



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | April 15, 2022

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This short week we talked about how the Mauryan Empire was created and then flourished. Next week we talk about Mauryan Empire achievements and how the Empire diminished.

- Essay test Friday April 22, 2022.

**Science:** We began our unit on space this week! We have started out with discussing the things that we can see in space from Earth. We have also been learning about the way that our planet moves through space. We have and will be especially focused on why we have seasons here on Earth. Quiz your student and see if they can explain it to you yet; if not, those students need to focus on that next week with me!

**ELA 6S:** This week, we began reading *Devil's Arithmetic*, focusing on vocabulary, characterization, symbolism, and theme. We had the pleasure of having Ms. Culajay, a graduate student from Aquinas, teach the class this week. Students collaborated on a presentation regarding theme, symbolism, and characterization in *Devil's Arithmetic*.

**ELA 6B:** This week, we began reading *Devil's Arithmetic*, focusing on vocabulary, characterization, symbolism, and theme. We read through Chapter 4 of *Devil's Arithmetic* and worked on reading strategies, analyzing symbols, understanding character traits through making inferences, using textual support with analysis, and understanding recurring themes within the novel and their significance within the novel.

\*Please remind students to keep up with their reading/writing notebook as the quarter progresses. This was the first week of reading/writing notebook requirements for the 4th quarter.

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about solving equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Next week they will solve equations in two variables and take a quiz.

- Friday, April 22 - Chapter 7 Quiz 1 (7.1 - 7.4)

**Math 6B:** This week students learned about mean absolute deviation. Next week they will be reviewing for the Chapter 9 Test.

- Wednesday, April 20 - Chapter 9 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, April 20 - Chapter 9 Notebook Check
- Thursday, April 21 - Chapter 9 Test

**Theology:** We spent this week focusing on the Easter story. We really tried to think about what Jesus went through and to imagine how we would feel in similar situations.

## UPCOMING SAINT THOMAS EVENTS



### Boosters Golf Outing

The Saint Thomas Boosters is hosting the Annual Golf "FORE" Sports Golf Outing on May 20 at 11am at Boulder Creek Golf Course. Register online at <https://cbo.io/stagolf/tix>.

### Save the Dates for Auction Events

We are thrilled to announce that our bi-annual auction is back in person! Save the date for Sunday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 8 for TWO Auction events. Check out about our [Saint Thomas Auction](#).

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about growing tensions between the Colonists and the British, and how these tensions began to lead to revolution. Next week we will look at the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party and the "Shot Heard Around the World" at Lexington and Concord.

**Science:** We reviewed our chapter on the characteristics of waves this week in order to prepare for the test that we took on Wednesday. Starting next week, we will be studying electromagnetic waves. Rather than a traditional test at the end of this chapter, the class will be given a choice project where they can choose how they wish to demonstrate what they have learned. More information will come home next week.

**ELA *Night Group*:** Students in this group read through Chapter Three of the novel. We focused on identifying and analyzing themes with textual support and writing vocabulary words in sentences that showed contextual meaning and appropriate use of parts of speech.

**ELA *Book Thief Group*:** We worked on pre-reading strategies and understanding the historical context of the novel regarding Nazi Book Burnings and what it took to survive in hiding during the Holocaust. Students read through Part Three of the novel, focusing on predictions, analysis of important quotations, and formulating opinions about the text using textual evidence to support opinions.

\*Please remind students to keep up with their reading/writing notebook as the quarter progresses. This was the first week of reading/writing notebook requirements for the 4th quarter.

**Math 7:** This week students learned about outcomes and events, experimental and theoretical probability and compound events. Next week they will learn about dependent and independent events as well as samples and populations.

- Thursday, April 21 - Chapter 10 Quiz 1 (10.1 - 10.5)

**Theology:** We spent this week focusing on the Easter story. We really tried to think about what Jesus went through and to imagine how we would feel in similar situations.

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we prepared for the Stations of the Cross. I am very pleased with the effort the 8th graders put into this, this week. Next week we will get back to the Civil War. We will discuss how the North was able to gradually pull off a victory, and what impact it had on the reformation of the country.

- Essay Test next Friday, April 21

**Science:** We reviewed our chapter introducing the human body this week in order to prepare for the test that we took on Thursday. Next week, we will be digging more deeply into more the body systems, such as the nervous system and the reproductive system.

**ELA:** This week, we worked on interrogative pronouns and pronoun-antecedent agreement. We also focused on gaining more knowledge regarding the historical context of *The Diary of a Young Girl*. Students began reading this diary and journaling in their reading/writing notebooks about thematic concepts within the diary. We also worked on non-fiction reading strategies with supplementary articles about hiding during the Holocaust.

\*Please remind students to keep up with their reading/writing notebook as the quarter progresses. This was the first week of reading/writing notebook requirements for the 4th quarter.

**Math 8G1:** This week students learned about exponents and properties with exponents. Next week they will learn about scientific notation.

- Wednesday, April 20 - Chapter 10 Quiz 1 (10.1 - 10.4)

**Math 8G2:** This week students learned about graphing quadratic functions. Next week they will learn about graphing quadratic functions in different forms and comparing linear, exponential, and quadratic functions.

**Theology:** This week we prepared for the Stations of the Cross. I am very pleased with the effort the 8th graders put into this, this week. Next week we will look at some factors that led to the reformation of the Church.

## PARENTS OF 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

As you know, 8th grade graduation is drawing near. Two of the ways the parents of Saint Thomas recognize this event is to create a memory book and video slideshow focused on our amazing 8th grade class. This year, the book and the video are being created by Mary Klein, Elma Kimble, and Dave DeJonge. To complete this keepsake, they'll need your help to get photos and thoughts from you and your student. We've made it super easy to submit photos and text. You and your student can go to the following link and supply answers to the questions and upload 6 photos: <https://forms.gle/sD8UkkKfNLjfJp8>



If you haven't done so already, please complete this is ASAP!

The photos should show your student's growth through the years, perhaps showing special milestones or memories. The questions might require a bit of thinking on your student's part. To help prepare them, here are the questions.

- Think back to your first day of middle school. How have you changed?
- What will you miss the most about Saint Thomas?
- Fondest middle school memory?
- Favorite field trip and why?
- What are you looking forward to the most in high school?
- What do you want to do after high school?
- Who do you admire most and why?
- Is there anyone you would like to thank and why?
- What advice would you give new middle schoolers?
- I remember when...

When filling out the form, try to stick with just one primary email account – it can be yours or your student's. This allows you to log back into the same form and make any changes you need. You'll also get a confirmation email that has links back to the form. (In other words, if you use a second email account, you'll need to start from scratch.)

If you have questions, you can reply to this email or reach out directly to Mary, Elma, or Dave.

Thanks for all your help with this. We're looking forward to sharing your student's awesomeness with everyone.

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