

# AMHS School Council Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2023



# Starting in a Good Way

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties have been signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island who is our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.



# Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Student Report
3. Special Presentation - OSSLT
4. Teacher Report
5. Guidance Report
6. Administration Report
7. School Council Report



# STUDENT REPORT



# Upcoming: AMHS Merch



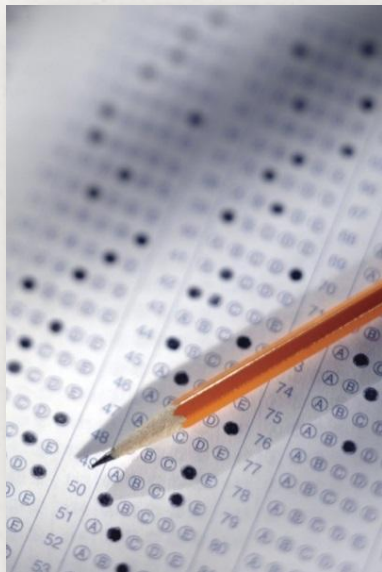


# Recent Events: Semi Formal



OSSLT

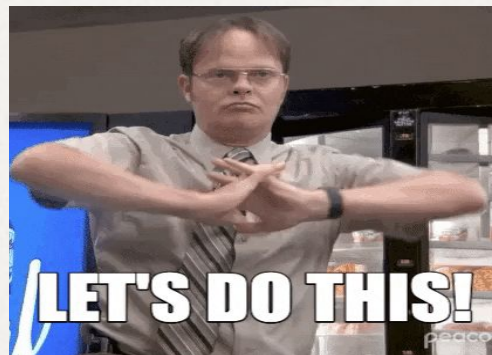




It's time to get ready!

OSSLT 2023

Parent Information Session







# Before we begin...

- The slides will be available on the OSSLT website for student access.
- [rebrand.ly/osslt](https://rebrand.ly/osslt)



# Today's Goals

Give parents a better understanding of what:

- ✓ the OSSLT is
- ✓ the school does to prepare students for the test
- ✓ parents can do to prepare students to be successful



Why is the OSSLT so important?

Successful completion of the  
OSSLT is a graduation  
requirement for the Ontario  
Secondary School Diploma.

# Purpose of the OSSLT

- A standardized evaluation of literacy comprehension and writing skills across the entire Ontario curriculum
- The test is designed to collect an overall understanding of Ontario students' abilities
- The test is standardized based on:
  - Common age (grade 10)
  - Common curriculum (grade 7, 8, and 9)
  - Standard assessment
  - Impartial markers, using rigid standards

Education Quality and  
Accountability Office







# When is the OSSLT?

**Grade 10 + 11s and 12s who need to write**

**Session A- November 23**

**Session B- November 24**

- Students must arrive by 8:15 am.
- They should be in the room they are writing in by 8:20, so they can find their seat and get settled
- At 8:30, instructions will be provided.
- There is a “minds on” activity before the test and a chance for students to familiarize themselves with the accessibility tools.

# Test Day Schedule

Arrival in classroom	8:20 - 8:30
Attendance & Instructions for Session A	8:30 - 8:45
<b>Session A (Nov 23)</b>	<b>8:45 - 10:05</b>
<p>At 10:05 an announcement will be made to remind you to submit the test and logout. For students who need extra time at this point, they will be escorted to the library. The test will be paused at this time.</p>	
Extra time:	Students needing extra time will be escorted to the library
<p><b><u>Session B</u></b></p> <p>Will be the same as day one with the exception of completing a questionnaire</p>	
<b>Session B (Nov 24)</b>	<b>8:45 - 10:05</b>

# Schedule After the Test

Period 4	10:25 - 11:32
Period 3	11:37 - 12:45
Period 2	12:50 - 1:58
Period 5	2:03 - 3:10

★ **Please note** - for November 23 and 24, Period 4 and Period 2 is flipped. There will be a 20 minute transition break between period 1 and period 4 10:05 to 10:25.



# Where Do Students Write The OSSLT?

- Most students will be writing in their homeroom period in a classroom with AMHS computers.
- Each homeroom teacher will have access to where students will be writing.
- Locations will be shared in students' homeroom before November 23rd - students not in a grade 10 homeroom will write in the library



# What Should Students Bring?

- pencils/pens and a highlighter (*optional*).
- headphones with a jack if you want to use the text-to-speech feature.
- Bottled water only! Note: Bottled water should be placed under the desk to avoid spilling it on the technology.

