



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Nov. 12, 2021

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES SIGN UPS

Parents, Middle School conferences are Nov. 16 (4-8pm), Nov. 19 (12-3pm), and Nov. 22 (4-8pm). Please use our [Parent/Teacher Conference Sign Up Google Doc](#). Find the Middle School teachers' Sign Up Link to choose your conference day/time (you meet with all the Middle School teacher during your time slot). Then note the Google Meet Link, which you will use to get into the virtual meeting.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week, we discussed how and why trade between countries takes place. We looked at the barriers that put on trading between countries and how and why countries try to make the most out of the resources they have. We had an interactive trade simulation on Wednesday where the students went outside and simulated trade between countries. They had different scenarios that impacted the trade. Yesterday we learned about Veterans Day and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed for our country.

Next week we are going to discuss the different governments of the world, and how those governments impact all of us. There will be another interactive simulation next week involving the different types of governments.

Science: We have completed our study of weathering, erosion and deposition. We have spent a great deal of time focusing on how these processes work together over time to shape the surface of the Earth. The class was able to participate in a lab where they used a Skittle to represent a rock moving through these processes. On Monday, we will review for the test that will take place on Tuesday.

- Tuesday, Nov. 16 - Test



ELA: This week, we started our short story unit. We discussed the difference between a novel and a short story, elements of plot, and characterization. Furthermore, we introduced and practiced using a double-entry diary while reading to help us connect events in a story to our own experiences. We are also working on using evidence from the text to support our thoughts and reflections on a text. Grammatically, we studied sentence fragments within writing.

Next week, we will be taking a quiz on “Eleven”, our first short story read this week and will be focusing on comparing characters from two different texts. After comparing, we will look at how to write an effective comparison paragraph and complete a practice paragraph. We will also be looking at sentence boundary errors within our own writing.

- Tuesday, Nov. 16 - “Eleven” Quiz

Math 6S: This week students took a quiz over writing algebraic expressions and learned about properties of multiplication and addition. Next week they will learn about the Distributive Property and factoring expressions.

- Tuesday, Nov. 23 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2

Math 6B: This week students took a quiz over areas of parallelograms and triangles. Next week they will learn about the area of trapezoids, composite figures and graphing polygons in a coordinate plane.

- Monday, Nov. 22 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2

Theology: This week we learned how the original sin of Adam and Eve takes away the gifts God gave them. Now those gifts cannot be passed down to their children. On account of the weakness of man without these gifts, Cain killed his brother Abel. We looked at the story of Noah as the beginning of God’s plan to destroy sin and bring man back to himself.

In TOB, we began our unit on how the body reveals man. The body points to the person; we are not just random objects in creation. It also shows us that we are relational beings who depend on others, and on whom others depend.

- Monday, Nov. 15 - Quiz

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we finished learning about how the church influenced Europe during the Middle Ages. In addition, we learned about the influence of Thomas Aquinas. We reviewed for the test that was today, and talked about the importance of Veteran's Day.

Next week we will discuss the Crusades which we lead us into the spread of Islam.

Science: We have been diving deeper into chemical reactions and equations this week. The students were able to observe and identify many of the signs that indicate that a chemical reaction has occurred, such as the formation of a precipitate, a color change, a release of gas, or a change in energy/temperature. We have also been reading about and learning the background information and skills that will allow the students to be able to balance equations. Our test for this chapter will not be until after Thanksgiving.

ELA: This week, we worked on literature circles for Chapter 4 of Dragonwings. Students had work time in class and participated in their discussions on Wednesday. We ended the week practicing effective reading strategies with informational text, focusing on a text about the Wright Brothers. Then, we connected this information to concepts mentioned in Dragonwings regarding the Wright brothers. Next week, we will be covering chapters 5-6 of Dragonwings and focusing on literary analysis skills and vocabulary.

- Wednesday, Nov. 17 - Ch. 5-6 literature circle roles due

Math: This week students solved inequalities with multiplication and division. They also solved two-step inequalities.

- Monday, Nov. 15 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, Nov. 17 - Chapter 4 Test

Theology: This week, we learned how making a leap of Faith should not be out of ignorance, but rather basing your decision from information about the person whom you trust. We also learned about the magisterium, and the two pillars of Divine Revelation; Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

In TOB, we began our unit on God's law and love by discussing how God's commands are for our benefit and free us so that we can do what is right and good. Adam and Eve would have had harmony and peace to them if they had obeyed God's commands.

- Monday, Nov. 15 - Quiz

8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week, we talked about the Election of 1824 and how it changed the American political system. We then talked about the presidency of Andrew Jackson and how it afforded more opportunity to Americans. We also discussed the importance of Veteran's Day.

Next week we will look at the Nullification crisis that Andrew Jackson faced, and the events that caused the Trail of Tears.



Science: The 8th graders continued to study the processes of photosynthesis and cellular respiration this week. We then moved into discussing the steps of the cell cycle which allows cells to grow and reproduce. After going over the steps, we are creating simple models that represent these steps to help the students understand and remember. We will finish reviewing early next week for the test that will take place on Tuesday.

- Tuesday, Nov. 16 – Test

ELA: This week, we finalized our “America and Me” essays with peer-editing and revising. In addition, we completed our literature circles for Ch. 18-20. We finished the week with a vocabulary activity for Part II of Touching Spirit Bear. Next week, we will be introducing a project for Part II of the novel and introducing literature circles for Ch. 21-25.

- Wednesday, Nov. 17 - Project Information Slip Signed by Student and Parent Due
- Thursday, Nov. 18 - Literature Circle Roles Due
- Thursday, Nov. 18 - Project Brainstorming Sheet Due
- Wednesday, Dec. 1 - Rough Draft of Written Component of Project Due
- Friday, Dec. 10 - Final Project Due



Math 8G1: This week students wrote and graphed linear equations in different forms. Next week they will wrap up Chapter 4.

- Monday, Nov. 15 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2
- Wednesday, Nov. 17 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, Nov. 18 - Chapter 4 Test

Math 8G2: This week students wrote equations in different forms. Next week they will scatter plots and lines of fit as well as arithmetic sequences.

- Tuesday, Nov. 16 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1

Theology: This week we learned about the Beatitudes. We discussed how we can share with others the gifts God has given us to the people He has placed in our lives. We also discussed mutual love and trust as the building blocks of a community. For homework, the students reached out to students in 6th grade to build fellowship.

In TOB we began our unit on the Sacrament of Marriage by learning how Adam (who saw himself as a unique creature from the rest of creation, but was alone) keeps his uniqueness at the same time as he finds communion with Eve who is human like himself.

- Wednesday, Nov. 17 - Quiz