



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Dec. 3, 2021

## MIDDLE SCHOOL EXAMS

This week and next week during Flex Time we are discussing stress management and study skills as we approach exams in a few weeks. For those not familiar with the exam schedule, exams will be taking place from 8-11:30am on the Dec. 14, 15, and 16. Students tend to be mentally exhausted after their exams, so they are able to go home and rest and prepare for their exams the next day. They are also allowed to be in non-uniform on those exam days. Middle School students will have a regular - but fun - school day on Friday, Dec. 17.

### 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social studies:** This week we talked about what citizenship is. We examined the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen. We also talked about what it means to think like a historian and how we view history. Next week we will continue to look at how we view history both historically and as Catholics.

We will also start reviewing for exams.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

**Science:** The students are enjoying learning about the geologic time scale and how Earth has changed over time. The class likes to talk about the ancient organisms that existed on Earth in the past, and to discuss how different the world would be if any of the mass extinctions that have occurred throughout history had not happened. I mistakenly said that we would not be able to fit in the test for this material; the Chapter 5 test will be on 12/8 following that we will begin preparing for the exam.

- Wednesday, Dec. 8 - Chapter 5 Test
- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Exam

**ELA:** This week, we went back to the basics with grammar and discussed subjects and predicates, focusing specifically on identifying verbs. We will continue to focus on a grammatical concept each week so that after mastery, we can improve our sentence structure within our writing. We also continued to work on reading strategies and using context clues to determine the meaning of vocabulary words. Students are starting to understand different types of context clues to help aid their reading comprehension. We ended the week reading "Scout's Honor" and looking at how setting influences the characters and events in a story.

Next week, we will be looking at sensory details and how they are used within *Scout's Honor* to enhance the meaning of the story and take a quiz on *Scout's Honor*. Then, we will transition into concepts covered on the mid-semester exam.

- Wednesday, Dec. 8 - *Scout's Honor* Quiz
- Friday, Dec. 10 - Completed Exam Study Guide Due
- Make sure students are continuing with their reading/writing notebook each week. :)

**Math 6S:** This week students took a test over Chapter 3. They began a chapter about the areas of polygons and learned about the areas of parallelograms. Next week they will learn about the areas of triangles as well as review for exams.

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

**Math 6B:** This week students took a test over Chapter 4. They began a chapter about ratios and learned about ratios, ratio tables, and rates. Next week they will learn about comparing and graphing ratios as well as review 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. Next week we will start preparing for the exam.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we discussed the origins of Islam. We compared and contrasted Catholicism and Islam as well. We also began to discuss how Islam was spread, and the impact it has around the world today. Next week we will continue to look at how Islam and the effect it has today. We will also start reviewing for exams.

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Tuesday

**Science:** We took a test this week on chemical reactions and are now talking about solutions, acids, and bases. The class will be doing a lab next week testing the pH of different solutions. The material in this chapter will not have its own test, but instead will be included on the exam, which will be on the exam on 12/14.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

**ELA:** This week, we participated in literature circles covering chapter 7 of *Dragonwings* and focused on literary analysis skills and vocabulary. Next week, we will be preparing for and participating in literature circles for Chapter 8. Then, we will transition into reviewing concepts for the mid-semester exam.

- Tuesday, Dec. 8 - Chapter 8 Literature Circle Discussions
- Thursday, Dec. 9 - Completed Study Guide for Exams Due

**Math:** This week students took a quiz. They also learned about solving proportions, slope and direct variation. Next week they will have a quiz over the second half of Chapter 5. They will also review for exams.

- Tuesday, Dec. 7 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2
- 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." Next week we will start preparing for the exam.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we learned about Westward Expansion. We looked at how the west was opened up by settlers, we learned about the hardships on the Oregon Trail, and began to discuss Texas Independence.

Next week we will continue talking about the Mexican-American War, and the impact that it had on the North and the South

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Exam

**Science:** We have been continuing to learn about heredity and the basics of genetics this week. The students enjoyed learning about Punnett Squares, and we played a game last week that helped them to practice their genetics' vocabulary and application. The material from this chapter will not have its own test, but instead will be included on the exam that we take on Dec. 15.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam

**ELA:** This week, we learned how to correctly format a works cited page in MLA and how to create citations for websites used in our writing. We also discussed how to write clearly and concisely. We finished our week with grammar review and peer-editing and conferencing of our totem pole project paragraphs.

Next week, we will be adding in the reflective paragraph, revising our project paragraphs, and continuing to work on our reading/writing notebook. We will also transition into reviewing concepts for the semester exam.

- Thursday, Dec. 9 - Exam Study Guides Due
- Friday, Dec. 10 - Final draft of Totem Pole Project Paragraphs and Totem Pole due

**Math 8G1:** This week students took a quiz over the first half of chapter 5. They also learned about different methods of solving systems of linear equations. Next week they will take a quiz over the second half of chapter 5 as well as review for exams.

- Tuesday, Dec. 7 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2
- Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Exam (Chapters 1-5)

**Math 8G2:** This week students took quizzes and a test over Chapter 4. Next week they will review 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. Next week we will start preparing for the exam.

- Thursday, Dec. 16 - Exam