# What Students Should **NOT** Bring

- No knapsacks, bags, purses or coats.
- No FitBits, Ipods, Iwatch or translators!
- No dictionary or thesaurus.
- No food of any kind.

# The Phone Rules...

Phones are to be off and out of sight  
unless you are using a playlist to help you concentrate.

If using the cell phone to listen to music:

- ❑ Must set **a continuous playlist** that will last for the full session.
- ❑ Wired headphones are recommended if you are using GRW.
- ❑ Volume must be kept at a minimum.
- ❑ Cannot share earbuds.
- ❑ **Cannot listen to music on the computer being used.**

# When Students Arrive At School...

- Take care of personal needs. Washroom breaks are discouraged other than the given break time (e.g. a break if you need extra time).
- Leave ALL belongings in the locker.
- **Students go directly to the room they are writing in.** *If students have forgotten their room, they can go to the main office or see a teacher in the front foyer.*



# If Your Child is Late...

- ➔ They are to report to the main office to check in.
- ➔ If a student arrives within 30 minutes of the test starting, they will be escorted to their room to write the test.
  - **Late arrivals will not get any extra time for the 30 minutes missed.**
- ➔ If a student arrives more than 30 minutes late...  
**they may miss Session A.**

# If Your Child Is Absent...

- ➔ If your child is absent for any reason, (including medical emergencies) please inform the school ahead of time.
- ➔ Your child may have to write the test during semester two.

# Test Format

- ❑ The test is online and accessible ONLY at school.
- ❑ It consists of 2 sessions rather than 2 booklets.
- ❑ Each session is 65-75 minutes in length.
- ❑ Each session contains reading and writing tasks.

**Session A (Nov 23)** has the following types of questions:

- **Real-Life Narrative (RLN):**

a passage and seven multiple-choice reading questions.

- **Information Paragraph (INP):**

a passage and six multiple-choice reading questions.

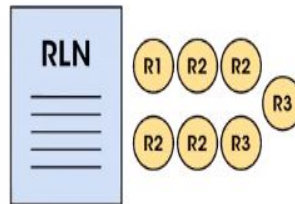
- **News Report (NR):**

five multiple-choice reading Questions and 1 100 word open-response question.

## Session A

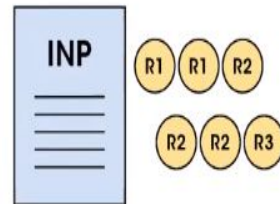
60 minutes, 19 Questions

### Real-Life Narrative



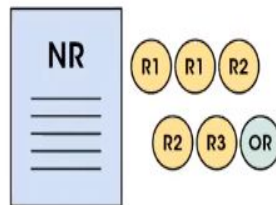
7 multiple-choice

### Information Paragraph



6 multiple-choice

### News Report



5 multiple-choice  
1 open-response (100 words)

## Session B (Nov 24):

- **Reading: Dialogue (DIA):**

five multiple-choice reading questions related to a dialogue.

- **Writing Multiple-Choice (WMC):**

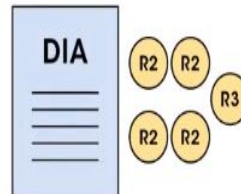
eight multiple-choice writing questions based.

- **Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion (OPP):**  
one written response composed of a series of paragraphs 500 words

## Session B

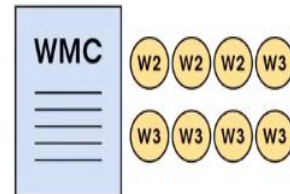
60 minutes, 14 Questions

### Dialogue



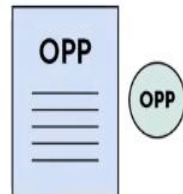
5 multiple-choice

### Written Multiple-Choice



8 multiple-choice  
(editing skills)

### Series of Paragraphs



1 open-response (500 words)  
*Series of paragraph supporting  
an opinion*

# Reminders:

All students get extra time and the use of the embedded tools on the test.



100%



- A help menu
- A text-to-speech function that reads the text on the screen out loud
- Zoom in and zoom out capabilities
- A line reader that helps students focus on one line of text at a time
- A high-contrast view
- Draw line
- Highlighter
- Eraser
- Rough notes

# When Students Are In The Room...



- The teacher will give each student a “ticket” that has their OEN #. This will allow the student to log into the computer.
- Students should check that the correct “ticket” has been provided.
- The teacher will also give each student an **access code to get into the OSSLT Test. This will be the code for both sessions.**
- There will be different instructions depending on the accommodation and/or device the student is using. The instructions will be in the room, but here is a link for you: [Log in instructions.](#)





Please be patient  
when signing in.

