



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Sept. 24, 2021

6th GRADE UPDATES

ELA This week, we worked on dialect and read Chapter Three of *The Cay*. We also reviewed chapters 1-3 for a quiz on Monday, 9/27. Next week, we will be taking our quiz on Monday, and then we will be diving into chapters 4-7 of *The Cay* focusing on context clues, conflict, and characterization.

- Make sure students are keeping up on their reading/writing journal weekly.
- Check Canvas Calendar for all upcoming homework assignments.
- Quiz Monday, 9/27

Social Studies This week we learned about the themes of human interaction and movement including discussions on how hydroelectric dams turn water into energy, how paper is made, how the Aral Sea continues to shrink, and why and how people and things move across the globe.

- Next week: Review for the 5 Themes of Geography Test
- Study guide sent home today; practice assignment next week
- 9/30 Five Themes of Geography Test

Math 6S This week students learned about adding and subtracting fractions. They took a quiz. Next week students will multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers.

- Chapter 1 Vocabulary quiz - Monday, September 27th
- Chapter 1 notebook check - Monday, September 27th
- Chapter 1 Test - Tuesday, September 28th

Math 6B This week students took a quiz over math concepts and also a vocabulary quiz for Chapter 1. The next topic to be covered will be multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

- Chapter 1 Test - Monday, September 27th.
- Science We are finishing up our chapter on Plate Tectonics.

Next week: We will be moving into Earthquakes and how they are caused by forces within the Earth

- Plate Tectonics test on Monday, 9/27

Theology We learned the 3 pillars of the Faith: Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium. We also began looking into the purposes of Sacred Scripture. For Theology of the Body (TOB) we prayed *Lectio Divina* before jumping into the topic of our existence as good in itself.

7th GRADE UPDATES

ELA We discussed showing versus telling strategies, and students began drafting their “Create Your Own Myth” assignment and are having a lot of fun with it!

Next week: We will be discussing sentence boundaries and sentence variety, and we will be peer-editing and conferencing on their first draft of their myths. We will also be reviewing for a test on our mythology unit.

- Make sure students are keeping up on their reading/writing journal weekly.
- Rough Draft of Myth Due 9/28
- Final Draft of Myth Due 10/7
- Mythology Test 10/5

Social Studies This week the 7th graders learned about not only Roman Culture, but also how the Roman Empire fell.

Next week: We will look at how the Byzantine Empire came to flourish, and what the differences are between the Byzantine and Roman Empires.

Science We had our first test on Matter.

Next week: We will be learning about the different states of matter and what causes substances to change between these states.

Math This week students took a test over Chapter 1. The students also learned about rational numbers and adding rational numbers.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 1 - Monday, September 27th
- Chapter 2 Quiz 2 - Friday, October 1st.

Theology We learned about communion with each other and solidarity, and our purpose in life which is holiness. For TOB, we again prayed Lectio before discussing our lesson on how sin separates us from God.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH UPDATE

ALL Middle School Math Classes with Mrs. Hoedeman

I am working on modifying the format of my classes. I want to keep part of my flipped classroom (video notes at home and practice questions in class), but I have come to find that some students require more direct instruction. I will continue to link my notes and videos for each lesson to my Canvas page, but we will also be discussing the notes in class. We will continue to review for quizzes with study guides, and students will also still be able to use their notes and study guides on quizzes. I strongly encourage students to stay up to date on their notes as the notebook check I do with each chapter is a grade.

8th GRADE UPDATES

ELA This week, we worked on using context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words, read Chapters 4-5 of Touching Spirit Bear, worked on characterization, and reviewed for a quiz on Chapters 1-5.

Next week: We will be reading Chapters 6-10 and working on vocabulary strategies and more literary elements.

- Make sure students are keeping up on their reading/writing journal weekly.
- Check Canvas Calendar for all upcoming homework assignments and to plan your week.
- Quiz on 9/28

Social Studies We discussed Adams and Jefferson, the X,Y,Z Affair, and the constitutionality of the Louisiana Purchase. We got a little perspective of the importance of Marbury v. Madison and began to journey with Lewis and Clark.

Next week: We will finish journeying with Lewis and Clark, then look at the adventures of Zebulon Pike. We will start talking about James Madison at the end of the week, then start looking at the role Michigan played during the war of 1812.

- 10/06 Quiz on the first four sections of Chapter 5. I will repost all the lesson summaries on my canvas page, and print them out as well.

Science We have not been able to meet consistently for the past few weeks, but we are moving along in our exploration of the basics of life and how organisms are classified. The students have been fascinated to learn about Charles Darwin and natural selection, and how it has shaped the variety of organisms on our planet. We will be reviewing this week for our test next Friday.

- Chapter 1 test will be on Friday, October 1st

Math 8G1 This week students took a vocabulary quiz and a test over Chapter 1. They also started working on congruent figures, translations, and reflections. Next week students will learn about rotations and similar figures.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 1 - Wednesday, September 29th

Math 8G2 This week students took a vocabulary quiz and a test over Chapter 1 and started learning about inequalities. Next week students will continue to learn about inequalities.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 1 - Thursday, September 30th

Theology We discussed the Church as a pilgrim people, and Mary and the Holy Spirit's vital roles in the Church. Thursday, after TOB (discussing the universal call to holiness), our projector failed so the students acted out an impromptu portrayal of the Calling of St. Matthew.



The 8th Graders acting out the Gospel in Theology.