



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 14, 2022

MIDDLE SCHOOL REMINDER

Lunchroom etiquette

Dr. Tyrrell and Mr. Baxter have had to remind Middle School Students about improving their behavior in the lunchroom. Our hard-working Mrs. Nowack and lunchroom staff depend on students' patience, respect, and courtesy to continue our hot lunch program. Please talk to your middle schooler about using their virtues in the lunchroom.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social studies: This week we looked at the early civilizations of Sumer. We talked about how they adapted to their environment. We had fun with a cuneiform activity as well. The students had to translate cuneiform and then create their own language. Next week we will talk about the first empires of Sumer, the rise of the Babylonian empire and Hammurabi and his code.

- Tentative Quiz Jan. 25

Science: We are still finishing up our discussion on energy conservation. This week we spent time discussing alternative energy sources to the coal, oil, and natural gas on which we depend at this point. We will be ending that chapter with reviewing next week and then having our Chapter 6 test on Friday, Jan. 21.

- Upcoming test: Jan. 21

ELA: This week, we began reading *The Giver* in class (Chapters 1-2). We have been focusing on "during reading" strategies with sticky note annotations. If possible, please remind students to bring sticky notes to class. In addition, we practiced context clues with vocabulary words in *The Giver* and worked on analysis skills with social and moral environments in relation to the setting of the novel. We also reviewed direct objects and began learning about indirect objects in sentences. Next week, students will be quizzed on Chapters 1-2 and indirect objects, and we will continue with Chapters 3-5 of *The Giver*.

- Reading/Writing Notebooks due Tuesday, Jan. 18. Students should have 8 weeks of work completed at that point.
- Quiz Tuesday, Jan. 18 – Indirect Objects/Vocabulary/*The Giver* Chapters 1-2

Math 6S: This week students learned about graphing polygon in the coordinate plane and finding the perimeter and area. They took a quiz over this material.

- Wednesday, Jan. 19 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, Jan. 19 - Chapter 4 Notebook Check
- Thursday, Jan. 20 - Chapter 4 Test

Math 6B: This week students were assessed over Chapter 5. Next week they will begin Chapter 6, which covers integers.

Theology: We began our study of the Book of Exodus this week by talking about Moses' early life. We will be continuing with the events of Moses' life next week, leading up to the Israelites journey across the Red Sea and to Mt. Sinai. On Tuesday, we will be having our second quiz on the Historical Books of the Bible. They have the list and it is available on their Canvas page under Resources.

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we had a debate about the land bridge and the coastal route theories. The students worked hard and did a nice job presenting their information. The students are also working in groups and researching the different Native American tribes that settled in North America. Next week we will discuss Muslim Conquests of Africa, and its impact on trade throughout the world as well as looking at early explorers.

- Tentative Quiz Jan. 25

Science: We are continuing with our introduction to forces by talking about friction and gravity. We used spring scales in class to compare the strength of different types of friction on a wooden block. Next we will be learning about Newton's Laws of Motion and plan to do a project that demonstrates these laws over the next weeks.

ELA: This week we read through Chapter Ten of *Dragonwings* and worked on "during" reading strategies and analysis skills, focusing on point of view and analysis of figurative language in a text. We continued to work on using context clues to help us determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. We also introduced our *Dragonwings* Newspaper Project. Students are excited to create their own front page of a newspaper by synthesizing outside research on the San Francisco Earthquake and the events happening in the novel.

Next week, we will continue to work on the newspaper project in scaffolds, focusing on the inverted pyramid, research skills, and appropriate integration of quotations.

- Reading/Writing Notebooks are due on Wednesday, January 19. Students should have 8 weeks of work completed.

Math: This week students learned about solving percent problems with equations as well as percents of increase and decrease. Next week they will learn about simple interest.

- Thursday, Jan. 20 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.5 - 6.7)

Theology: We began working this week on a research project learning what the world was like during Jesus' time. It is helpful for the students to have some perspective on geography, society, and the ruling groups at that time. Starting at the beginning of the third quarter, the students will have the opportunity to be taught by Sister Regina, who comes to us from the Franciscan Life Process Center.

8th GRADE UPDATES

8th Grade PSAT Reminders

- Date: Wednesday, Jan. 19
- Time: 8:15am, promptly after virtual chapel in the Ministry Center
- What to Bring: fully-charged computer, power cord, two pencils or pens, calculator, and a book to read if they finish early
- Questions? Email Dr. Tyrrell: marygracetyrrell@stthomasgr.org.

8th Grade Speakers for Catholic Schools Week

Mr. Baxter will be asking four 8th grade students to speak at the masses to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Speak to your child about their availability to volunteer to speak at the 5pm, 7:30am, 9am, or 11am mass.

Social Studies: This week we continued to talk about the difference between the plantation south and the industrial north. We examined how the factory was run and how the plantation was run. We read excerpts from the Upton Sinclair Novel *The Jungle*, and we read eyewitness accounts of plantation life. Next week we will look at the invention of the telegraph and how railroads connected the county faster.

Science: We started the week by extracting DNA from strawberries. We have since moved into learning about genetic mutations as well as a brief introduction to what cancer is and methods for treatment. Next week, we will be starting a research project on different genetic disorders, and we will use that project as our chapter assessment, rather than taking a traditional test.

ELA: This week, we presented our pre-reading research projects on the historical context of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In addition, we worked on using context clues to help us determine the meaning in unfamiliar words within a text, read chapters 1-3 of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We also started reviewing basic grammatical concepts to build a foundation for analysis of more complex grammatical concepts in the near future. Next week, we will be analyzing characterization and setting within the first three chapters and will be reading Chapters 4-6 of the novel. Students will be taking a quiz on Chapters 1-3 on Friday.

- Reading/Writing Notebooks are due on Thursday, December 20. Students should have 8 weeks worth of work completed.
- Quiz Friday, January 21—Grammar/Vocab/Chapters 1-3 of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Math 8G1: This week students learned about comparing linear and nonlinear functions as well as analyzing and sketching graphs. Next week they will begin to wrap up this chapter and prepare for the test.

- Tuesday, January 18 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.4 - 6.5)
- Friday, January 21 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, January 21 - Chapter 6 Notebook Check
- Monday, January 24 - Chapter 6 Test

Math 8G2: This week students learned about solving equations by graphing. Next week they will learn about graphing linear inequalities and graphing systems of linear inequalities.

- Monday, January 24 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.5 - 5.7)
- Wednesday, January 26 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, January 26 - Chapter 5 Notebook Check
- Thursday, January 27 - Chapter 5 Test

Theology: This week we continued to learn about the early church, we learned about the struggles of the apostles and how Christ guided it. Next week we will look at the conversion of Saul and how Peter and Paul brought the Gospel to the Gentiles.