



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Dec. 2, 2022

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXAMS

It is almost time for exams! Middle School exams will be taking place on December 13-15. The students will arrive at the typical time, attend chapel, take their exams, and be dismissed at 11:30am on those days. Exam days are non-uniform days for middle school students. Study guides will be available towards the beginning of next week, and class time will be devoted at the end of the week into the Monday of exam week. The schedule will go as follows:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Choir/ Band		6 ELA 7 MATH 8 SS	6 SCI 7 ELA 8 MATH
	6 MATH 7 SS 8 SCI	6 THEO 7 THEO 8 THEO	6 SS 7 SCI 8 ELA

6th GRADE UPDATES

ELA: This week we took a pronoun quiz on Thursday and started discussing possessive pronouns. We also learned how to write an effective comparison paragraph, comparing two characters from two different stories. Students completed a rough draft of their paragraph. We will be working on a final draft next week. In addition, we read “President Cleveland Where Are You” and worked on active reading strategies, focusing on characterization.

- Wednesday, December 7–Final Draft of Comparison Paragraph Due
- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook.

Social studies: This week we reviewed for the test that was today. We reviewed Ancient Mesopotamia and the history of Judaism. Next week we will review for exams.

Science: We have been continuing to learn about the history of Earth and major events in Earth's history as well as how the geologic time scale is based on the major life and geologic changes that occurred throughout history. Rather than being tested separately, material from this test will be included on the exam.

Theology: We have been finishing up with Chapter 4 in our textbook this week, focusing on what the overall message we can learn from the book of Genesis through all of the stories it contains. We have also been learning about gratitude and ways that we can demonstrate it in our lives.

- Virtue Quiz on Gratitude 12/8

Math 6G1: This week students worked on writing algebraic expressions. Next week they will learn about properties of addition and multiplication. Students will also receive the exam study guide.

Math 6G2: This week students worked on areas of trapezoids and composite figures. Next week they will learn about finding the area of polygons in the coordinate plane. Students will also receive the exam study guide.

7th GRADE UPDATES

ELA: This week, we worked on identifying complete subjects and predicates within sentences. We also read through Chapter Six of *Dragonwings* with guided reading notes to help with active reading strategies. We also worked on using context clues within the novel to help us determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary words in chapters 4-5.

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

Social studies: This week we finished up discussing the rise and fall of the Byzantine Empire. We began to review for the test on Tuesday. Next week we will take the test and then review for exams.

Theology: This week we continued to take a deep dive into the gospels. Next week we will review for exams.

- Virtue quiz next Thursday.

Science: We took our test on the Periodic Table and atomic bonding this week and have since begun to move more deeply into chemical reactions and will begin practicing balancing equations next week. Rather than being tested separately, material from this test will be included on the exam.

Math 7G1: This week students worked on writing and graphing inequalities. Next week they will learn about solving inequalities using addition and subtraction. Students will also receive the exam study guide.

Math 7G2: This week students worked on reviewing Chapter 4, They took the quiz over the second half of the chapter and the vocabulary quiz. Next week they will take the Chapter 4 Test. Students will also receive the exam study guide.

- Monday, December 5 - Chapter 4 Test

8th GRADE UPDATES

ELA: This week, we continued working on punctuation and spelling rules. In addition, we finished *Touching Spirit Bear* and completed a theme analysis activity. Students were introduced to their *Touching Spirit Bear* Totem Pole Project.

- Monday, December 5–Signed Parent Form for Totem Pole Project Due
- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook.

History: This week we talked about the Age of Jackson. We looked at how he polarized the country. We discussed the Trail of Tears and the Nullification Crisis. Next week we will review for exams.

Science: We have begun to talk about the basics of genetics this week by exploring what genes are and how traits are passed from parents to offspring. We have been exploring the use of Punnett Squares to determine probabilities of traits being passed onto offspring. Rather than being tested separately, material from this test will be included on the exam.

Math: This week students worked on slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines and graphing proportional relationships. Next week they will learn about graphing equations in slope intercept form and point slope form. Students will also receive the exam study guide.

Theology: This week students took a test over Unit 1 and started Unit 2. Unit 2 covers the marks of the Church with the first mark being “one”. Next week students will take the virtue quiz for gratitude and the quiz for Chapter 6. Students will also receive the study guide for the exam the following week.

- Tuesday, December 6 - Chapter 6 Quiz
- Thursday, December 8 - Virtue Quiz (Gratitude)