



# Great Lakes Secondary School

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Mr. P. Wiersma Principal  
Mr. J. Gower Vice-Principal  
Mrs. C. White Vice-Principal  
Mrs. N. Harrett Office Supervisor

January 10, 2018

Dear parents and guardians:

## Re: Upcoming EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics Assessments

On January 18 and 19, 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 January 18 and 19. 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. Students will write the test in their regular classrooms with their regular teachers and can prepare as they would for any other secondary school test.

New this year is that the teachers will provide all students the following accommodations, as needed: a quiet, individual and/or small group setting; preferential seating in the assessment room; prompts for students with severe attention problems who are at risk of being off task for significant periods of time; extra time (but each booklet must be completed in one continuous session); and the questions read to them.

Please note that part of this test will also be graded by your child's math teacher and will count for 5% of his or her final mark in grade 9 academic mathematics or grade 9 applied mathematics.

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](http://www.eqao.com).

Sincerely,

P. Wiersma  
Principal