



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Oct. 1, 2021

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: After a thorough review, the sixth graders had their first test this week. They are getting more and more confident each week. The students will be able to do test corrections over the weekend. We are now discussing climate and weather; we will look at the different ecosystems on the earth and examine the causes of urbanization, why people move and how we interact with the earth.

Science: The students took their first test this week on plate tectonics. They do have the option of doing test corrections, if they wish, to earn back half credit on what they did not know the first time around, and we went through the instructions on how to do and submit those corrections. Corrections are always due back two days after their tests have been returned to them. We have now moved into our second chapter on earthquakes. Within the next week, we will be doing both a hands-on and a virtual lab dealing with earthquakes and plate movement.

- Upcoming Test: Oct. 15.



ELA: We started off this week with a quiz on Chapters 1-3 of *The Cay*. The students do have the option of doing test corrections, if they wish, to earn back half credit on what they did not know the first time around, and we went through the instructions on how to do and submit those corrections. Corrections are always due back two days after their tests have been returned to them.

Throughout the week, we read through chapter 9 of *The Cay* and worked on analyzing conflict, using context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words while reading, making text to self connections, and making predictions and inferences while reading.

Upcoming Project: “Map Project” where they will have to recreate the island Timothy and Phillip are stranded on based on descriptions in the text and they will have to include the five geography themes from Mr. Baxter’s class.

- Quiz on Chapters 4-9-- Monday, Oct. 11
- Map Project --Wednesday, Oct. 15

Math 6S: This week students took their first chapter test. The next topic is multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 1 - Tuesday, Oct. 12

Math 6B: This week students took their first chapter test. They also started learning about multiplying and dividing fractions. Next week they will learn about multiplying and dividing decimals.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 1 - Tuesday, Oct. 5

Theology: This week we focused on the purpose of Sacred Scripture and the use of it in the Mass. The students acted out some scripture stories to better visualize them. In Theology of the Body we had a class discussion about the goodness of our existence and God's love for us that even though we sinned, he continues to love us and redeem us in Jesus.

- Quiz: Tuesday Oct. 4. Find notes on the student portal in Canvas on the course and Modules.

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we studied how the Byzantine Empire flourished and how it differed from the Roman Empire. We looked at mosaics as well as the architecture and history of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

- First Test: Friday, Oct. 8 – Lesson summaries will be attached to Canvas this weekend so they can start studying. We will review next week for the test. There will be a couple of review assignments to help them prepare.

Science: After our test last week on the introduction to matter, this week we have moved into a more in depth investigation on the states of matter and how substances move between these states. We have also been using the PhET website through the University of Colorado to engage in some interactive virtual labs on particle movements within the different states and will be using this site again next week to explore behaviors of gases at different temperatures and pressures.



- Upcoming Test: Oct. 12

ELA: This week we worked on the writing process for their "Create a Myth Project." Many students are now getting used to having focus correction areas and creating multiple drafts for a single project. We also peer-edited the projects, and I met one-on-one with students to give constructive feedback. Furthermore, we reviewed terms and concepts from our mythology unit for a test coming up next week.

Next week, students will be turning in a second draft of their myth project, and we will go through the same peer-editing/teacher-conferencing process. We will move on to the final drafting and reflecting stages of the writing process as the week progresses. Students will also be taking their mythology test.

- Second draft of Create a Myth Project – Monday, Oct. 4
- Mythology Test – Tuesday, Oct. 5
- Final draft of Create a Myth Project – Thursday, Oct. 7

Math: This week students took two quizzes, wrapping up Chapter 2. Next week will review for the Chapter 2 Test.

- Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz – Tuesday, Oct. 5
- Chapter 2 Test - Wednesday, Oct. 6

Theology: We discussed concupiscence and grace at the beginning of the week. Later we learned about the connection of our bodies to our souls, how our souls experience what happens to our body and how our bodies express what our souls are experiencing. In Theology of the Body, we discussed as a class the inheritance of original sin but also the love that is shown by making the choice to do good despite our inclination to sin.

- Quiz: Tuesday Oct. 4. Find notes on the student portal in Canvas on the course and Modules.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: It was nice to finally have a full week of class! We had our first test this week on the early presidents. We journeyed with Lewis and Clark and experienced the hardships they faced on their journey out west. We also reviewed for the test. We are now discussing the War of 1812, why it started and what are the consequences of it. Today we talked about the Great Lakes' role in the War of 1812.

Upcoming project: "Build a Battle" project. Students will recreate a battle of the War of 1812. They will then write a summary about it and present it to the class. All information for the project will be on Canvas later in the week.

Science: The 8th grade students' first test was today, Oct. 1. Once their tests are returned, they will have the option of doing test corrections, if they wish, to earn back half credit on what they did not know the first time around. Corrections are always due back two days after their tests have been returned to them.

Our next chapter will be on cell and cell organelles. We will also have the chance to explore microscopes and microscope parts and will be able to experience looking at prepared slides as well as practice preparing our own.

Upcoming project: Cell project, due towards the end of October. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

ELA: This week, we read through chapter 11 of Touching Spirit Bear and worked on analyzing figurative language within the novel in relation to characterization and theme. Students also took a Quiz on Chapters 1-5 of Touching Spirit Bear. The students do have the option of doing test corrections, if they wish, to earn back half credit on what they did not know the first time around, and we went through the instructions on how to do and submit those corrections. Corrections are always due back two days after their tests have been returned to them.

Next week, we will be reading through Chapter 13 of Touching Spirit Bear, working on reading comprehension strategies. Students will also begin a Persuasive Writing Project based on Part One of the novel. We will begin the project with brainstorming, pre-writing, and learning about appropriate persuasive techniques.

- Test Corrections – Tuesday, 10/5

Math 8G1: This week students took a quiz over transformations. They also learned about similar figures. Next week students will learn about dilations.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 2 – Wednesday, October 6
- Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz – Friday, October 8

Math 8G2: This week students took a quiz over solving inequalities. They also learned about compound inequalities. Next week students will learn about solving absolute value inequalities.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 2 – Wednesday, Oct. 6
- Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz - Friday, Oct. 8

Theology: This week we learned about the Genealogy of the Church, Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition which are the sources of our faith, and from which is formed the Deposit of Faith (the whole content of our faith). We looked into some of the more well known stories in Scripture. We also looked at all of the different beliefs which are in (by baptism) or connected in any way to the Church that Christ founded. In Theology of the Body we had a class discussion of the universal call to holiness specifically on the topics of Marriage and Virginity for the sake of the Kingdom.

- Quiz: Wednesday Oct. 5, Find notes on the student portal in Canvas on the course and Modules.



DID YOU KNOW?



Middle School Test Corrections Policy

For all Middle School subjects, students have the option of doing test corrections to earn back half credit on their test. After they get their tests back, they have two days to make corrections (showing ALL their work) and re-submit their work.



GROWTH MINDSET IN ACTION!

