



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Aug. 31, 2023

## Middle School Parent Orientation Night

Middle School parents, please join us September 5 from 6-7:30pm for information about classes, award ceremonies, athletics, 8th grade retreat, new developments, and to meet our teachers and support staff.

### 6th GRADE UPDATES



**Language Arts:** We've had such a fun time getting into the swing of things in ELA thus far! We've begun studying fiction this week, with some group work prep along the way. Next week, we'll apply what we've learned about fiction and about group work to a short story called "Nadia the Willful," which students should read before Wednesday, September 6. I'm not sure about the students, but I for one am very excited to have our first grammar lesson on Tuesday!

**Social Studies:** It has been a great week getting to know all the students! This week they created a "getting to know me" circle map that helped me get to know them. Then we have discussed vocab and taken notes on the basics of geography, especially longitude and latitude. Next week we will continue to discuss geography and the 5 themes of geography! On Friday, September 8, the students will have their first vocab quiz.

**Science:** We have been focusing on the routines of the classroom and the reasons why we study science. We also have been exploring the different resources we use in the science classroom. Next week, we will be learning about lab safety and the different equipment that we use.

**Theology:** It was a good week as we settled into a good routine. This week we talked about scripture and tradition and its importance in the Old Testament. We had our first virtue quiz today and continued to discuss the genre of the Old Testament. Next week we will look at the genres of the Old Testament and take our first chapter test, which will be on Thursday September 7.

**Math 6G1:** This week students set up binders and took an IXL diagnostic test to determine their baseline. We also started working on notes and having assignments in Big Ideas Math. The topic that was covered this week was whole number operations. Next week the topics will be powers and exponents as well as order of operations.

**Math 6G2:** This week students set up binders and worked on the IXL diagnostic to a baseline level that they will work to improve over the course of the year. We also started working on notes and having assignments in Big Ideas Math. The topics that were covered this week were whole number operations and powers and exponents. Next week the topics will be order of operations and prime factorization.

- Thursday, September 7 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** It's been a fun start to the year in ELA! In 7th grade, the students have spent some time practicing working in groups and contributing to our classroom group work expectations. We've also begun our fiction unit this week by studying the key elements of fiction in some of our favorite stories. Next week, we'll continue these discussions by analyzing a short story aptly titled "7th Grade," which students should read before Wednesday, September 6th. Students can look forward to our first grammar lesson on Tuesday!

**Social Studies:** This week has been a great week, and I enjoy ending my day with the 7th graders! We have discussed the Roman Empire, and the geography of it, how it came about, and how it expanded. Next week we will continue to discuss the Romans, specifically their government system, and the society within the republic of Rome! The students will have their first vocab quiz on Friday, September 8.

**Theology:** It was good to have a somewhat normal week! We discussed the impact Jesus has on our lives. We talked about the things we can and cannot control, and the importance of Jesus throughout our lives. Next week we continue to discuss Jesus as Savior, Emmanuel and Messiah and take our first chapter test next Thursday, September 7.

**Science:** We have been exploring the different resources we use in the science classroom. We have also been reviewing lab safety and the CER writing method that we use in science to share our findings. Next week, we will be starting Chapter 1 in our textbook, Introduction to Matter.

**Math 7G1:** This week students set up binders and worked on the IXL diagnostic to a baseline level that they will work to improve over the course of the year. We also started working on notes and having assignments in Big Ideas Math. The topics that were covered this week were integers, absolute value and adding integers. Next week the topics will be subtracting and multiplying integers.

- Thursday, September 7 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

**Math 7G2:** This week students set up binders and took an IXL diagnostic test to determine their baseline. We also started working on notes and having assignments in Big Ideas Math. The topics that were covered this week were solving simple equations and multi-step equations. Next week the topics will be solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas.

- Wednesday, September 6 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.2)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat

The 8th grade students have begun preparing for their upcoming Leadership and Unity Retreat on Sept. 13-14 at Camp Blodgett on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. Please complete the following [permission slip](#) by Monday, September 4. Here is your child's [packing list](#). See more information in [the retreat letter](#). Note that students may need to miss sports practice or games to attend the retreat; please plan accordingly.

### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** I have so enjoyed getting to know the 8th graders; they've been so kind and welcoming for my first year teaching at St. Thomas! This week, students shared very impressive mini presentations on Literary Devices. Next week, we'll search for their literary devices and learn about the basics of fiction with a short story, "Checkouts," which they have to read by Wednesday, September 6. On Tuesday, we'll be wrapping up student presentations and then having our first grammar lesson!



**History:** This week has been amazing: the 8th graders are awesome to have in the middle of the day! This week we have discussed the Declaration of Independence and Thomas Paine's influence on the Declaration. Next week, we will continue to discuss the revolutionary war, how the tide turned towards America, and how America eventually won its independence. The students will also have their first vocab quiz on Friday, September 8.

**Science:** We have been exploring the different resources we use in the science classroom. We have also been reviewing lab safety and the CER writing method that we use in science to share our findings. Next week, we will be starting Chapter 1 in our textbook, Introduction to Living Things.

**Math 8G1:** This week students set up binders and took an IXL diagnostic test to determine their baseline. We also started working on notes and having assignments in Big Ideas Math. The topic that was covered this week was solving simple equations. Next week the topics will be solving multi-step equations and solving equations with variables on both sides.

- Thursday, September 7 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.2)

**Math 8G2:** This week students set up binders and worked on the IXL diagnostic to a baseline level that they will work to improve over the course of the year. We also started working on notes and having assignments in Big Ideas Math. The topics that were covered this week were solving simple equations and multi-step equations. Next week the topics will be solving equations with variables on both sides and solving absolute value equations.

- Thursday, September 7 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

**Theology:** This week we talked about how we are a community of disciples. We looked at how the Church is a mystery and that Jesus is the visible image of God. Next we look at Mary as the Mother of the Church and prepare for our first chapter test on Thursday September 7.