Remember, many  
users are logging in  
at the same time  
and others may be  
using tech in  
classrooms as well.

# Once The Test Begins...

- Students CANNOT ask any questions. Only technical questions can be answered.
- Each student works on their own.
- Students are to follow all the instructions.
- Students are to complete all tasks! **They should not leave anything blank.**
- Listen to the announcements.

# Tips for Success

## Students should ...



- ☐ Follow instructions *exactly* as given for all sections.
- ☐ Read each question carefully and be sure to answer precisely what it is asking of you (*e.g. look for key test words*).
- ☐ Use “Rough Notes” space to plan answers (*this is not marked*).
- ☐ Highlight or flag questions you want to skip.
- ☐ You will be prompted to complete any of the test you missed before you can submit.

# If students finish the test early...

- ★ Students cannot leave before the end time.
- ★ Students should check their answers.
- ★ They should make sure that they have answered every question.
- ★ Students will submit Session A test. *Note: it cannot be unsubmitted after that.*



## November 24 Session B:

- ★ Will follow the same instructions as Session A
- ★ Schedule is the same
- ★ Extra time is the same
- ★ There is a questionnaire at the end of session B that **MUST** be completed before submitting

## After Students Write...

- Each student will receive EQAO's individual student report in January.
- The report will state "Successful" or "Unsuccessful".
- It does not count towards a grade in any course.
- If unsuccessful, you can take the OSSLC or write again in the Spring.



# Final Reminders for Students

- ❑ Get a good night's sleep.
- ❑ Eat breakfast.
- ❑ Be on time.
- ❑ Know your room location.
- ❑ Remember to stretch as you need and breathe.
- ❑ Do not rush.





# Good Luck!

- ★ We know you can do this.
- ★ You have been practicing the skills in your classes.
- ★ Be confident!
- ★ If you'd like more practice opportunities with past test booklets, check out the OSSLT Website: [rebrand.ly/osslt](https://rebrand.ly/osslt)



# Alexander Mackenzie High School

Grade 8 Open House, November 29, 2023

6:30 – 8:00 pm

School Tours 6:30 – 7:15

Presentation 7:15 – 8:00



## Regional Programs

- Co/Op/ SHSM
- International Baccalaureate

## Arts MacKenzie

Music, Theatre,  
Visual Arts, Dance

Design Technology,  
Construction Technology,  
Hairstyling Personal Services,  
Transportation Technology,  
Hospitality Services

### Contact Information

300 Major Mackenzie Dr. W., Richmond Hill, L4C 3S3

Phone: (905) 884-0554, (647) 795-7590

Fax: (905) 884-4494

Email: alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca



*Alexis K.*

# Teacher Report

**Kelly LeBlanc -  
Teacher Representative**



# Teacher Report [\(click here\)](#)

## **ENTRIES FROM:**

- Arts Mackenzie
- Athletics
- IB (International Baccalaureate)
- Music
- Phys. Ed
- Visual Arts

Also includes links to:

- AMHS YouTube Channel
- Library Website



# Administration Report



# Network Outage

- Board wide network outage occurred on November 9
- Many board applications were impacted: teach assist, EDSBY, attendance, SSNet, board website
- Applications are gradually being restored
- Shift in midterm marks - report card timeline TBD
- OUAC/OCAS submission will occur as planned





# 1:1 School Update

- School council and staff support
- Will be phased in starting September 2024 with incoming grade 9's
- Staff PD to occur regarding shift in practice
- Refurbished devices program available to support families





# School Council Report



# School Council Forum Highlights

- Took place October 25
- Active School Travel Presentation
- Workshops included:

The Comprehensive Literacy Program (K - 8)

Use of Online Digital Tools and Privacy at Home

The Revised School Council Handbook

Supporting Students with their Transition to High School

Managing Stress and Supporting Well-Being



# School Council Account

- Current balance of \$1104.04
- What will the funds be allocated towards?
  - Graduation awards
  - Department enhancement requests



# Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

- Schools can request up to \$800 to support parent engagement
- Can include, but are not limited to: parent resources, parent engagement sessions and/or parent information sessions
- Please let us know if you have any suggestions



# Fundraising Committee

- School council executive would like to create a sub-committee to look at possible fundraising options for the school community
- Interested in participating? Email [alexander.mackenzie.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:alexander.mackenzie.hs@sc.yrdsb.ca)



# Next Meeting

**Monday, January 22, 2024**

