



Great Lakes Secondary School

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Mr. P. Wiersma Principal
Mr. J. Gower Vice-Principal
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June 3, 2019

Re: Upcoming EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics Assessments

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On June 11 and 12, our Grade 9 students will be taking part in the provincial Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics created by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario. This assessment is administered to all students in Grade 9 applied or academic mathematics courses in Ontario's publicly funded school system.

The assessment consists of two test booklets, and students are given 60 minutes to complete each booklet. Most students will be able to complete these assessments in their regular math classes on June 11 and 12. You can support this effort by ensuring that your child is at school on these days, is well rested, and is prepared to do his or her best work.

EQAO assessment questions are directly based on the expectations set out in The Ontario Curriculum, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Therefore, your child does not need to prepare in any special way. However, teachers will go over the structure of the test with their students and have them work through sample questions.

Teachers will provide students with the accommodations they would regularly use when completing class tests. Examples include writing the assessment in the resource room and additional time.

Part of this test will also be graded by your child's math teacher and will count for 5% (applied math) or 10% (academic math) of his or her final math mark.

In September, EQAO will send our school a report on your child's achievement on the assessment, and we will send it home at that time. Your child's results are private and will give you an indication of his or her achievement in relation to Ontario's high provincial standard. The standard, or Level 3, represents the range from 70% to 79%. Meeting the standard means your child has a solid grasp of the required knowledge and skills, which is a good indication that he or she will be ready for math work in Grade 10.

You can use the information that EQAO assessment results provide about your child's strengths and areas needing improvement to celebrate and monitor his or her progress. It can also help you in discussions with teachers. As a school community, we use these results, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives. This benefits not only your child but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, you are encouraged to visit www.eqao.com.

Sincerely,

P. Wiersma, Principal