



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 13, 2023



## MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDTRIP

Our 6th-8th graders will be going on a field trip on Jan. 17. They will be walking to Aquinas College to watch Catholic Central's and West Catholic's joint performance of Shakespeare's *The Twelfth Night*. You should have received a permission slip from your child. If you have not signed one, please check in with your child.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Saint Thomas Knights of Columbus is hosting a Winter Community Dinner on Jan. 28. They are looking for middle school volunteers to help bus tables and clean up after the dinner between 7:30 and 9pm. If your child is interested, please use this [Winter Community Dinner Sign Up Genius](#). If you would like to attend the dinner, please use this [Winter Community Dinner RSVP](#).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD CEREMONY

Save the date – Feb. 8 at 2:40pm – for our next Middle School Award Ceremony. Parents, please join us!

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** Grammar–This week we moved from identifying action and linking verbs in sentences to identifying complete subjects and predicates and simple subjects and predicates. Short Story Unit–We reviewed vocabulary for “Scout’s Honor” and worked on more in depth characterization skills including using textual support to explain our opinions on character traits. In addition, we reviewed story plot lines, protagonists and antagonists, theme (using textual evidence to support our assertions on theme), and types of conflict within the story. Pretty soon, we will be moving towards writing our own stories and incorporating all of these elements within our creative writing.

- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook. Reading/writing notebooks are due on Tuesday, January 17. Students should have 6 weeks worth of work done for these.

**Social studies:** This week we discussed the early kingdoms of Egypt and then looked at the mummification process. Next week we will look at Egyptian inventions and architecture. We also begin to discuss the rivalry between Egypt and Kush.

- Tentative Test January 26

**Science:** We have been discussing alternative energy resources this week, such as solar, wind, hydroelectricity, and nuclear energy. We also learned ways that we can conserve energy. We will be taking a test on Chapter 6 next week.

- Chapter 6 Test- January 19

**Theology:** We have been discussing the virtue of orderliness this week, focusing on how getting rid of clutter and distractions allows us to focus on the important things. We have also been learning about the story of Jacob and Esau.

- Virtue Quiz on Orderliness 1/19

**Math 6G1:** This week students took a quiz over the second half of Chapter 3 and started to review for the test. Next week students will take the Chapter 3 Test and will start the next topic of areas of polygons.

- Tuesday, January 17 - Chapter 3 Test

**Math 6G2:** This week students learned about percent, solving percent problems, and converting measures. Next week students will begin to wrap up the chapter by taking a quiz and working on the chapter review.

- Thursday, January 19 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.5 - 5.7)
- Monday, January 23 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, January 24 - Chapter 5 Test

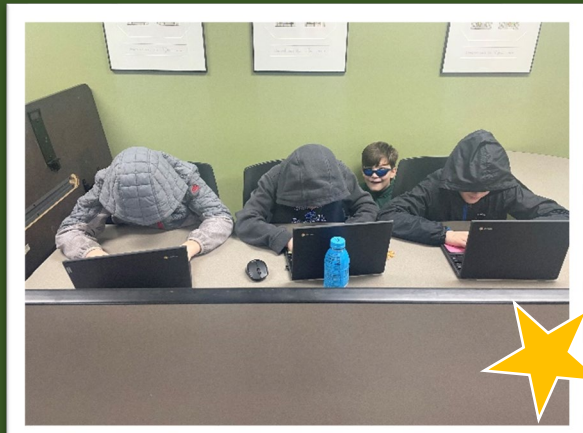


## MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING CLASS

The Middle School Writing Class proudly presents: *Saint Thomas Times*, a newspaper coming to an inbox near you soon.



Editor, Chloe, supervising the Art Desk.



The crime desk, doing undercover work.



## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** Grammar—This week, we reviewed complete subjects and predicates and simple subjects and predicates. Students took a quiz on this as well. *Dragonwings*—We read through Chapter 8 with guided reading notes and analysis questions. Then, we learned about the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 to prepare us for reading Chapter 9. Students watched a compelling video which documented survivor stories and practiced reading strategies with informational text on the event. We finished the week by beginning to read Chapter 9 and documenting experiences of the earthquake first hand within the novel.

- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook. Reading/writing notebooks are due on Tuesday, January 17. Students should have 6 weeks worth of work done for these.

**Social studies:** This week we talked about and debated the different theories of how the first civilizations came to the Americas. We also talked about these civilizations adapted to their surroundings. Next week we will talk about European influence in the Americas.

**Theology:** This week we explored different Bible verses and how they relate to Baptism. We also examined orderliness. Next week we will continue to talk about orderliness.

- Virtue Quiz on Orderliness January 19

**Science:** We started to learn about different types of mixtures this week, such as solutions, colloids, and suspensions. We have also been talking about solubility and concentration.

**Math 7G1:** This week students finished Chapter 4. Next week students will learn about ratios, rates, and proportions.

**Math 7G2:** This week students learned about solving systems of linear equations by elimination, solving special systems of linear equations and using a graph to solve a linear equation. Next week students will review Chapter 5 and will take the Chapter 5 Test.

- Wednesday, January 18 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, January 19 - Chapter 5 Test

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**ELA:** Totem Pole Projects—This week, we peer-edited and had one-on-one conferencing with me on the students' Totem Pole Project Paragraphs. Grammar—We reviewed subjects and predicates from last year. *The Red Badge of Courage*—We began discussing the Civil War as a precursor to reading this novel. We watched an introductory video to the Civil War, weighed the advantages of the North and South in regards to the Civil War, delved into the true causes of the war, and created a map to understand the states and their positions on the war. We also delved into vocabulary for the first two chapters, discussed the role of a protagonist in the novel, and reviewed the literary element of personification. In addition, we read through chapter one of the novel with guided reading notes.

- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook. Reading/writing notebooks are due on Tuesday, January 17. Students should have 6 weeks worth of work done for these.
- Final Drafts of Totem Pole Project Paragraphs due Wednesday, January 18 (Submit to Canvas)
- Actual Totem Poles Due Friday, January 20. Bring to class.

**History:** This week we talked in depth about the adventures of the Oregon Trail. We also talked about the impact of the Gold Rush. Next week we will cover Texas Independence and the War with Mexico.

**Science:** We have continued with discussing genes and genetic mutations this week. Dr. Helga Toriello, a geneticist and professor at MSU, spoke with the class on Tuesday about the use of genetics in solving crimes. Next week we will begin discussing genetic disorders and advances in genetics.

**Math:** This week students learned about solving systems of linear equations by elimination, solving special systems of linear equations and using a graph to solve a linear equation. Next week students will review Chapter 5 and will take the Chapter 5 Test.

- Thursday, January 19 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, January 20 - Chapter 5 Test

**Theology:** This week students started to read Chapter 8: A Church that is Catholic. Next week students will take the quiz over Chapter 8 as well as the virtue quiz for orderliness.

- Thursday, January 19 - Chapter 8 Quiz
- Thursday, January 19 - Virtue Quiz: Orderliness