



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 7, 2022

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social studies:** This week we started World history. We began to learn about the eight factors that make up a civilization. Today we discussed the early people and civilizations of Mesopotamia. Next week we will learn about the first empire led by Sargon the Great, and how Mesopotamia began to flourish.

**Science:** We had a great start to 2022 by beginning to learn about fossil fuels. The class was shocked to learn how limited our supply of fossil fuels truly is; some will run out within their own lifetimes if we continue using them at the rate we do now. We will next be discussing alternative energy sources and how we can conserve energy overall.

**ELA:** This week we started discussing themes in *The Giver*. We finished up the week discussing the concepts of a Utopian society and read an informational text while incorporating our reading strategies. Next week, we will begin reading *The Giver*.

- Reading/Writing Notebooks due Tuesday, January 18. Students should have 8 weeks of work completed at that point.
- Direct Object/Giver pre-theme quiz on Tuesday, January 11.

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about the areas of trapezoids and the areas of composite figures. Next week students will graph and find areas in the coordinate plane.

- Friday, January 14 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.3 - 4.4)
- Wednesday, January 19 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, January 19 - Chapter 4 Notebook Check
- Thursday, January 20 - Chapter 4 Test

**Math 6B:** This week students learned about percents, solving percent problems, and converting measures. Next week students will be assessed over Chapter 5.

- Tuesday, January 11 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.5 - 5.7)
- Thursday, January 13 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, January 13 - Chapter 5 Notebook Check
- Friday, January 14 - Chapter 5 Test

**Theology with Mrs. Bendon:** The students will be taking a series of quizzes over the next few weeks where they are expected to memorize the books of the Old Testament. We are starting out easy with the first five books of the Bible quiz that has been rescheduled for Monday. The class is so confident about this quiz that many of them were begging to take the quiz early! We will be starting into the story of the Book of Exodus soon.

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we started U.S. history. We learned about how people migrated to the U.S. We discussed the two prominent theories that discuss how people migrated here, those theories being the Land Bridge Theory and the Coastal Route theory. The students began to research these topics for a debate, which will be on Monday. Next week we will debate the two theories and then look at how the different Native American civilizations survived. We also look at the different forms of government that influenced us.

**Science:** We have finished our first semester exploration of chemistry and are now going to focus on physics. We are starting out with learning about the basics of forces like friction and gravity. Our schedule obviously got very shifted this week, but we will be doing a mini-lab towards the beginning of next week about the types of friction.

**ELA:** This week, we finished reading Chapter Nine of *Dragonwings* and worked on reading strategies and analysis skills. Next week, we will be continuing on to Chapter 10 and will be introducing a Newspaper Project based on the San Francisco Earthquake which occurred in Chapters 9 and 10.

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

**Math:** This week students learned about converting, comparing and ordering percents and decimals as well as solving percent problems with proportions. Next week students will learn about solving percent problems with equations as well as percents of increase and decrease.

- Wednesday, January 12 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.4)
- Thursday, January 20 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.5 - 6.7)

**Theology with Mrs. Bendon:** This week we started to overview when the New Testament of the Bible was written and by whom. We also spent some time focusing on the school virtue of humility and how it should be demonstrated in a middle schoolers life.

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about the difference between the plantation south and the industrial north. We examined how the factory was run and how the plantation was run. Today we discussed the different responsibilities that the workers and the foremen had. Next week we will look closer at the industrial north and how different slave laws that were designed to keep the country together actually pushed the country apart.

**Science:** Our second chapter on genetics focuses more on the structure and function of DNA and how it is passed onto offspring. We will also spend some time discussing and researching genetic disorders and mutations as well as genetic engineering.

**ELA:** This week, we started delving into concepts and themes in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We finished the week by participating in a pre-reading research project. Next week, groups will present their projects to the class, and we will begin reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Reading/Writing Notebooks are due on Thursday, December 20. Students should have 8 weeks worth of work completed.

**Math 8G1:** This week students learned about relations and functions, the representations of functions and linear functions. Next week students will learn about comparing linear and nonlinear functions as well as analyzing and sketching graphs.

- Tuesday, January 11 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.3)
- 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

**Math 8G2:** This week students learned about solving systems of linear equations using a variety of methods. Next week students will learn about solving equations by graphing and graphing linear inequalities.

- Wednesday, January 12 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.4)
- Wednesday, January 21 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.5 - 5.7)

**Theology with Mr. Baxter:** This week we started to learn about the beginnings of the Church. We discussed the events of Pentecost and the Acts of the Apostles could be known as the Gospel of the Holy Spirit.