



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Oct. 8, 2021

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we discussed the differences between climate and weather, as well as the different ecosystems on Earth. The last couple of days we have talked about renewable and nonrenewable resources as well as examining population and where people move to.

Next week we look at push and pull factors of migration and how cultures and societies are structured. We will continue to examine why people move and how they adapt to their surroundings.

Science: We have moved into our chapter on earthquakes and what causes them. The students enjoyed a lab last Friday on the types of plate boundaries and stresses that create faults. We used Cool Whip, graham crackers, and Fruit Roll-ups to simulate the movements of tectonic plates. We have also been learning about how earthquakes are measured and located. Our next test will be on the 15th, so we will be finishing the chapter and reviewing next week.

- Upcoming Test: Friday, Oct. 15.

ELA: This week, we focused on honing our reading strategies using text-to-self connections and making good predictions based on evidence in a text. We also introduced our Create a Map project and completed a graphic organizer to brainstorm ideas for the map. We finished the week with reviewing Chapters 4-9 of *The Cay* and reading Chapters 10-12. Next week, we will be continuing on with *The Cay* and working on making cultural connections with the text.

- Quiz on Chapters 4-9 – Tuesday, Oct. 12
- Map Project – Friday, Oct. 15

Math 6S: This week students learned about multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 1 – Tuesday, Oct. 12

Math 6B: This week students learned about adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals.

- Chapter 2 Quiz 2 – Tuesday, Oct. 12
- Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz – Thursday, Oct. 14
- Chapter 2 Test – Friday, Oct. 15



Theology: This week we focused on the use of Scripture in the Mass and how reflecting on the readings before Mass helps us prepare to hear Jesus speak to us in the Mass. In TOB, we summed up our unit on Gift and crafted and exchanged origami gifts with the students.

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we finished learning about the Byzantine culture and then reviewed for today's test. I will return the test to the students on Monday. If they choose to do test corrections, they will be due on Wednesday.

Next week we examine what Europe looked like during the Middle Ages, what new countries arose, and key conflicts.

Science: We have been continuing to talk about the states of matter and how and why substances move through these states. We got to see an example of sublimation and deposition using dry ice and a penny! We will be reviewing for our test on Chapter 2 on Oct. 12. Study guides will be handed out Friday, Oct. 8.

After the test on Tuesday, we will start Chapter 3, which covers atoms and the periodic table. The students will be receiving a list of elements and symbols that they will be responsible for knowing for the test at the end of Chapter 3.

- Upcoming Test: Tuesday, Oct. 12.

ELA: This week, we continued working on the writing process for our Mythology Project. Students met with me individually as well to get personalized feedback on their myths. In addition, students took the unit test on Mythology. Tests were handed back on Thursday and test corrections are due on Monday. Next week, we will be starting pre-reading activities for Dragonwings.

- Final draft of Create a Myth Project – Tuesday, Oct. 12

Math: This week students took the Chapter 2 test and they started working with algebraic expressions. Next week they will learn about solving equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 1 - Wednesday, Oct. 13

Theology: This week we discussed how closely connected our bodies are to our souls and how each affects the other. Also, we discussed how God created us as man and woman to build a communion of persons. In TOB, we concluded our unit on Man of Concupiscence with an activity that demonstrated how we navigate through this life despite our concupiscence with help from God and others.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week, we learned about some of the major battles and events of the War of 1812. Included in this was looking at the role the Great Lakes played in the War of 1812. We had some good discussions about battle strategy, and courage. Today students were given information about their "Build a Battle" project. The students will work in groups to recreate a battle in the War of 1812. They will also write a written summary about the battle. The project will be done in school and is due Wednesday, Oct. 20. The students will then present their projects to the class. All information on the project is on my canvas page.

Science: Our current chapter focuses on microscopes and the structure and function of cells in living things. We have been discussing Cell Theory and the history and parts of the microscope and will be using microscopes in class next week. We went through the requirements for the Cell Project due Oct. 25. Everyone should have already seen the parent slip that needs to be returned by the 11th; if not, please ask your students about it.

- Upcoming project: Cell Project, due Oct. 25

ELA: This week we finished part one of Touching Spirit Bear. Students were also introduced to their first major writing assignment. We completed brainstorming activities, pre-writing activities, and are currently working on an outline for our essay. Next week, we will be going over MLA format, in-text citations, and begin the drafting process for the essay.

- First draft of Persuasive Essay due Monday, Oct. 18

Math: 8G1: This week students took a quiz over transformations and a quiz over the vocabulary for Chapter 2. Next week they will start to learn about angles and triangles

- Chapter 2 Test - Monday, Oct. 11
- Chapter 3 Quiz 1 - Friday, Oct. 15

Math 8G2: This week students took a quiz over compound inequalities and absolute value inequalities. They also took a quiz over the vocabulary from Chapter 2.

- Chapter 2 Test - Monday, Oct. 11

Theology: This week, we discussed how we receive the whole of our faith from Scripture and Tradition. We also discussed how and who is a member of the church that Jesus founded. In TOB, we concluded our unit on Vocation and Gift by looking at some of the students' gifts, talents, and interests to demonstrate how God uses those things we are good at and enjoy for His calling on us to make a gift of our lives. We also discussed this call as it plays out in Marriage and Virginity for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.

8TH GRADE EVENT

8th Grade Bowling Event

Hello 8th grade parents!

Here is a team-building opportunity for our 8th grader leaders. This is a parent-sponsored event. Any chaperones are welcome and encouraged!



- What? An 8th Grade Bowling Event
- When? Friday, October 29 (Saint Thomas half-day of school)
11:30am-1:30pm
- Where? Clique Lanes
533 Stocking Ave. NW
- Cost? \$10/person which includes two hours of unlimited bowling, shoes, pizza lunch and drinks. Students can bring money the day of the event. We will be upstairs at Clique.
- RSVP Emily Brunner (emilybrunner@stthomasgr.org)

