutorial Session A for Periods 1 and 2

**1:40 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.** Tutorial Session B for Periods 3 and 4

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

- Students not writing the test will only have access to the cafeteria, while the test is in progress, for quiet, independent study. As most school staff will be involved in administering the test, there will be no regular classroom instruction in the morning. The library will be unavailable during the whole day

(over)

as this space is required to support the administration of the test. School buses will run only at their regular times.

- Once regular administration of the test has been completed, teachers will be available in the afternoon 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, in that any student who does not attend will be marked absent.

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.

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.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the Literacy Test, or the schedule for March 27, please feel free to contact Vida Collis.

Sincerely,

Vida Collis  
Principal, Southwood Secondary School