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February 23, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

RE: EQAO Literacy Field-Test (OSSLT)

This spring, students in Ontario will take part in a field-test of the new online and adaptive EQAO Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The purpose of this field test is to allow students and educators to become familiar with the new model, and to support the validation and development of the new platform. This new platform will allow the opportunity for students to attempt the test and, if successful, have it counted on their transcript.

At KSS, grade 10 students will write the test the week of March 29-31, 2021. Grade 11 and non-graduating grade 12s will write the test the week of March 23-25, 2021. A make-up test date is scheduled for April 28, 2021.

This field test is a computer-based assessment that comprises two sessions (Session A and Session B) containing a total of 33 questions: 31 multiple-choice questions, a reading response question and an opinion piece. As always, this test is designed to assess literacy skills developed up to the end of grade 9.

To help further prepare students to be as successful as possible on the OSSLT field-test, students already have access to the Limestone District School Board Literacy Test Prep Resource through their Minds Online platform. This resource provides specific practice modules that target important literacy skills required on the test. The Literacy Test Prep Resource can be accessed from any device both at school and home for students to practice as frequently and often as they require. Teachers have also already explored some aspects of the new test with their classes.

Additionally, during the week of March 8, students will have the opportunity become familiar with the online test and its platform through an OSSLT preparation session. This will allow students to become familiar with the new platform, and give some of the test questions a try. EQAO has already posted an online practice test that we encourage students to explore and there is a link to the test in the bottom of this message. The online practice test comprises two sessions, which include content from previous tests. The practice test is equivalent to the two sessions students will be completing during the live test. In addition, the practice test includes an introductory session that allows students to become familiar with the new online platform's tools and functions.



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Available on the EQAO website is the updated OSSLT Framework which provides a detailed description of the EQAO's OSSLT (including how the assessment is grounded in the Ontario Curriculum's expectations for literacy skills for all subjects up to the end of Grade 9) as well as a sample student report.

If you have any questions about this field-test, please contact Beth Ford at 613-544-4811 x 11135 or forde@limestone.on.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Connelly'.

Margaret Connelly
Vice-Principal, KSS

Links:

EQAO's Online Practice Test

<https://d1c1qqn86e6v14.cloudfront.net/#/en/student/osslt-assessment>

OSSLT Framework

<https://www.eqao.com/framework-osslt/>

Important Dates:

February 16-March 2—In-class introduction to the Limestone District School Board D2L Literacy Test Prep Resource

Week of March 8—In-class EQAO online practice test

March 23-25 —All Grade 11 students and non-graduating grade 12s will write EQAO online field-test with their cohort

March 29-31—All Grade 10 students will write EQAO online field-test with their cohort

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