



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - SPECIAL EDITION

Science with Mrs. Bendon

6th We have been working on our first chapter on Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics. Encourage your child to double-check Canvas for their nightly assignments.

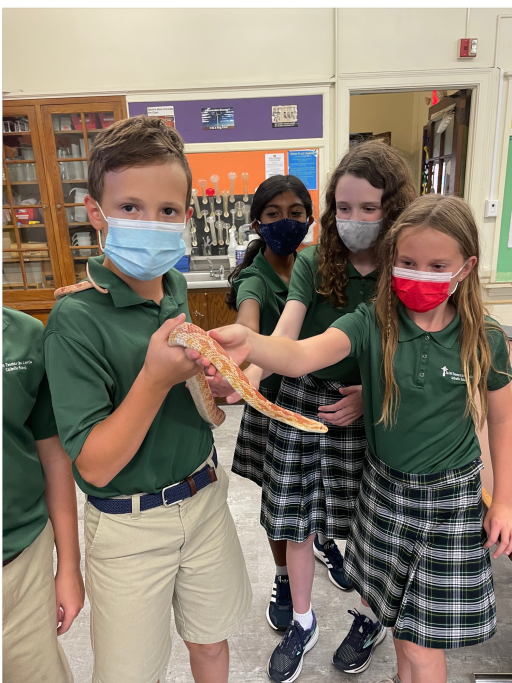
9/27 First test

7th We have been moving through Chapter 1 in our book, learning about classifying, measuring, and changes in matter. We did our first lab earlier this week on calculating and comparing the densities of different candies, and the kids did a great job following directions, using the tools, and working the calculations.

9/24 First test

8th We have continued to work on our introduction to life. The 8th graders have learned about why scientists classify organisms and the different levels of classification.

10/01 First test



Canvas & Help with Homework

Assignments for upcoming weeks are posted by the end of the day on Friday in the "Calendar" section. This helps if you would like to plan out your week.

The "Home" or "At-a-Glance" page includes what we are covering in class each day, along with the homework assignments. This is available by the end of the day on Sunday.

Please remember that assignments that need to be turned in to Canvas show in the calendar on their due dates.

Encourage your child to "check off" their Canvas to-do list when they have uploaded or completed their assignments each night.

Language Arts with Mrs. Schafer

ELA Homework Reminders for all Middle School Students:

- ✦ Reading and writing notebooks are collected quarterly.
- ✦ Students need to independently keep up with these each week by writing 2 pages (6-7th) or 3 pages (8th) about what they read. (I do give some class time for this).
- ✦ Questions to guide their writing are located in the back of their notebooks (avoid just summarizing what was read).

6th This week, we dove into vocabulary literary elements such as setting and point of view for *The Cay*. We ended our week with Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) time and time to work in their reading and writing notebooks.

7th This week, we started with working on using context clues to determine the meaning of words within a sentence and introduced literary elements in myths. Later in the week, we reviewed these words and terms with an interactive game. The students loved the "hands on" experience and competition! Students also researched a god/goddess of their choice and created a Bio Poem about their god/goddess, decorating it with appropriate symbols. We ended the week with completing some in-class analysis activities of literary elements in myths and introducing our first writing project--Create Your Own Myth. We will be working on this project over the next two weeks.

8th This week completed Chapters 1-3 of *Touching Spirit Bear*. Students are doing very well with their critical thinking and making connections! We finished the week with having Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) time and time to work on their reading and writing notebook.



Social Studies with Mr. Baxter

6th This week we discussed the theme of place and how it gives personality to the 5 Themes of Geography. We also discussed the theme of Region and how geographers can categorize a location by regions.

Today, we celebrated Constitution Day! The goal of the lesson was to illustrate the structure, function and powers of the government in the United States as established in Articles I, II and III of the U.S. Constitution.

Next week: We will discuss Human Interaction and Environment and the theme of Movement. Look for homework reviewing these topics on Tuesday, and Thursday next week. I will always be sending a study guide for home early next week.

September 29th: First Test (tentative)

7th We are currently learning about the origins and beliefs of Christianity in World History as it pertains to the growth of the Roman Empire.

For Constitution Day, we discussed the importance of the Constitution and what it means to us. The students today were asked to make a decision to either sign or not sign the "class constitution."

Next week: We will look at the legacy of the Roman Empire and its eventual decline.

8th On Monday we started to discuss the origins of political parties in the United States. We examined how different ideologies created tensions in the early republic.

Happy Constitution Day! Today we examined the Bill of Rights and why we have them. We looked at real life examples of each of the 10 amendments and how they are so valuable to us today.

Next Week: We will discuss the presidencies of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, we will also look at how the young nation changed and journey with Lewis and Clark as they explore the great unknown.



Math with Mrs. Hoedeman

6S This week students learned about prime factorization, greatest common factor and least common multiple. Next week students will add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers.

9/23 Quiz over the last half of the chapter
9/27 Vocabulary quiz and notebook check.
9/28 Chapter 1 Test

6B This week students learned about greatest common factor, least common multiple and adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers.

9/20 Quiz over the last half of the chapter.
9/24 Vocabulary quiz and a notebook check
9/27 Chapter 1 Test

7 This week students took a quiz over the last half of Chapter 1 and a vocabulary quiz. There was a notebook check on Friday. The next topic to be covered is rational numbers.

9/20 Chapter 1 Test

8G1 This week students took a quiz over the last half of Chapter 1. The next topic to be covered is transformations.

9/20 Vocabulary quiz with a notebook check
9/21 Chapter 1 Test

8G2 This week students took a quiz over the last half of Chapter 1. The next topic to be covered is inequalities.

9/21 Vocabulary quiz with a notebook check
9/22 Chapter 1 Test

Theology with Mr. Lindgren

6th This week our reading from Genesis gave us a better understanding of the dualities of the Word of God and of Christ. We learned how the Word of God is Jesus, who is divine and human, and also how Sacred Scripture is God's divine Word but given in human language.

7th Following the theme of the text book, "Living as a Disciple of Christ," we focused on the what that means from its foundation of the intrinsic dignity of each human person.

8th We are studying the mystery of Church throughout history by using the images that Jesus used in the Gospels for us to better understand such a mystery.

Flex Time

The sixth- and seventh-grade students in the band have used Flex Time to work with the band teacher, Mrs. Isaacson. The eighth-graders have begun their course on personal finance with Mrs. Hoedeman, and all the students have been enjoying the chance to have extra time to work on assignments, with support available from all of their core teachers.

Thank you so much to those parents who have contacted Mrs. Bendon about being willing to help out during Flex Time Clubs. She will be contacting you soon with more details. We will get those up and running in the near future, but we are working out the best and safest ways to run those.



8TH GRADE LEADERSHIP AND UNITY RETREAT

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

Thank you so much for allowing us the privilege of spending a day and a half working with your children. From Adoration to a celebratory swim in Lake Michigan, we treasured every moment. The students had opportunities to learn how to become better listeners, forgive others, identify problems, and create solutions. They decided that an 8th Grade Leader is one who: smiles, helps, listens, does what is right, and thinks before he/she acts. Coming soon to a hallway in Saint Thomas is their finished cross, which will signify how they have risen to the challenge of sharing their light with others.

Blessings,

Ryan Corcoran and Marygrace Tyrrell



