



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Nov. 5, 2021

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD CEREMONY UPDATE

Middle school first quarter awards will be on Nov. 12 at 2:30pm in the church. We apologize for the miscommunication. Parents can attend in person but will need to RSVP using our [MS Awards Ceremony RSVP](#). We also will stream this event with this [Google Meet link](#). There will be three categories of awards: Service, academics, and leadership. To see award criteria, visit our [Middle School Awards Criteria](#).



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 your 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 the 6th graders learned about the economy, supply and demand, and how the government regulates the economy. We also discussed how trade is regulated. Next week we will continue to look at the different methods of trade and how they work. Also we will look at the different resources that different countries use.

Science: We have finished talking about weathering and are moving into the other parts of the cycle that shapes Earth's surface, erosion and deposition. The kids were amazed to see the destruction caused by mass movement events such as landslides and mudflows. Once we have completed the erosion and deposition material, we will have our test on Nov. 12. This test is the material from Chapter 3 as well as abbreviated material from Chapter 4.

- Upcoming test – Nov. 12

ELA: This week we reviewed for and took our final quiz on *The Cay* (Ch. 10-19). We also watched the movie version of the Cay and compared it to the novel. After doing so, we made recommendations as to which version was better and why. We finished up the week with getting a head start on our reading/writing notebooks for the second quarter. Next week, we will be starting our fiction short story unit, focusing on reading strategies, vocabulary strategies, and literary elements.

Math 6S: This week students took the test for Chapter 2. They started the next topic which is algebraic expressions.

- Chapter 3 Quiz 1 - Wednesday, Nov. 10

Math 6B: This week students wrapped up Chapter 3 with a test on Friday. The next topic is the area of polygons.

- Chapter 4 Quiz 1 - Thursday, Nov. 11

Theology: This week we discussed how, all through salvation history, God is pursuing His people like a lover pursues his beloved. He does this by making covenants with His people so we can be united to Him. In TOB we concluded our unit on the image and likeness of God by examining the order in creation, the hierarchy of it, and the human person as God's great work.

- Test: Monday, Nov. 8

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week the students learned about life in the medieval towns. We looked at how towns developed. We also started to learn about the Church's influence on Europe during the Middle Ages. Next week, we will review for the upcoming test. Look for a study guide on Monday.

- Test: Nov. 12

Science: After taking our test on Chapter 3, we will take a more in-depth look into chemical reactions. We will have the opportunity to cause and observe some chemical reactions, and we will also spend some time practicing the basics of balancing equations.

ELA: This week, we completed our first literature circle discussions for Dragonwings Chapter Three. Students reflected on their participation in and preparation for these literature circles. We also delved more into context clues for Chapter Three vocabulary, and we looked at analyzing point of view and character traits in chapters 1-3. We finished the week by assigning new literature circle roles for Chapters 4-5.

- Chapter 4 Literature Circle Roles due Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Math: This week students wrote, solved and graphed inequalities. They will continue to solve inequalities next week.

- Chapter 4 Quiz 2 - Thursday, Nov. 11
- Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz - Monday, Nov. 15
- Chapter 4 Test - Tuesday, Nov. 16

Theology: This week we learned about How God is both Love and Truth. Jesus shows us that the two greatest commandments are to love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself. He proves that He is both love and truth by dying on the cross for us. No one dies for a lie or for someone he hates.

In TOB, we concluded our unit named Redeemed and Called by making mosaics out of torn paper. This activity demonstrated how Jesus does not just repair our brokenness from sin, but he transforms us by His saving work.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we learned about Monroe's presidency and how he handled foreign policy. We looked at the key components of the Monroe Doctrine and how it shaped American foreign policy for years to come. The students worked on their first document based question (DBQ) essay this week as well.

Next week we will discuss the Election of 1824 and how it changed the American political system, we will also delve into the presidency of Andrew Jackson.

Science: The 8th graders have been learning about the processes that cells use to obtain energy, such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Next week will be learning the steps that a cell goes through when dividing and the plan is to create an in-class project that demonstrates this cell cycle. Chapter 3 should be completed towards the end of next week and then we will begin to review for the next test.

- Upcoming test: Nov. 16

ELA: This week, we introduced new literature circle roles for Touching Spirit Bear Ch. 16-17 and finished our week with literature circle discussions and reflection. We also looked at reading strategies with informational text. We read an informational text about victims in a crime and analyzed the information in relation to the characters and events in Touching Spirit Bear. Finally, we worked on the rough drafts of the "America and Me" essays.

- Rough Draft of America and Me Essay Contest due Monday, Nov. 8
- Final Draft of America and Me Essay Contest due Thursday, Nov. 11
- Chapters 18-20 Literature Circle Roles due Friday, Nov. 12

Math 8G1: This week students graphed linear equations and studied proportional relationships. Next week they will write and graph linear equations in different forms.

- Chapter 4 Quiz 2 - Monday, Nov. 15

Math 8G2: This week students wrapped up Chapter 3. The next topic is writing equations in different forms.

- Chapter 3 Test - Monday, Nov. 8
- Chapter 4 Quiz 1 - Monday, Nov. 15

Theology: This week we learned about everyone's unique vocation in life which utilizes their various talents and gifts in the work God has planned for them. We also discussed the 7 Corporal and 7 Spiritual Works of Mercy and some examples of how we can do them every day.

In TOB, we concluded our unit on Virginité for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven by beginning to make a large image made from individual pieces of the same smaller image. When it is finished, we will be able to use the image to see how God calls each of us with our unique talents and gifts for our part in the bigger picture of humanity.

- Quiz: Wednesday, Nov. 10