



# SAINT THOMAS

## the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Nov. 18, 2022

### 6th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** Grammar—This week we began reviewing personal pronouns, including their appropriate usage as subject and object pronouns. Short Stories—We began the week applying the story plot line to a familiar text (*The Cay*). Then, we activated prior knowledge through journaling and discussion to begin our first short story, “Eleven,” an exemplar text in the common core curriculum. We worked on using context clues to determine meaning of vocabulary words, used a double entry diary to keep notes with active reading during the story, and analyzed character traits throughout the story.

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

**Social studies:** This week we learned about the History of Judaism, we drew comics that showed the history of the Jews from the time of the Exodus to entering the Promised Land. They look really cool. Next week we will talk about Jewish customs and beliefs.

**Science:** We started this week with reviewing for the test on weathering, erosion, and deposition that we took on Wednesday. We then started the next chapter, learning about the Geologic Time Scale and the formation of the plant and 4.6 billion year history.

**Theology:** We have been continuing with the book of Genesis this week by finishing up our discussion of Noah and the ark and the Tower of Babel story. We have also been discussing the virtue of temperance.

- Virtue Quiz on Temperance- 11/22

**Math 6G1:** This week students finished Chapter 2 and will start Chapter 3 next week.

**Math 6G2:** This week students finished Chapter 3 and will start Chapter 4 next week. Next week they will learn about areas of parallelograms and triangles.

- Tuesday, November 29 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.2)

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** Grammar–We took a test on Sentence Types at the beginning of the week and took a break for the rest of the week for grammar. *Dragonwings*–We read through chapter four of the novel using guided reading notes to help us become active readers versus passive readers. We also practiced using context clues to help determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary words. We reviewed cultural differences of Buddhism (the Chinese religion mentioned in the text) to our own Christianity and reviewed the Eastern versus Western view of dragons relating this concept to Chinese culture. In addition, students completed an analysis activity for Chapters 1-3.

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

**Social studies:** This week we created a timeline about the fall of the Roman Empire. We then discussed the factors that led to the fall. Next week we will talk about the growth of the Byzantine Empire.

**Science:** We have been continuing with our chapter on chemical bonding. This is new and challenging material for the classes, but they are rising to the challenge and continue to impress me. Due to the snow day, the test that was scheduled for next Tuesday will now be moved until the Tuesday after Thanksgiving Break.

- Chapter 3 Test- November 29

**Theology:** This week we looked at the Gospel of Matthew, why it was written and the purpose of the Gospel. Next week we will have the class spelling bee on Monday. We have 5 students vying to represent the 7th grade in the all school spelling bee in January. Tuesday we will finish working on our Matthew posters and go to Adoration.

**Math 7G1:** This week students took a quiz and started to review for the Chapter 3 Test. Next week they will take the vocabulary quiz and the test over Chapter 3.

- Monday, November 21 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, November 22 - Chapter 3 Test

**Math 7G2:** This week students graphed proportional relationships and graphed linear equations in slope-intercept form. Next week they will graph linear equations in standard form and write equations in slope-intercept form.

- Wednesday, November 30 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.4 - 4.7)
- Friday, December 2 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** Grammar–We continued with punctuation rules to help us understand language usage better, including using hyphens appropriately and capitalization (I found after starting to grade persuasive essays that there were many gaps with this concept). *Touching Spirit Bear*– We read through chapter 23 and completed guided reading notes to help us become active readers. In addition, we discussed active and passive voice verbs and when it is effective to use either of these while analyzing the choices in the novel. We concluded the week by analyzing a poem about forgiveness in comparison to Cole's (the main character) ability to forgive himself and others at the end of chapter 23.

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

**History:** This week we had a great discussion on the Monroe Doctrine. Students did a scenario where they had to make decisions for their specific country. We also talked about the importance of the election of 1824. Next week we talk about the beginnings of Jacksonian Democracy.

**Science:** The eighth-graders finished up their chapter on cellular processes such as photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and cell division this week and took a test on Thursday. Next, we will be moving into genetics and DNA.

**Math:** This week students took the Chapter 3 Test. They also began new material and learned about graphing linear equations and the slope of a line. Next week they will learn about the slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines and graphing proportional relationships.

- Tuesday, November 29 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.3)

**Theology:** This week students turned in their completed rosaries. We read and discussed Chapter 5: A People of Service. Next week students will begin to review Unit 1 and take the virtue quiz for temperance.

- Tuesday, November 22 - Virtue Quiz (Temperance)

## CATHOLIC CENTRAL ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

### 2023-24 Incoming Freshman Applications are OPEN!

- Priority Deadline: Dec. 1, 2022
- Open to all current 8th graders
- Learn more and apply online at: [grcatholiccentral.org/admissions](http://grcatholiccentral.org/admissions)

### 8th Grade Shadow Days, Now - Dec. 1

- Available to all 8th graders
- Register online: [bit.ly/ShadowDays2022](http://bit.ly/ShadowDays2022)
- Parents have the option to attend a quick parent presentation and take a student-led tour the morning of the Shadow Day

### Dominican Scholar Award for 2023-24 CC Freshmen (Class of 2027)

- Open to all 8th grade Catholic Central applicants
- Deadline: Dec. 1, 2022
- Learn more and apply here: <https://bit.ly/3NVe7o2>