



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 21, 2022

We are welcoming parents back to Mass, in limited numbers. If you are interested in attending Mass, please use this [Friday Mass Sign Up Genius](#) and sit in the choir pews, near the piano.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social studies: This week we talked about the first empires of Sumer, the rise of the Babylonian empire and Hammurabi and his code. Half of the students went to reconciliation this week, the other half will go on Monday. Next week we will look at how the Assyrian armies conquered their empire and how the people of Mesopotamia created a rich cultural tradition.

- Tentative Quiz Jan. 28.

Science: We continued to talk about energy resources and conservation this week. The class made posters to get them thinking about ways that we can all conserve energy in our daily lives. We took the Chapter 6 test on Jan. 21. We will be moving into Chapter 8 next week, learning about the atmosphere.

ELA: This week, students took a quiz on *The Giver* Chapters 1-2 along with grammatical concepts (subjects, verbs, direct objects, and indirect objects). We then moved our focus to learning about subject complements with linking verbs. In addition, we have been discussing denotation and connotation in relation to the word choice in *The Giver*. We ended our week with reading Chapters 3-5 with sticky note annotations, analysis questions, and vocabulary (context clues). We have been focusing on “during reading” strategies with sticky note annotations. If possible, please remind students to bring sticky notes to class. Next week, students will be quizzed on Chapters 3-5 and subject complements, and we will continue with Chapters 6-7 of *The Giver*.

- Quiz Wednesday, Jan. 26–Subject Complements/Vocabulary/*The Giver* Chapters 6-7

Math 6S: This week students reviewed the concepts from Chapter 4 and took a test. Next week students will learn about ratios and rates.

Math 6B: This week students learned about integers, comparing and ordering integers, and putting fractions and decimals on a number line. Next week students will take a quiz over these concepts and will learn about absolute value and more concepts relating to the coordinate plane.

- Chapter 6 Quiz 1 - Monday, Jan. 24

Theology: We continued our exploration of the story of Moses this week. We learned about the beginning of Moses' life and have just about reached the plagues that were released on the Egyptian people in order to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt. Next week we will look more closely at those plagues and Passover, as well as the crossing of the Red Sea.

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week, we presented our group work about the different native American cultures and discussed how the Muslims conquered Africa, and the impact trade had throughout the world. Next week we will look at the Renaissance period and look at early explorers who opened the door to the new world.

- Tentative Quiz Jan. 25

Science: We are still working on our introduction to forces this week. We discussed Newton's Laws of Motion this week and the concepts of momentum, as well as the forces that keep satellites in orbit. We will be finishing up that chapter next week by working on a project that utilizes and demonstrates these forces.

ELA: This week, we learned about RAFT in writing (Role, Audience, Format, Topic) and completed a RAFT activity for our newspaper project. In addition, we learned about the inverted pyramid in journalism, analyzed how the inverted pyramid was used in a sample newspaper article, and completed our outside research for the project. We finished the week with brainstorming ideas for our own article using the inverted pyramid. Next week, we will learn how to properly integrate quotations into our articles and will begin the drafting process. In addition, we will begin to learn how to appropriately cite our outside sources in our articles.

- Thursday, Jan. 27 rough draft of newspaper feature article due.

Math: This week students learned about simple interest and took a quiz. Next week students will be assessed over Chapter 6.

- Monday, Jan. 24 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Monday, Jan. 24 - Chapter 6 Notebook Check
- Tuesday, Jan. 25 - Chapter 6 Test

Theology: The 7th graders finished their presentations on what life was like in Jesus' time. We also watched a documentary that taught us quite a bit about life in that area of the world around Jesus' lifetime. We also prepared for and went to Reconciliation. Next week, Sr. Regina will start to teach the class.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we talked about how trains connected the country, we discussed the impact of immigration to the formation of the country and how unions gave workers a voice in the workforce. Next week we will continue to look at the impact of immigration on the country, how they were treated and how the abolitionist movement was started.

- Tentative Quiz Jan. 28

Science: We finished this week by learning about the processes of genetic engineering and selective breeding that are used to create offspring with desired characteristics. We will be starting a research project next week on Genetic Disorders that will include a Google Slide presentation.

PSAT INFORMATION

All 8th Grade Parents need to sign up for an account on CollegeBoard.org in order to receive their child's PSAT scores in February (release dates vary).

Questions? Email Dr. Tyrrell: marygracetyrrell@stthomasgr.org



ELA: Grammar—we reviewed indirect objects and learned about subject complements this week. *To Kill a Mockingbird*—We completed an analysis activity for Chapters 1-3, focusing on characterization, analysis of quotations, comprehension, and comparing verses from the Bible to themes in the text. We also worked on context clues for Chapters 4-7 vocabulary (pre-reading strategy), and read Chapter 4 using sticky note annotations (during reading strategy). Next week, we will be taking a quiz on Chapters 1-3, reviewing grammar skills practiced thus far and taking a grammar quiz, and reading Chapters 5-7 with analysis practice.

- Quiz Monday, Jan. 24—Vocab/Chapters 1-3 of *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Quiz Thursday, Jan. 27—Grammar (Subjects, Verbs, Direct Objects, Indirect Objects, and Subject Complements)

Math 8G1: This week students began to wrap up this chapter and prepare for the test. Next week students will take the Chapter 6 Test. They will then learn about finding square and cube roots as well as the Pythagorean Theorem.

- Monday, Jan. 24 - Chapter 6 Test

Math 8G2: This week students learned about graphing linear inequalities and graphing systems of linear inequalities. Next week they will be assessed on the concepts of Chapter 5.

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

Theology: This week we talked about the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity, and read different accounts of Saul's conversion. Next week we talk about Peter forming the church in Antioch, and Paul's travels.