



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 28, 2022

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social studies:** This week we discussed the Babylonian, Assyrian and Phoenician empires. We discussed how each of them shaped and formed early Sumerian civilizations. Next week we will look at how the Phoenicians spread their culture over a wide area, and then we will start to look at the origins of Judaism.



**Science:** We took the Chapter 6 test on Friday and have since moved into Chapter 8, learning about Earth's atmosphere. We have discussed the make-up of our air and have been learning about pressure and density. This chapter will then cover the different layers of the atmosphere as well as how energy from the sun moves through the atmosphere.



**ELA:** This week we reviewed answers to *The Giver* Chapters 3-5 Analysis Activity and reviewed subject complements for a quiz that students took on Wednesday. In addition, we read Chapters 6 and 7 of *The Giver* using sticky note annotations as a "during reading" strategy and completed comprehension questions and analysis activities for these chapters, specifically focusing on comparing the values of a Utopian society to our Roman Catholic beliefs and forming an opinion about a text and supporting the opinion with textual evidence. We finished the week by learning about verb phrases. Next week, we will review verb phrases and learn about run-ons and comma splices. We will also be working on a persuasive paragraph (prompt regarding themes in *The Giver*), specifically focusing on

using the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (CER) organization strategy, avoiding comma splices and run-ons, and using transition words effectively between thoughts and ideas.

- Thursday, February 3–Rough draft of persuasive paragraph due.
- Monday, February 7– Final draft of persuasive paragraph due.

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about ratios, ratio tables, and rates. Next week they will learn about comparing and graphing ratios and about percent. They will also take a quiz.

- Thursday, February 3 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1

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.



**Math 6B:** This week students learned about absolute value and more concepts relating to the coordinate plane. Next week they will begin to review for the Chapter 6 Test.

- Monday, January 31 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2
- Wednesday, February 2 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, February 2 - Chapter 6 Notebook Check
- Thursday, February 3 - Chapter 6 Test



**Theology:** We have continued to study the Book of Exodus this week by moving into the Ten Plagues of Egypt. We were so fortunate to have Rabbi Michael Shadick come to speak to our class this week about the holiday of Passover and how it relates to the stories in Exodus and Moses. The class is also working on a choice project about the plagues God sent down upon the Egyptians. I am excited to see the puppet shows, posters, children's books, raps, etc. next week.

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about Columbus and his impact on the colonies. We talked about his moral compass and the lessons we can learn from him. We also talked about the Renaissance era. Next week we will look at how Spanish conquistadors defeated two American Indian empires.

**Science:** We have spent time this week working in groups on a project demonstrating Newton's Laws and other forces by building cars that need to keep an egg safe, running down a ramp and into a wall. The class is doing a great job working in teams, and I am amazed by their creativity and problem solving.

- Upcoming test- February 22

**ELA:** This week, we learned how to properly integrate quotations into a newspaper article. In addition, we began the drafting stage of our feature news articles for the San Francisco Earthquake Newspaper Project. We also learned how to give proper credit to sources within writing and how to create a Works Cited Page in MLA format. Students created their own works cited pages for their research for the project with both outside sources and *Dragonwings*. Next week, we will be peer-editing and student/teacher conferencing on the feature articles and introducing templates to begin creating our actual front page of our newspapers.

- Thursday, February 4–Final Newspaper Projects Due

**Math 7:** This week students learned about adjacent and vertical angles as well as complementary and supplementary angles. Next week they will learn about triangles and constructing angles. They will need a protractor for class on Tuesday, February 1.

- Friday, February 4 - Chapter 7 Quiz 1 (7.1 - 7.3 Extension)

**Theology:** Hello my name is Sister Regina and I am the new 7th grade theology teacher. I am a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist and live in Lowell where the Franciscan Life Process Center is located. I am happy to be at Saint Thomas and to be working with your student. This week in class we were taking some time to get to know each other and we began Unit 3 in the Spirit of Truth textbook. The topic over the next several weeks will be the Sacraments. We talked about the Sacraments as outward and visible signs of an inward and invisible grace.

