



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | May 20, 2022

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about how Shi Huangdi unified China. We also talked about how the Han Dynasty reintroduced Confucianism ideas to China. We also started to look at early Chinese inventions. The students are working on a Powerpoint presentation on the inventions. Next week we review for the test which will be on May 27. Study guides for the final exam will also go home next week.

- Test on May 27

**Science:** We have continued with the solar system this week by learning how the solar system was formed and about the sun, and then we began to talk about the inner planets. Next week we will be finishing up the inner planets and then learn about the outer planets and the smaller objects in the solar system, such as asteroids and comets. This chapter will not have its own test, but instead the material will be covered on the final exam.

**ELA 6S:** This week, all 6th graders began studying adverbs. We read through Chapter 15 of *Devil's Arithmetic* and focused on identifying and analyzing irony within the text and close reading strategies, foreshadowing, and identifying irony. Students also took a quiz on Chapters 5-10. Next week, we will be finishing the novel and focusing on character attributes, comprehension, vocabulary strategies, and critical thinking skills.

- Reading/Writing Notebooks Due Friday, May 27—Students should have 6 weeks worth of work.

**ELA 6B:** This week, all 6th graders began studying adverbs. We read through Chapter 14 in *Devil's Arithmetic*, focusing on analyzing irony and quotations. We also continued our work on students' persuasive writing essays regarding the novel, including how to write an effective introductory, body, and concluding paragraph. Some of the skills we emphasized were embedding quotations, analyzing quotations to prove a point, using academic language, MLA in-text citations, and MLA paper format.

- Rough Drafts of Persuasive Essays Due Monday, May 23.
- Final Drafts of Persuasive Essays Due Thursday, May 26.
- Reading/Writing Notebooks Due Friday, May 27—Students should have 6 weeks worth of work.

**Math 6S:** This week students learned about 3-dimensional figures and the surface area of prisms. Next week they will learn about surface area of pyramids and the volume of rectangular prisms.

- Tuesday, May 24 - Chapter 8 Quiz 1 (8.1 - 8.2)

**Math 6B:** This week students reviewed for and took the Chapter 10 Test. Next week they will learn about integers.

- Friday, May 27 - Chapter 11 Quiz 1 (11.1 - 11.3)

**Theology:** We have spent this week learning more about the life of David and have focused on the battle between David and Goliath. We will continue working on David, and move into his son Solomon, who was the next king of Israel.

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about some of the hardships that signers of the Declaration of Independence endured, we also discussed the Battle of Saratoga and the treasonous actions of Benedict Arnold. Next week we will wrap up the Revolutionary War. Study guides will go home later in the week.

- Essay on Friday May 27

**Science:** We have continued with our discussion of electromagnetism and have moved into an introduction to motors and will continue with that and generators next week. This chapter will not have its own test, but instead the material will be covered on the final exam.

**ELA:** Grammar–We continued studying pronouns focusing on objective and possessive pronouns.

*Night* group–We finished the novel, focusing on thematic elements and close reading strategies. Next week, we will be introducing an end of novel project which will utilize critical thinking skills and draw upon student creativity.

- Reading/Writing Notebooks Due Friday, May 20–Students should have 6 weeks worth of work.
- End of Novel Project Due Tuesday, May 31.

*Book Thief* group–We read through Part Nine of the novel, focusing on identifying irony, working on close reading strategies, and finishing up other assignments for the novel. Next week, we will finish the novel work on close reading skills and finish all activities relating to the novel.

- Reading/Writing Notebooks Due Thursday, May 26–Students should have 6 weeks worth of work
- Parts 7-9 Packet Due Wednesday, May 25.
- Parts 10-Epilogue Packet Due Thursday, May 26.
- Irony Graphic Organizer Due Wednesday, June 1.
- Novel Vocabulary Packet Due Wednesday, June 1.
- Novel Character Packet Due Wednesday, June 1.

**Math 7:** This week students worked different types of data displays. Next week they will work more on coordinate planes and plotting points and graphing lines.

**Theology:** We took a quiz this week on the sacraments. We have then moved into discussing prayer. Next week we will be learning about the importance of prayer as well as the types of prayer.

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Social Studies:** This week the students finished up learning about Reconstruction and started working on their end of the year projects. They are working hard on them. The projects are due by the end of class Wednesday May 25th. Students will start presenting them on Thursday.



**Science:** We have started a short section on ecosystems and populations this week. We have been learning about the types of relationships between different species, such as mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism, and will continue with that next week, before we begin reviewing for our exam. This chapter will not have its own test, but instead the material will be covered on the final exam.



**ELA:** *The Diary of a Young Girl* – We finished the diary and began delving into our multi-genre project for our final exam. We covered how to pick a topic, how to formulate a research question, how to use keywords in searching for sources, how to broaden and narrow searches, how to evaluate sources for reliability and credibility, how to effectively use google as a search engine, and how to connect our research with our research question. We also reviewed MLA paper set-up for the formal writing component of the project. Next week, we will work on the works cited page, in-text citations, and the rest of the components of the project.

- 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.
- Remind students to be working on their final exam project each day at home as well. This is due Tuesday, May 31 during their ELA exam time. Late projects are not accepted.

**Math 8G1:** This week students learned about solving and graphing compound inequalities and absolute value inequalities. Next week they will get exam reviews to begin reviewing for the final exam.


**Math 8G2:** This week students learned about solving quadratic equations using the Quadratic Formula and solving nonlinear systems of equations. Next week they will get exam reviews to begin reviewing for the final exam.

**Theology:** This week talked about how the Church responded to the Reformation movement. Next week we talk about the Church then and now.





## Sports Physicals, May 21




Sports physicals at Saint Thomas, 9am-12noon on Saturday, May 21 at the Saint Thomas Gymnasium. Dr. Michael App (Saint Thomas dad) will be offering sports physicals to Saint Thomas students and alums. For \$20, students can get a complete sports physical so they are ready for Fall 2022-2023 sports.

## Field Day Volunteers Needed

Field Day is Monday, May 23. Our middle schoolers will have Field Day in the afternoon 1-3pm. Our PE teacher, Mrs. Ashley Emmerson, still needs a few parent volunteers to help with Field Day. If you are interested, please email Ashley ([ashleyemmerson@dogrschools.org](mailto:ashleyemmerson@dogrschools.org)).



## Anointing Mass, Friday, May 27



On Friday, May 27 at 9:55am, we will have our Anointing Mass. During this ceremony, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders anoint our 7<sup>th</sup> graders as the new school leaders. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders may wear non-uniform dress clothes for this Mass. Parents, please join us!



## Middle School Exams

Middle School exams will be June 7-9, from 8-11:30am.