



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Sept 16, 2022

## Middle School MAP Testing

The Middle School will be holding MAP Testing from 9:15-11:30am on Sept. 20, 22, 27 and 29. Please make sure that students get a good night of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast beforehand. Students should bring snacks and a water bottle. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments during these days/times, if possible.

Sept. 20, 22, 27 and 29 at 9:15-11:30am

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** This week, we filled out a study guide for Chapters 1-3 of *The Cay*. Students took this quiz on Friday. We also delved further into the historical context of the novel and worked on our foreshadowing skills. In addition, we began to discuss how to use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary terms within the text. Finally, we read through Chapter 6, focusing on sticky note annotations to make connections between what we are reading to ourselves, other texts, and world events.

- Monday, Sept. 26 – Chapter 4-6 quiz
- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook.

**Social Studies:** This week we continued to learn about the 5 Themes of Geography and they relate to the world around us. The students began to work on a google slides project that encompasses all the themes. Next week the students will present their slides and then start to learn about the world's population and its impact on our resources. We also will celebrate Constitution Day on Monday.

- Tentative Test, Sept. 30

**Science:** We have been focusing on Alfred Wegener and the theory of continental drift this week. We have also reviewed the layers of the Earth and how the structure of Earth causes the tectonic plates to move slowly over time. Next week we will be reviewing for and taking our first test next Thursday, 9/22.

- Chapter 1 Test: Sept. 22

**Theology:** We began to read in our textbook this week about why we should read the Old Testament: to learn about the history of the Jewish people and the religion that Jesus was taught in order to have a deeper understanding of who Jesus was and is.

- Virtue Quiz on Leadership: Sept. 29

**Math 6G1:** Students learned about the order of operations and prime factorization. They also took their first quiz! Next week they will learn about the greatest common factor and least common multiple.

**Math 6G2:** This week students learned about prime factorization, greatest common factor, least common multiple, and adding and subtracting fractions. Next week they will review for the upcoming test.

- Monday, Sept. 19 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.6 Extension)
- Friday, Sept. 23 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Monday, Sept. 26 - Chapter 1 Test



## WRITING CLASS WITH DR. TYRRELL

Dr. Tyrrell is excited to be teaching a writing enrichment class for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Parents, please remind your middle school students to get Dr. Tyrrell a picture (you can email it to her if it is easier) for their first writing assignment. It is for their top secret writing assignment.



## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** This week we focused on analyzing imagery in poetry. We focused on figurative language and interpreting the meaning of figurative language beyond literal interpretation. We ended the week discussing odes and brainstorming how to write an ode.

- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook.

**Social Studies:** This week we discussed the differences between the real story and the mythological story of the Trojan War. We then started to compare and contrast the differences between Sparta and Athens. The students are beginning to make travel brochures promoting one of the cities-states. Next week we look at how Sparta and Athens joined together to stop the Persians, and then ended up fighting each other again.

- Tentative Test Sept. 30

**Theology:** This week we continued to look at how the Gospel writers were inspired by God. Next week we will start to look at the origin of the Gospels and delve into the backgrounds of the Gospel writers.

**Science:** We went through a brief introduction of elements and the Periodic Table this week. We also continued to talk about how scientists can classify and categorize substances based on their properties. Then we started to discuss the ways that people measure the matter around them.

**Math 7G1:** This week students learned about multiplying and dividing integers. Next week they will review for the upcoming test.

- Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.5)
- Thursday, Sept. 22 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, Sept. 23 - Chapter 1 Test

**Math 7G2:** This week students learned about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas. Next week they will review for the upcoming test.

- Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, Sept. 21 - Chapter 1 Test

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** We missed classes due to retreat but we began reading *Touching Spirit Bear* through Chapter Three with guided reading notes. We also continued our work by reading non-fiction articles that focused on bullying and the American justice system, both important concepts in the novel.

- Remember to keep up with the reading/writing notebook.

**Social Studies:** This week we talked about George Washington and his farewell address. We talked about his vision for America. We also looked at the formation of the two-party system in the United States. We began to look at how the idea of big or small government affected people's relationships. Next week we look at the Presidencies of Adams and Jefferson and they differed.

**Science:** We missed a number of classes this week, due to the retreat, but we spent our time in class focusing on classification. We learned about how the use of scientific names allows scientists from all over the world to communicate more easily. We also are working to memorize the order of the levels of classification.

**Math:** This week students learned about rewriting equations and formulas. They reviewed in preparation for the upcoming quiz. Next week they will be reviewing for the Chapter 1 Test.

- Monday, Sept. 19 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)
- Friday, Sept. 23 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Monday, Sept. 26 - Chapter 1 Test

**Theology:** This week students went on retreat and learned many great things about leadership and working together as a team. They completed a project about the images of the Church and took a quiz over the first chapter in our Theology books. Next week we will begin the virtue of leadership. Students will also learn about tracing our spiritual roots.

