



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Sept 9, 2022

6th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we learned about the 5 Themes of Geography and how they tie in to World History. Next week we will go in depth about the themes of location and place and their importance to World History.

Science: We practiced designing a controlled experiment and communicating our results clearly by using our virtual lab program, Inq-its. We then started our first chapter in the book by learning about Alfred Wegener and the theory of continental drift. We will continue into sea-floor spreading and plate tectonics next week.

ELA: This week we worked on vocabulary strategies to familiarize ourselves with important words in Chapters 1-3 of *The Cay*. In addition, we read through chapter three, working on sticky note annotations as a “during reading” strategy, identifying important elements of the setting, and foreshadowing.

- Chapters 1-3 Quiz Friday, September 16 (A study guide will be sent home on Monday)
- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook.

Theology: The sixth graders have spent time this week discussing the difference between religious truth and historical truth, as well as focused on exploring the Bible by doing a Bible Scavenger Hunt. We have also focused on the virtue of Docility.

- Virtue Quiz on Docility: September 15

Math 6G1: This week students learned about powers and exponents as well as the order of operations. Next week they will continue with the order of operations and also learn about prime factorization. There will be a quiz next week as well.

- Wednesday, September 14 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

Math 6G2: This week students learned about the order of operations and took a quiz. Next week they will learn about prime factorization, greatest common factor and least common multiple.

7th GRADE UPDATES

Social Studies: This week we discussed the differences between the Minoans and the Mycenaneans. We looked at how each of the civilizations started, flourished and then ended. We also discussed the Trojan War. We looked at it from both the historical and mythological angle. Next week we will look at the rise and fall of Sparta and Athens. We will compare each of them and discuss what made them so impactful.

Science: We practiced designing a controlled experiment and communicating our results clearly by using our virtual lab program, Inq-its. We then moved into the ways that scientists identify and classify matter by using their physical and chemical properties. Next week, we will continue to discuss how we measure matter and the ways that matter can change.

ELA: This week, we continued our poetry unit, reading “The Mending Wall” by Robert Frost. We worked on reading strategies for a more difficult poem and the difference between topic and theme. On Thursday, students took a quiz on the basic elements of poetry.

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

Math 7G1: This week students learned about adding and subtracting integers. Next week they will learn about multiplying and dividing integers.

- Monday, September 12 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

Math 7G2: This week students took their first quiz. Next week they will learn about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas. They will take a quiz next week.

- Thursday, September 15 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)

Theology: This week we talked about Faith and its two pillars. Those pillars being Tradition and Scripture. We also talked about Divine Revelation. Next week we will discuss Divine Revelation and its impact on the Gospels.

8th GRADE UPDATES

8th Grade Retreat Reminder

To all 8th grade parents, please remember to write your letter to your child and turn it in to the office and complete the [Retreat Permission Form](#) by Monday morning at 8am. Thanks!

Social Studies: This week we looked at all the precedents that George Washington set as the first President. We also started to talk about foreshadowing in Washington's Farewell Address. Next week we will continue to look at the impact of the two-party system as well as the impact of the election of 1800.

- Quiz on Friday September, 16.

Science: We have been focusing this week on the characteristics that all living things share, as well as the idea that all life comes from other life, rather than the mistaken idea of spontaneous generation. We will continue to talk about what "life" means and how we classify and organize the different forms of life on Earth.

ELA: This week, students participated in a pre-reading small group activity for concepts presented in Touching Spirit Bear. Each group was assigned a different topic and had to read a nonfiction article about the topic applying the reading strategies we have been working on in previous weeks. Then, they collaborated to create a presentation on the topic. We ended the week, with groups teaching the class about the topic.

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

Math: This week students took their first quiz. They also learned about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas. Next week they will take the second quiz of Chapter 1. There will be no IXL for the 8th graders as they are at retreat for two days during the week.

- Tuesday, September 13 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)

Theology: This week students started the first chapter in our theology book. The topic is "A Community of Disciples." We read it together and filled out the notes together. There will be a quiz over this material next week. Eighth graders will also be on retreat next week so we will skip the virtue quiz for docility.

- Tuesday, September 13 - Chapter 1 Quiz