



VAUGHAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

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December 16th, 2016

Semester 1, January Exam Schedule, 2017

Period	Date of Exams
1	Thursday, January 26 th
2	Friday, January 27 th
3	Monday, January 30 th
4	Tuesday, January 31 st
5	Wednesday, February 1 st
Exam Review Day	Thursday, February 2nd

Drama Department: In today's modern world students are immersed in technology on a daily basis. When studying Drama at VSS, students not only learn how to act on stage, they learn the technical elements of theater including sound and lighting design.



Guidance News

Hello parents/guardians,

Teaching our children how to use technology safely and appropriately is a challenge we all face. I wanted to share with you that Facebook has today announced the launch of a new Facebook Parents Portal, that features new resources for parents. According to Facebook, the new portal is aimed at assisting conversations between parents and their children about staying safe online. The new Facebook Parents Portal is now live and can be accessed at www.facebook.com/safety/parents.

Psychologists recommend two keys for parents when it comes to using technology:

1. Have tons of conversations with kids about what they're doing online and how to be safe. If this is a normal part of daily discussion, then if something difficult comes up, your child will be more willing to share or ask for help.
2. And have guidelines in place as a family. These can address screen time, online content, and rules about sharing access to all social media accounts.

This article has great info to help: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2016/09/08/how-can-parents-protect-their-children-online/?utm_term=.f1af5abdf01c

- **For students applying to university, application online should be completed by January 11th.** This is the equal-consideration date. To access the slides from my university application presentation, please visit <https://goo.gl/M64Vad> (your child will have to log in through their GAPPs account in order to access the slides ([<https://google.yrdsb.ca/>])).
- **Students applying to college should apply before February 1st.** To access the slides from my college application presentation, please visit <https://goo.gl/VzCsbF> (your child will have to log in through their GAPPs account in order to access the slides ([<https://google.yrdsb.ca/>])).

DISCOVERING DIGITAL MEDIA



Students with a passion for digital arts, design, and business shouldn't miss Discovering Digital Media days offered only at the University of Waterloo Stratford Campus. Registration for Stop Right There! Stop Motion Animation 101 workshop is now open. Visit <http://bit.ly/2djq9GZ> and register today!

Have a great weekend!

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Inspire Learning!

Literacy

Dear parents and guardians:

On **Thursday, March 30, 2017**, Grade 10 students across the province will write the **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**. It will also be written by students who were previously eligible but have not yet written the test or who were unsuccessful on their first attempt. The OSSLT is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, in order to determine whether students have acquired the minimum literacy (reading and writing) skills expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

Next week, students who are writing the test in March will receive an 'OSSLT information package' in their homeroom classes; this package will include additional information regarding the test.

In the coming months, students can prepare as they would for any other test. They can also access useful resources and practice materials through the 'Vaughan Literacy Moodle', the EQAO website, 'V.S.S's WSI Literacy activities,' as well as a Google Forms-based practice-version of the OSSLT. To access the following resources, please follow the steps that are outlined below.

The 'Vaughan Literacy Moodle': Check the 'Vaughan Literacy Moodle' for important updates / announcements, as well as very useful resources.

1. Go to: <https://moodle2.yrdsb.ca>
 2. Sign-in with 'Username and Password' (*the same username / password that students use to sign-in at school)
 3. Scroll to the bottom of the page, to the 'Search courses' box
 4. Type 'Vaughan Literacy Moodle' into the search box
 5. Click on the 'Vaughan Literacy Moodle' link
 6. Click on 'enrol me'
- *There is no password required to use this Moodle*

The EQAO website: Check the EQAO website for additional information about the OSSLT and to view a sample of its assessments.

1. Go to: <http://www.egao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/students/Pages/students.aspx>
2. Click on the desired links to learn more about what's on the OSSLT and to see examples

V.S.S's WSI Literacy activities: Check the OSSLT folder on the school-computers to access literacy activities that were used during 2016-2017 'WSIs'.

1. Log-on to a school computer
2. Click on the Windows start button (in the bottom left-hand corner of the desktop screen)
3. Click on 'Computer'
4. Click on 'StudentsResources (X:)'
5. Open the 'OSSLT' folder

Google Forms-based practice-version of the OSSLT: Try writing this practice test to get some real-time answers and writing tips.

1. Open an internet browser tab, go to <https://google.yrdsb.ca>, and log-on to your Gapps account (*the same username / password that students use to sign-in at school)
2. Open a new internet browser tab and go to <http://bit.ly/VSSOSSLT2016>

For further information, please contact **Sarah Chamberlain**, Literacy Teacher at Vaughan Secondary School. Sarah.Chamberlain@yrdsb.ca