



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Oct. 29, 2021

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week, we learned about how different parts of the world have different customs and traditions. We researched different cultures to see those traditions. We also played America's favorite game show "Learning with Mr. Baxter" to review for yesterday's quiz. Next week we will discuss the different economies around the world, and how they impact our lives. We will also begin to delve into how trade works and it differs around the world.

Science: It is hard to believe that we are already a quarter of the way through the year! The sixth grade class began to learn about the different types of weathering that change the shapes of features on Earth's surface. Next week, we will move into the types of erosion, such as examples of mass movement, and wind, water, and ice. Our next test will not be until the second week of November.

ELA: This week we finished reading *The Cay* and worked more on context clues and characterization. We finished the week with completing a study guide for Chapters 10-19. Next week, we will review the answers to the study guide on Monday for the quiz on Thursday. We will also be watching the movie of *The Cay* next week and comparing it to the novel.

- Chapters 10-19 Quiz on *The Cay* will be on Thursday, Nov. 4.

Math 6S: This week students wrapped up the chapter on multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals. The test for Chapter 2 will be next week. The next topic to be covered is algebraic expressions.

- Chapter 2 Test - Tuesday, Nov. 2

Math 6B: This week students learned about properties of addition and multiplication, the distributive property, and factoring expressions.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 2 - Tuesday, Nov. 2
- Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz - Thursday, Nov. 4
- Chapter 3 Test - Friday, Nov. 5

Theology: This week we learned how to properly interpret Sacred Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Church by understanding the Literal and Spiritual sense of Scripture. We also learned how the Old and New Testaments fit together perfectly to form one "organic unity." In TOB, we continued our unit on the Image of God by discussing how that likeness to God shows us who we are and what our purpose is. We have dignity simply because we exist, and we are made for relationship with others and God.

- Quiz: Wednesday, Nov. 3 and study for the test
- Test: Monday, Nov. 8

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week, the students learned about the feudal economy. We went outside on Tuesday and the students had an interactive lesson about how the feudal economy works. Some students were thrilled about being nobles, others were not happy being peasants. We also played “Learning with Mr. Baxter” to review for yesterday’s quiz.

Science: We spent some time this week learning about the different types of chemical bonds, ionic and covalent. The kids did a great job working on some high school level chemistry, with drawing electron dot diagrams. They will be well familiar with these topics and ready for high school chemistry! Next week we will finish Chapter 3 with talking about bonds between metal atoms and then we will review and take our Chapter 3 test next Friday, Nov. 5.

- Upcoming Test – Nov. 5

ELA: This week, we worked on how to use sticky notes as a reading strategy. We focused on making connections, asking questions, and understanding point of view in *Dragonwings*. In addition, we started literature circles for chapter three. Literature circle discussions will take place on Monday for chapter three. We finished the week discussing the importance of dragons in Chinese culture. Next week, we will continue with literature circles and analyze literary elements within *Dragonwings*.

Math: This week students wrapped up Chapter 3 with a test on Thursday. The next topic is on inequalities.

- Chapter 4 Quiz 1 - Friday, Nov. 5

Theology: This week we learned about the Cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. We looked at how self consciousness poses a challenge to growth, and how God does not judge us on appearance, but sees what is in our hearts. We also learned how every moral act affects other people in our community, either for better or worse. However, because of this, we can rely on the good actions of other people in our lives when we need help.

In TOB we continued our unit on Redeemed and Called by discussing how without the sin of Adam and Eve (though it is evil), we would not have such a Redeemer as Jesus, and we would not be beloved children of God.

- Test: Tuesday, Nov. 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD CEREMONY

The First Quarter Middle School Awards ceremony will be held on Nov. 5 at 2:30pm in the church. We will recognize those students who have done well in the classroom, as well as those who have given back to the community. This event will be livestreamed.



8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week, the 8th graders presented their War of 1812 projects to their classmates. We then had fun burning the White House and some of the battlefields. I was really impressed at the creativity of the projects. They were fantastic. Later in the week we looked at how the Supreme Court strengthened the federal government during John Marshall's tenure. We also began to look at the importance of the Monroe Doctrine.



Next week we will explore more in depth the presidency of James Monroe. We will also have our first DBQ essay next week. Students will work on this in class on Thursday and Friday. A DBQ is a Document Based Question essay. Students will be given different primary sources, answer the questions about the sources then use the documents to answer an essay question.



Science: I am so proud of the work the 8th graders put in on their cell projects! There was a ton of cake to eat and they were all delicious! I also think that the kids really became familiar with the parts of the cell and their functions, which made the test they took at the end of the week much easier to study for.

We will be moving on to more cell processes in the next chapter, such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration.



ELA: This week, we started literature circles for part two of *Touching Spirit Bear* in order for students to become more independent with their reading strategies and analysis skills. We ended the week introducing the "America and Me" Essay Contest. Next week, we will be working on our essays for the contest and continue with literature circles for *Touching Spirit Bear*.

- Rough Draft of "America and Me Essay" Contest due Monday, Nov. 8
- Final Draft of "America and Me Essay" Contest due Thursday, Nov. 11

Math 8G1: This week students wrapped up Chapter 3 with a test on Wednesday. The next topic is graphing linear equations.

- Chapter 4 Quiz 1 - Friday, Nov. 5

Math 8G2: This week students learned about the transformations of the graphs of linear functions and graphing absolute value functions. Next week they will start to wrap up Chapter 3.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 2 - Monday, Nov. 1
- Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz 1 - Wednesday, Nov. 3
- Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz 2 - Thursday, Nov. 4
- Chapter 3 Test - Monday, Nov. 8

Theology: This week, we learned about the history of the Rosary and the chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the messages of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Jesus to pray these prayers for world peace and mercy for sinners. In TOB, we continued our unit on virginity for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. We discussed how the total gift of self for the good of the world is a sign of eternal life and union with God.

- Quiz: Tuesday, Nov. 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKER



Mr. James Wilson came to speak to the middle school this week about the history of the relationship between the Catholic Church and education, as well as to introduce the students to the writing of Dante and his writings. Mr. Wilson is a creative writing and literature professor at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. The students were fascinated by the story!