



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | May 13, 2022

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we talked about the fundamentals of Confucianism and Daoism. We also learned about the hardships many Chinese face when trying to go back to their home lands during the Chinese Migration. We began discussing the story of the Terracotta soldiers and the Great Wall. Next week we will continue talking about the Great Wall as well as how China became unified.

Science: The class spent some time this week reviewing for the test that we took on Wednesday. After the test, we have continued to talk about space, but rather than a focus on our planet and moon, we will be learning about other objects in the solar system, such as the rest of the planets, meteors, comets, and asteroids.

ELA 6S: This week, all 6th graders took a pronoun quiz. We read through Chapter 11 of Devil's Arithmetic and focused on identifying allusions, foreshadowing, and identifying irony. We reviewed Chapters 5-10.

- Chapters 5-10 Quiz–Tuesday, May 17.

Students need to continue working on their reading/writing notebook requirement for the 4th quarter. At the end of this week, they should have completed 5 weeks' worth of entries.

ELA 6B: This week, all 6th graders took a pronoun quiz. We read through Chapter 11 in Devil's Arithmetic. We also started working on persuasive writing. Students will be composing a persuasive essay in regards to the novel. This will be scaffolded throughout next week.

Students need to continue working on their reading/writing notebook requirement for the 4th quarter. At the end of this week, they should have completed 5 weeks' worth of entries.

Math 6S: This week students began reviewing for the Chapter 7 Test. Next week they will take the test and learn about 3-dimensional figures and the surface area of prisms.

- Monday, May 16 - Chapter 7 Test

Math 6B: This week students learned about shapes of distributions and box-and-whiskers plots. Next week they will review for and take the Chapter 10 Test. They will also learn about adding integers.

- Monday, May 16 - Chapter 10 Quiz 2 (10.3 - 10.4)
- Wednesday, May 18 - Chapter 10 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, May 18 - Chapter 10 Notebook Check
- Thursday - May 19 - Chapter 10 Test

Theology: We started to learn about the story of David this week and everything he went through on his journey to become the king of the Israelites. We also had our lesson on “Empowering God’s Children” this week where we talked about the importance of setting personal boundaries and respecting other people’s boundaries and discussed the difference between “safe surprises” and “unsafe secrets.”

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we began to look at the different battles of the Revolutionary War. We first looked at Washington Crossing the Delaware and the Battle of Trenton. We then started to talk about the hardships Washington faced at Valley Forge. Next week we will look at how the colonists began to shift tides in their favor, the treasonary act of Benedict Arnold and how foreign allies helped change the war.

Science: We have spent this week learning about magnetism. We did a lab where the students extracted the actual iron particles from crushed cereal. Our introduction to magnets will lead us into discussing electromagnets, as well as motors and generators over the next few weeks.

ELA: For grammar this week, we delved into pronouns Night group–We read through chapter 5, focusing on the author’s craft and irony. Book Thief Group–We read through Part Six of the novel, focusing on identifying irony and working on close reading strategies.

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

Math 7: This week students worked on a project about scale factor. Next week they will work on a unit about data displays.

Theology: We finished up learning about the sacraments this week and prepared for our quiz this coming Monday, May 16. We also had our lesson on “Empowering God’s Children” this week where we talked about the importance of setting personal boundaries and respecting other people’s boundaries and discussed the difference between “safe surprises” and “unsafe secrets.”

- Upcoming Quiz on Sacraments: May 16

8th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we looked at the different reconstruction plans that were proposed, and the different internal battles that derailed them. We also discussed why Andrew Johnson was impeached because of these internal struggles. Next week the students will work on their end of the projects in class. They will have class time to work on them. I will attach all the details next week on Canvas.

Science: We finished up our discussion of pregnancy and birth this week and then spent time reviewing for our test on Friday. It is hard to believe that we are almost to the end of the year, but we will spend the last couple of weeks learning about ecosystems and biomes before we begin to prepare for final exams.

ELA: Grammar—This week we began talking about adverbs and using adjectives and adverbs with comparisons. The Diary of a Young Girl— We continued reading the diary, focusing on tone, irony, and summary/response. Reading/writing notebooks will be collected Friday, May 20. All journal entries were based on our readings in class and were assigned with specific prompts.

Math 8G1: This week students learned about writing and graphing inequalities as well as solving inequalities. Next week they will be solving and graphing compound inequalities and absolute value inequalities.

Math 8G2: This week students learned about solving quadratic equations using square roots and completing the square. Next week they will solve quadratic equations using the Quadratic Formula and solving nonlinear systems of equations.

- Thursday, May 19 - Chapter 9 Quiz 2 (9.4 - 9.6)

Theology: This week we reviewed for the Diocesan ACRE Test. The students took the test today. Next week we will look at the Counter Reformation movement and some influential church figures that emerged as a result of it.

