



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Social Studies with Mr. Baxter

6th We are starting to settle into a routine, it has been fun getting to know the newest members of middle school. We are learning about relative and exact location, and how it helps describe where something is. Next week we will begin discussing the 5 Themes of Geography.

7th This week we did a webquest about the events that led to the fall of the Roman Empire. Next week we will look at the Spread of Christianity and the decline of the Roman Empire.

8th The 8th Graders have been good role models for the rest of the middle school. They are truly leading by example. In class this week we looked at the presidency of George Washington and how he became the precedent president. Next week we will look at how political parties divided the country and see how Washington addresses this issue with his farewell address.



Science with Mrs. Bendon

6th I am so happy to meet all the new middle school students, and I look forward to getting to know them all better throughout the year! We have started the year by getting adjusted to middle school, classroom routines and lab safety. Thank you to everyone for returning the Lab Safety Contracts so promptly. We have also been working on learning to write scientifically using the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning method. Our first unit will be about plate tectonics.

7th I am so glad to be back in school and have the students come into my science room to learn, rather than me traveling to them! The seventh-grade class has begun the year by reviewing our classroom procedures and expectations, and we have started to learn about what matter is and how it is classified by its physical and chemical properties. As the weeks continue, we will be learning more about how matter is measured, as well as how it can be changed physically and chemically.

8th It is wonderful to see how the 8th graders have grown up so much over the summer, and we are so lucky to have so many new additions to our class. The first few days of school were spent reviewing procedures and expectations. We have now started our investigation of what "life" is by determining the characteristics necessary for life, and we will continue to learn how living things are classified.

Math with Mrs. Hoedeman

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Language Arts with Mrs. Schafer



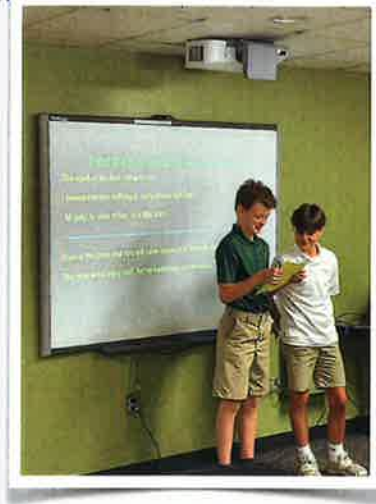
6th This week we finished our discussion of Growth Mindset and community building within the classroom. Furthermore, we completed a diagnostic writing assignment, which will help me to plan appropriate writing instruction/assignments for students. On Wednesday, we logged into IXL and completed the Language Arts diagnostic assessment. We concluded our week by setting up our Reading/Writing notebook log. This will be an ongoing assignment throughout the year.

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Theology with Mr. Lindgren

Per the request of Fr. Jim, we have been studying the Mass and the purposes of its different rites and parts. The students used art to depict their understanding of the Invocation of the Trinity in the Sign of the Cross. They also looked for connections between the readings used for the Liturgy of the Word just as a homilist would. They presented their connections to the class in mini homilies. We finished the week by taking a closer look at the Liturgy of the Eucharist and its source, the Lord's Supper and its culmination in the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.



Flex Time

Flex Time is our last class of every day. The students will be meeting back in their homerooms for a variety of activities over the course of the year. We will be spending some of the time focusing on social/emotional learning for our students as well as giving them opportunities for enrichment activities and clubs. This time will also be used at some points as a study hall, allowing students to jump start their homework and meet with their teachers if they need help. When we can, we will give students a chance to get outside to get some extra fresh air and exercise. As the year continues, we will invite guest speakers. Please feel free to contact jenbendon@stthomasgr.org if you have any questions or have ideas of something that you or someone you know would like to share with the middle schoolers, such as a personal talent, story, or activity.



Mark Your Calendar

Middle School Orientation Night, 6:30-8

6:30 - Meet in the church basement for snacks, pick up your student's schedule, and hear a welcome address by Mr. Corcoran, Dr. Tyrrell and the Middle School teachers. Parents will then move to the school building to follow your student's typical Thursday schedule.