



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | April 22, 2022



## UPCOMING SAINT THOMAS EVENTS!

### Greenfield Village Field Trip –6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Graders

Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are going on a field trip this Monday. **THE BUS WILL LEAVE AT 7:30AM.** Please drop your middle schooler off at 7:15am. On the flip side, the bus will arrive at Saint Thomas around 6:45pm. Please pick up your middle schooler at 6:45pm.

### MAP Testing

Please remember that we are starting MAP testing this coming week. We will be testing from 9-11:30am on the following days. Please try to avoid these time slots when scheduling appointments and encourage your children to get a good night of sleep and eat a good breakfast beforehand. Also keep in mind that standardized testing is not something one can prepare for and this should be as low-stress as possible.

- Tuesday, April 26 – Reading
- Thursday, April 28 – Language Usage
- Tuesday, May 3 – Math
- Thursday, May 5 – Science

### Strategic Planning

On Saturday, April 30, we will be holding a listening session for parents and parishioners to give feedback for our Strategic Plan Initiative. Join us from 9am – 12pm in the Church Lower Level. All interested in the future of our school are HIGHLY encouraged to attend.

### 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>. If you’re not a golfer, you can still participate in our Boosters Golf “FORE” Sports Par-TEE. Join us at 3:30pm (after the Golf Outing) for Hornet Happy Hour. RSVP at <https://cbo.io/stagolf/tix>.

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we discussed expectations for the field trip to Greenfield Village, and learned about the rise of the Gupta Empire. The students had an essay test today. Next week we will begin to discuss the beginnings of Ancient China.

- Field Trip Monday, April 25 Greenfield Village

**Science:** We have continued to talk about Earth's position in space this week. We spent quite a bit of time discussing the motions of our planet and what causes day and night as well as the seasons. We also discussed what keeps the Earth and the moon in orbit, and we have begun to discuss the moon and what causes the different phases. We will be continuing with space next week, but we will not meet for class very many times, due to the field trip and MAP Testing.

**ELA:** This week, we took a quiz on *Devil's Arithmetic*, focusing on vocabulary, characterization, symbolism, and theme. In addition, we looked at Jewish wedding customs and Nuremberg laws to help us understand upcoming parts in the novel. We also learned about pronoun/antecedent agreement.

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

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about solving equations two variables and took a quiz. Next week they will learn about writing and graphing inequalities.

**Math 6B:** This week students reviewed for and took the Chapter 9 Test. Next week they will learn about histograms.

**Theology:** After finishing our unit on Moses, we have moved onto the next church leaders from the Old Testament, starting with Joshua. We will be moving onto the Judges as well as King David next.

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about expectations for the field trip on Monday. We also discussed the Boston Tea Party and its ramifications. Next week we will discuss the Intolerable Acts, the Battle of Lexington and Concord and Paul Revere.

- Field Trip on Monday, April 25

**Science:** We have begun to focus on the electromagnetic spectrum this week. The kids were introduced to their "Total of 10" Project, where rather than a traditional test, the class will be demonstrating their learning to me through activities of their choice. You should have seen a paper come home where the students need to make their selections of what they would like to do for their project.

- "Total of 10" Project due May 4

**ELA Grammar:** This week we worked on Subjects in Unusual Order.

*Night Group*—We reviewed activities completed for Chapters 1-3 and completed a study guide for Chapters 1-3.

- Chapters 1-3 Quiz Wednesday, April 27

*Book Thief Group*—Students completed a study guide to review concepts in Parts 1-3. We also spent time discussing previous activities for Parts 1-3. We ended the week with a quiz Parts 1-3.

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

**Math 7:** This week students learned about dependent and independent events and samples and populations. Next week they will learn about comparing populations.

**Theology:** We finished up our discussion of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick this week and began to look at matrimony as a sacrament. After that sacrament has been covered, we will finish with Holy Orders.

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about the factors that led to the end of the Civil War. Students wrote an essay today in class. Next week we will wrap up the Civil War and begin to talk about Reconstruction.

**Science:** We continued to discuss the nervous system this week. We did a mini-lab where the students tested their reaction times using a ruler. We also have discussed the endocrine system and how it affects our bodies. Next week, we will be missing some class due to MAP testing, but we plan to begin discussing the human reproductive system.

**ELA:** Grammar–This week we learned about indefinite pronoun agreement. We ended the week with a review of our pronoun unit.

- Pronoun Quiz–Tuesday, April 26

*The Diary of a Young Girl* – We continued to read the diary and also learned more about the Jewish faith and important Jewish holidays. We discussed comparisons and contrasts regarding the Jewish faith and Catholicism. In addition, we discussed how hiding affected individuals physically, mentally, and spiritually. We used characterization techniques and analysis of quotes in our reading/writing notebook to aid in this. Finally, we introduced a Radio Journalism Project which helps students synthesize the historical context of the diary with events happening within the diary. We focused on choosing a topic and doing pre-writing research and brainstorming. We ended the week with learning about the inverted pyramid for journalism.

\*Please remind students to keep up with their reading/writing notebook as the quarter progresses. These will be assigned in class or as homework regarding in class reading assignments.

**Math 8G1:** This week students learned about scientific notation. Next week they will learn about operations in scientific notation.

- Thursday, April 28 - Chapter 10 Quiz 2 (10.5 - 10.7)

**Math 8G2:** This week students learned about graphing quadratic functions in different forms and comparing linear, exponential, and quadratic functions. Next week they will take a quiz and start to review for the chapter test.

- Tuesday, April 26 - Chapter 8 Quiz 2 (8.4 - 8.6)
- Friday, April 29 - Chapter 8 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, April 29 - Chapter 8 Notebook Check
- Monday, May 2 - Chapter 8 Test

**Theology:** This week we talked about the Western Schism and how we had 3 popes that claimed the papacy in the 14th century. Next week we will talk about Martin Luther and the Reformation.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Mackinac Island – May 9

More details to come. If you have any questions about this trip, please contact Susan DeJonge ([susan.dejonge@gmail.com](mailto:susan.dejonge@gmail.com)).