This is my first week at Saint Thomas so thank you for your patience as I acclimate to the culture and begin to use Canvas and Infinite Campus. Please feel free to email me ([reginacochran@stthomasgr.org](mailto:reginacochran@stthomasgr.org)) if you have any questions or want to be in touch.

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about the Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement. Next week we will look at how political and religious trends sparked reform and how family life changed.

**Science:** The class has done a great job this week researching and creating their presentations on various genetic disorders in groups. They have displayed sensitivity and maturity in dealing with learning about the difficulties that some people are born with. I am looking forward to their presentations. We have been stressing good presentation skills and public speaking. We will next be moving into learning about plant life.

**ELA:** Grammar—we reviewed subjects/verbs/direct objects/indirect objects/subject complements and students took a grammar quiz on Friday. *To Kill a Mockingbird*—We read Chapters 5-7 using sticky note annotations as a “during” reading strategy. In addition, we completed an analysis activity focusing on the difference between exposition, narration, and flashback and supporting our opinions about literature in writing with textual evidence and reasoning. We also focused on comparing themes in the novel to our Catholic faith using Proverbs and the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. Next week, we will be learning about verb phrases and sentence types, reading Chapters 8-9 of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and beginning a descriptive essay that focuses on characterization in the novel.

- Wednesday, February 2—TKAM Ch. 4-7 Quiz

**Math 8G1:** This week students learned about finding square and cube roots as well as the Pythagorean Theorem. Next week they will learn about approximating square roots, repeating decimals, and using the Pythagorean Theorem.

- Monday, January 31 - Chapter 7 Quiz 1 (7.1 - 7.3)

**Math 8G2:** This week students were assessed on the concepts of Chapter 5. Next week they will learn about the properties of exponents and exponential functions.

- Tuesday, February 8 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.4)

**Theology:** This week we went to Adoration on Tuesday and learned about the early formation of the church from the conversion of Saul to the first church council in Jerusalem. Next week we will look at how the church came together to resolve issues. We also discussed how to be a witness to Christ.

- Quiz next Thursday February 3

## ALL SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

As part of our Catholic Schools Week service project, we will be collecting art supplies to donate to Artists Creating Together, a nonprofit arts organization for individuals with disabilities, and participating in their collaborative art project called "Shine On." If you are interested in donating, please send in art supplies with your middle schoolers next week. Pizza party for the most generous homeroom.

In addition, our students will be creating mini drawings and paintings of suns, rays, stars and lights to contribute to ACT's larger project.

## 7th AND 8th GRADE SOCIAL EVENT



The poster features a festive design with a blue, orange, and pink color scheme. At the top, there are triangular bunting flags in blue, orange, and pink. The main text "Field NIGHT" is written in a mix of cursive and bold sans-serif fonts. Below it, a dark blue banner contains the text "saint thomas, after dark". The event details are listed in a white box on a pink background, and a white circle at the bottom right contains the phrase "Be there!".

**Field  
NIGHT**

*saint thomas, after dark*

**Friday  
Feb 11  
2022** 7th and 8th graders  
7pm - 9:30pm  
RSVP by Feb 7th  
elizabethdeimel@gmail.com

...check your email next week for all the details

*Be there!*

## ACT Art Supply Needs

acrylic paint  
clorox wipes  
craft paper rolls  
crayola markers  
frames (new)  
gift cards to art stores  
glue gun sticks  
glue sticks  
kleenex  
masking tape  
paintbrushes  
paper towel  
pencils (no.2 or drawing)  
plastic totes with lids  
post-it's  
sharpie markers  
stretched canvas  
tissue paper  
watercolor paint  
watercolor paper

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Second Quarter Middle School Awards ceremony will be held on Friday, Feb. 4 at 2:45pm in the church.

We will recognize those students who have done well in the classroom, as well as those who have given back to the community. This event will be livestreamed at our [Chapel Link](#). Join us!