

# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Dec. 10, 2021

## MIDDLE SCHOOL REMINDERS

**Uniforms:** We have discussed with Middle School students the need to dress appropriately for the weather. We strongly encourage everyone to wear coats, gloves, hats, etc. and for girls to cover their legs with either pants or leggings. Students are allowed to wear non-uniform gear for recess (snow pants, sweat pants), but they are not allowed to take off any parts of their uniform for recess.

**Exams:** Please remind your children that exams are an excellent way to reinforce the learning that they have done all semester. When they start to become anxious, please let them know that each exam only counts as 10 percent of their semester grade.

**Exam Dismissal:** Exams will take place Tuesday through Thursday, December 14, 15, and 16 for middle school students. We will have two exams each day, both in the morning. Following Chapel, the first exam will take place from 8:30-9:50am and the second from 10-11:20am. Students are allowed to follow regular non-uniform guidelines during these three days of exams.

Our experience from past years has been that the students were mentally exhausted after the two exams. If you choose to pick your child up from school after the second exam, we fully support that decision. A nap and some quiet study time at home is a wise way to spend that afternoon. For some families, this is not convenient due to work schedules. We want to be sensitive to the needs of every family. Those students may certainly remain at school for lunch, recess and then an afternoon study hall and/or attend a service project chosen by a middle school teacher.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL EXAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6 SCI 7 SS 8 ELA	6 THEO 7 MATH 8 SCI	Choir/Band- 8:15-9am
6 ELA 7 SCI 8 SS	6 SS 7 THEO 8 MATH	6 MATH 7 ELA 8 THEO

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social studies:** This week we talked about primary and secondary sources as well as talking about the impact of Pearl Harbor. We began reviewing for exams yesterday. On Monday, we will review for their exam.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

**Science:** We finished Chapter 5 with our test on Wednesday. The students have started to work on their study guides, which covers material from Chapters 1-5. To prepare for the exam, the students can use their study guide, as well as look through old study guides and tests which they are supposed to be keeping in their science binders.

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Exam

**ELA:** This week, we finished discussing “Scout’s Honor” and took a quiz on the short story. We also started reviewing for exams. Students completed their exam study guide, and we went over the answers on Friday. Next week, we will finish reviewing for the final exam on Monday.

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - 6th Grade ELA Exam
- No reading/writing notebook during the week of exams

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about the areas of triangles as well as reviewed for exams.

- Thursday, Dec. 16 - Exam (Chapters 1-4.2)

**Math 6B:** This week students learned about comparing and graphing ratios as well as reviewed for exams.

- Thursday, Dec. 16 - Exam (Chapters 1-4)

**Theology:** This week, we learned about Abraham and Sarah, and God’s promise of countless descendants to them. We also learned about Isaac and Rebekah’s similar story and the conflict of their two sons, Jacob and Esau.

In TOB, we continued our unit on how the body reveals man by learning that when we properly take care of our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit, we are giving glory to God who created them. On Monday, we will prepare for the exam.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we discussed how Islam spread throughout the Middle East as well as looking at some important Islamic inventions that are relevant today. Next we will review for the exam, take the exam on Tuesday, and celebrate Christmas on Friday.

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Exam

**Science:** We moved into our chapter on solutions and acids and bases this week. The class had the opportunity to test the pH of different solutions using both litmus paper and pH paper. We will then move into reviewing for the exam next week. To prepare for the exam, the students can use their study guide that we will work on in class, as well as look through old study guides and tests which they are supposed to be keeping in their science binders.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

**ELA:** This week, we participated in literature circles covering chapter 8 of *Dragonwings* and focused on literary analysis skills and vocabulary. We finished the week filling out our exam study guide and reviewing the answers to the study guide. On Monday, we will finish reviewing for the exam.

- Thursday, Dec. 16 - Exam
- No reading/writing notebook during exam week

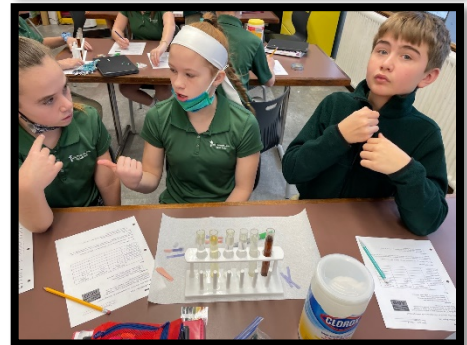
**Math:** This week students took a quiz over the second half of Chapter 5. They also reviewed for exams.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam (Chapters 1-5)

**Theology:** This week, we learned about the 4 Gospel writers and the types of Gospel; 3 synoptic Gospels (synoptic = with the same perspective) and John's Gospel. We also saw how each Gospel was directed at different groups of Christians in the 2nd Century. Each Gospel tells something special about the life of Christ.

In TOB, we continued our unit on God's law of love by learning how we are not bound by our desires that are corrupted by sin, but we are free to follow our true desires which desire the goodness found only in God's law, "A yoke that is easy, a burden that is light." On Monday, we will prepare for the exam.

- Wednesday, December 15 - Exam



## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about the Mexican-American War and its impact on the United States. We also worked on the study guide for the exam next week. On Monday, we will prepare for the exam.

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Exam

**Science:** We finished up our chapter on the basics of genetics this week by learning about the different patterns of inheritance that go beyond just dominant and recessive traits. The students also did an activity creating "Creatures" using coin flips to determine the traits that were passed on from parents to their offspring. They were able to see how siblings from the same family can wind up looking very different from one another. Next we are moving into our exam review. To prepare for the exam, the students can use their study guide that we will work on in class, as well as look through old study guides and tests, which they are supposed to be keeping in their science binders.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

**ELA:** This week, we focused on revising the written portion of the totem pole project. We also worked on our study guide for the exam and reviewed the answers to the study guide. On Monday, we will finish reviewing for the exam.

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Exam
- No reading/writing notebook during the week of exams

**Math 8G1:** This week students took a quiz over the second half of chapter 5 as well as reviewed for exams.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam (Chapters 1-5)

**Math 8G2:** This week students reviewed for exams.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam (Chapters 1-4)

**Theology:** This week, we finished learning about the 4 Marks of the Church, which identify the Catholic Church as the true church that Jesus founded.

In TOB, we learned about marriage, which Christ elevated to the status of a sacrament. As such, it is a holy covenant that facilitates the holiness of the husband and wife by the graces that Christ gives through the sacrament. On Monday we will prepare for the exam.

- Thursday, Dec. 16 - Exam