



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 6, 2023

6th GRADE UPDATES

ELA: Grammar—This week we delved into verbs and identifying different types of verbs, including action, linking, and helping verbs. Short Story Unit—We worked on going deeper with context clues in defining vocabulary. Students were asked to identify the type of context clue used (synonym, antonym, comparison, contrast, or inference) to help them understand how they are determining the meaning of unfamiliar words so they can apply this concept in other subject areas as well and become better readers. We also activated prior knowledge and began reading “Scout’s Honor.” We practiced identifying main ideas, characterization, and using evidence from the story to support theme, characterization, connections and main ideas.

- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook. Six weeks worth of work will be due on Tuesday, January 17.

Social studies: This week we began to learn about Ancient Egypt. We discussed ancient Hieroglyphics and the early kingdoms of Egypt. Next week we will continue to learn about the early kingdoms and the mummification process.

Science: We have started chapter 6 this week learning about energy resources. We have been discussing fossil fuels and their limitations and will be moving into learning about renewable resources such as wind, sun, and water.

- Chapter 6 Test- January 18

Theology: This week we have been moved into the story of Abraham and Isaac. We have also been focusing on the virtue of humility and will be starting on orderliness as a virtue next week.

- Virtue Quiz on Orderliness 1/19

Math 6G1: This week students learned about the distributive property and factoring expressions. Next week students will take a quiz over the last half of Chapter 3 and will review the chapter. The test for Chapter 3 will be the following week.

- Wednesday, January 11 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.3 - 3.4 Extension)
- Friday, January 13 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, January 17 - Chapter 3 Test

Math 6G2: This week students learned about ratios and rates. Next week they will take a quiz and will learn about percentages, solving percent problems, and converting measures.

- Tuesday, January 10 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.4)

7th GRADE UPDATES

ELA: Grammar–We continued our work with subjects and predicates, moving from complete subjects and predicates to simple subjects and predicates. *Dragonwings*–We read Chapter 7 with guided reading notes. In addition, we worked on analysis skills with direct quotations and inferences regarding the chapter. Students worked on vocabulary, looking at the context of the word in sentences within the text and then determining the correct dictionary definition based on how the word was used in context. Then, they were able to write sentences of their own using the vocabulary words. In addition, we began reading Chapter 8 with guided reading notes.

- Subject and Predicate Quiz Thursday, January 12
- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook. Six weeks worth of work will be due on Tuesday, January 17.

Social studies: This week we began to learn about U.S. History. The students will learn about American History for the next year and a half. This week we talked about the different theories of how people came to the Americas. Next week we will look at how the different groups began to settle in the Americas and how they learned to adapt.

Theology: We began to talk about the Sacraments this week. We also talked about the life of Pope Benedict. Next week we take an in depth look at the sacrament of Baptism.

Science: We have gotten back to discussing chemical reactions this week, and we have been focusing on how to balance equations and why it is necessary. We will next be talking about ways to change the rates of chemical reactions.

Math 7G1: This week students learned about solving inequalities using multiplication and division and solving two-step inequalities. Next week students will take a quiz over the last half of Chapter 4, review the chapter and take the test.

- Tuesday, January 10 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.3 - 4.4)
- Thursday, January 12 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, January 13 - Chapter 4 Test

Math 7G2: This week students learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing and substitution. Next week students will learn about solving systems of linear equations by elimination and solving special systems.

- Friday, January 13 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5,3 - 5.4 Extension)
- Tuesday, January 17 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, January 18 - Chapter 5 Test

8th GRADE UPDATES

ELA: Grammar—we discussed clear, concise wording with writing informational texts. Totem Pole Project—We reviewed how to format our paragraphs for the writing assignment, worked on writing the paragraphs, began peer-editing and conferencing on the paragraphs, reviewed MLA format for the paper set-up, reviewed how to format a works cited page, and reviewed how to create citations for the works cited page.

- Remember to keep up with the weekly reading/writing notebook. Six weeks worth of work will be due on Tuesday, January 17.
- 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 began to discuss Manifest Destiny. We talked about and learned about the Erie Canal and began to discuss the Oregon Trail. Next week we will look at the Oregon Trail and the inventions of Railroads.

Science: We are continuing to learn about genetics and DNA. This week we have focused on the structure of DNA and next week we will continue to discuss how traits get passed on, as well as having a geneticist come in to speak to the class about the uses of genetics in forensics.

Math: This week students learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing and substitution. Next week students will learn about solving systems of linear equations by elimination and solving special systems.

- Friday, January 13 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5,3 - 5.4 Extension)
- Tuesday, January 17 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, January 18 - Chapter 5 Test

Theology: This week students took a virtue quiz over humility. They also learned about another mark of the Church: holy. Next week students will take a quiz over Chapter 7: Made Holy in the Spirit. We will also discuss the new virtue of orderliness.

- Tuesday, January 10 - Chapter 7 Quiz