



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Feb. 4, 2022

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social studies:** This week we discussed how the Phoenicians spread their culture over a wide area, and how they made their famous purple dye. We also talked about the origins of Judaism. Next week will discuss the beliefs and the early history of Judaism.

**Science:** We have started learning about Earth's Atmosphere in this chapter. We started with the make-up of the atmosphere and the different layers, and are now learning about the Greenhouse Effect.

- Chapter 8 Test- February 16

**ELA:** Grammar—This week we reviewed verb phrases, fragments, and run-on sentences. *The Giver*—We read through Chapter Nine. Also, we reviewed the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning organization strategy for paragraphs and began working on a persuasive paragraph in regards to the novel. In addition, students learned how to set up a document in MLA format, and we reviewed how to use transitional elements within a paragraph to connect thoughts and ideas. We ended our week with peer-editing and one on one teacher conferencing on rough drafts of the persuasive paragraphs.

Next week, we will be focusing on identifying different types of sentences and reviewing grammar concepts discussed in the last few weeks. We will also be reading through Chapter 11 of *The Giver* with sticky note annotations and working on our analysis skills with interpreting these chapters.

- Tuesday, February 8— Final draft of persuasive paragraph due.
- Friday, February 11—Grammar Quiz
- Tuesday, February 15—*The Giver* Chapters 9-11 Quiz

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about comparing and graphing ratios and percent. They also took a quiz. Next week students will learn about solving percent problems and converting measures.

- Tuesday, February 15 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2
- Thursday, February 17 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz

**Math 6B:** This week students reviewed for and took the Chapter 6 Test. Next week they will learn about writing and solving equations. There will be a quiz at the end of the week.

- Friday, Friday 11 - Chapter 7 Quiz 1

**Theology:** The class has been working hard this week on their presentations on the 10 Plagues of Egypt. I mentioned it before, but their creativity continues to amaze me. We will be presenting our projects and then we will move into the parts of Exodus when Moses parted the Red Sea and then the 10 Commandments.

- Quiz on the Prophetic Books of the Old Testament- February 7
- Old Testament Books Quiz on all Books (with Word Bank)- February 10

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.



## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about the impact the Dutch, the French and the British had on the New World. Next week we will look at how Spanish conquistadors defeated two American Indian empires, the impact of Bacon's rebellion and begin to look at how the British impacted on New England.

**Science:** After reviewing for the test that we took on Wednesday, we have moved into Chapter 7, learning about energy. We started by discussing the difference between kinetic and potential energy. There will be a lab next week where the students will explore these types of energy. We will then move into the different forms of energy and energy transformations.

- Chapter 7 Test- 2/17

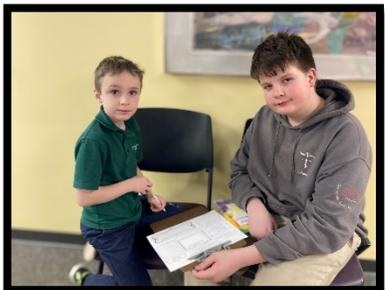
**ELA:** This week, we peer-edited and conferenced on our Newspaper Projects and students had work time in class to put their projects in newspaper format. We ended the week reflecting on the final product and working on our reading/writing notebooks.

Next week, we will finish reading *Dragonwings*, focusing on vocabulary, comprehension, and analysis skills.

**Math:** This week students learned about triangles and triangle angle measures. They also learned about constructing angles and triangles. Next week there will be two quizzes.

- Monday, February 7 - Chapter 7 Quiz 1 (7.1 - 7.3 Extension)
- Friday, February 11 - Chapter 7 Quiz 2 (7.4 - 7.5)
- Tuesday, February 15 - Chapter 7 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, February 16 - Chapter 7 Test

**Theology:** We continued our topic on the Sacraments by looking at rituals in our lives. We made the distinction that all rituals are not Sacraments but all Sacraments are rituals bestowing God's grace. For adoration on Tuesday we read and prayed with the 5th Sunday Gospel answering the question, what would you do if God called you to leave everything to follow him. The homework assignment given Thursday is to fill out a chart to see what the students already know about the Sacraments.



## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about women's reform and mental health. Then we started discussing the different causes of the Civil War. We talked about the Missouri Compromise and Nat Turner's rebellion. Next week we will discuss the Wilmot Proviso, the Missouri Compromise and start to talk about the impact of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

**Science:** After the students' great presentations last week where they demonstrated an understanding of genetics and how it relates to genetic disorders. We then made quite a shift and started Chapter 6 in our book, on Plants. We have been learning about plant characteristics and how plants are classified into different groups based on their structures and methods of reproduction. This chapter is relatively lengthy, so it will be a few more weeks until we have a test on the material.

**ELA:** Grammar—we reviewed verb phrases and worked on identifying different types of sentences. *To Kill a Mockingbird*—We read through Chapter 9 of the novel and took a quiz on Chapters 4-7. Also, we introduced a descriptive essay project, focusing on characterization in the novel. Students completed a pre-writing graphic organizer to help them brainstorm ideas for their essay.

Next week, we will review identifying different kinds of sentences, sentence boundary errors, transitions in writing, appropriate comma usage with introductory elements, items in a series, and compound sentences. We will also review how to use sensory detail and figurative language effectively in writing and begin drafting our essays.

- Monday, February 15—Rough Draft of Descriptive Essay Due

**Math 8G1:** This week students learned about approximating square roots, repeating decimals, and using the Pythagorean Theorem. Next week they will review for the Chapter 7 Test.

- Monday, February 7 - Chapter 7 Quiz 2 (7.4 - 7.5)
- Wednesday, February 9 - Chapter 7 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, February 10 - Chapter 7 Test

**Math 8G2:** This week students learned about the properties of exponents and exponential functions. Next week students will learn about solving exponential equations, geometric sequences.

- Wednesday, February 9 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.4)
- Wednesday, February 16 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.5 - 6.7)

**Theology:** This week we went to Adoration on Tuesday and learned how the church came together to resolve issues. We also discussed how to be a witness to Christ. Next week the students will write a report on their patron saint.

## OPTIONAL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES SIGN UPS

Parents, Middle School conferences are Feb. 15 (4-8pm) and Feb. 18 (12-3pm). Please use our [Parent/Teacher Conference Sign Up Google Doc](#). Find your the Middle School teachers' Sign Up Link to choose your conference day/time (you meet with all the Middle School teacher during your time slot). Then note the Google Meet Link, which you will use to get into the virtual meeting.

## WEST CATHOLIC SUPPORT SERVICE OPEN HOUSE

**When:** Wednesday February 16, 6-6:30pm (9th Grade Open House runs from 6-7:30pm)

**Where:** West Catholic High School Academic Support Center (Room 101)

Join us before the 9th Grade Open House to learn more about how the West Catholic Department of Academic Support can provide accommodations, modifications, interventions, and support services to your exceptional learner. Meet support services staff and have the opportunity to ask questions related to how your child's unique learning needs can be addressed throughout their high school experience. This event is open to all interested parents and students from any grade level. At the conclusion of this information session, parents and students currently in 8th grade can then attend the 9th Grade Open House where teachers from every department will be available to chat and answer any questions your family may have. West Catholic students will also be on hand to provide guided tours of the school.

## 7th AND 8th GRADE SOCIAL EVENT

A colorful poster for a social event. The top features a banner with orange, white, and red triangles. The background is split into orange and red sections. The text 'Field NIGHT' is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, a dark blue banner contains the text 'saint thomas, after dark'. At the bottom left, the date and time are listed: 'Friday Feb 11 2022 7pm - 9:30pm'. To the right of this, it says '7th and 8th graders', 'RSVP by Feb 7th', and 'elizabethdeimel@gmail.com'. At the bottom right, a white speech bubble contains the text 'Be there!' with a yellow starburst next to it.

**Field  
NIGHT**

*saint thomas, after dark*

**Friday  
Feb 11  
2022** 7pm - 9:30pm

7th and 8th graders  
RSVP by Feb 7th  
elizabethdeimel@gmail.com

*Be there!*

SAINT THOMAS 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRESENTS THE

**bold**  
hoodie

<https://saintthomastheapostle.itemorder.com>

Online ordering closes Friday, Feb. 11.

The 8th grade class designed this hoodie for the students, teachers, and entire Saint Thomas community.

Please use the link above to place your order for family and friends!

\*This is not a fundraiser.