



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Sept. 22, 2023



## Corcoran's Character Class

Every other Monday, Middle School Choir students have class with Mr. Corcoran. These bi-weekly classes are affectionately called "Corcoran's Character Class." These classes will be opportunities to learn about virtues, life skills, writing, and character development. This week, we discussed the importance of the Eucharist, read excerpts from John 6 and learned how to reverently receive the Eucharist.

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** This week, we discussed key events in *The Giver* and learned more about the values of the community in the book. Then, we began our first writing assignment - writing Descriptive Scenes! This weekend, students will read the next 5 chapters of *The Giver*, chapters 9-13 and take notes on key events and character traits of Jonas and his new boss, the Giver.

**Social Studies:** This week, we discussed the five themes of geography and worked on our study guides for their test this Friday. Next week, we will start to discuss how the 5 themes relate to the United States and Canada, along with governments, economics, and citizenship in order to get some background knowledge before discussing the origins of civilizations.

- Vocab Quiz Friday - 9/29

**Science:** We finished up going over the parts of a controlled experiment this week. Then we began our first chapter of Earth Science material this week by learning about Alfred Wegener and his theory of continental drift. We will be continuing to look at the processes that cause plate movements on Earth.

**Theology:** This week, we compared the two stories of Creation, and took our chapter test. Next week we talk about the effects of sin in our lives, due to the fall of Adam and Eve. We look at how God's love repeatedly offers us mercy.

- Virtue Quiz on Leadership. September 28

**Math 6G1:** This week students learned about how to find the greatest common factor of numbers using prime factorization, how to find the least common multiple of numbers and adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. Next week they will begin reviewing for the Chapter 1 Test. For the vocabulary quiz, students should be reviewing the vocabulary from Chapter 1. Terms are in the notes and also in their binder in the “vocabulary” section. The test is a review of the two quizzes that they have already taken. Quizzes should be in the “quiz/test” section of their binder.

- Tuesday, September 26 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.6 Extension)
- Thursday, September 28 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, September 29 - Chapter 1 Test

**Math 6G2:** This week students took the Chapter 1 Test. They also learned about multiplying and dividing fractions. Next week they will learn about dividing mixed numbers, adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals.

- Wednesday, September 27 - Chapter 2 Quiz 1 (2.1 - 2.3)



## Middle School Planners

The Middle School Team will be using homework planners for all students. Teachers will prompt students at the end of class to write down any homework assignments. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Marygrace Tyrrell ([marygracetyrrell@stthomasgr.org](mailto:marygracetyrrell@stthomasgr.org)).

## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** This week, we practiced connecting with characters and drawing inferences about characters’ backgrounds and personalities based on details in the short story Zebra. We then began our first writing assignment, a How-To Essay. This weekend on Canvas, students will read two short stories by the author O. Henry, and we will compare his writing in these two stories.

**Social Studies:** This week we discussed the Society within the Roman Republic, and the students started their first essay about the differences between today’s society and the Romans society. Along with this, they took a vocab quiz on Friday. Next week we will discuss the struggles of the Roman Republic. Students will finish their essays on Monday and turn them in on Tuesday.

**Theology:** This week we continued to look at our relationship with God, and we reviewed for the chapter test that was on Thursday. Next week we will look at the purpose of the Gospels and how they came to be written. We will also look at how Christian Scriptures are a means to know Jesus better.

- Virtue Quiz on Leadership September, 28.

**Science:** We have continued our investigation of matter this week by focusing on the ways that matter can be measured and also the ways that matter changes. The class conducted their first lab this week, determining the density of different types of candy by measuring their mass and volume and calculating their densities. We ended the week by beginning our Chapter 1 Study Guides for the test on Tuesday. Next week we will finish reviewing and take the test, and then we will be learning about the different states of matter.

- Chapter 1 Test- September 26

**Math 7G1:** This week students took the Chapter 1 Test. They also learned about rational numbers and adding rational numbers. This was a little bit of review of adding integers, but also adding fractions and decimals. Next week they will learn about subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers.


- Thursday, September 28 - Chapter 2 Quiz 2 (2.3 - 2.4)
- Monday, October 2 - Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, October 3 - Chapter 2 Test

**Math 7G2:** This week students learned about congruent figures, translations, reflections and rotations. Next week they will take the first quiz of Chapter 2 and also learn about similar figures, the perimeter and area of similar figures, and dilations.

- Monday, September 25 - Chapter 2 Quiz 1 (2.1 - 2.4)



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Information



Our first of three Candidate-Sponsor Confirmation Sessions will take place on Monday, October 9 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the church. Your child may not have chosen a sponsor by Oct 9, but one or both parents are always welcome to attend these sessions. Their sponsor and/or parent (or adult proxy) must be present with them for each Candidate-Sponsor Session.

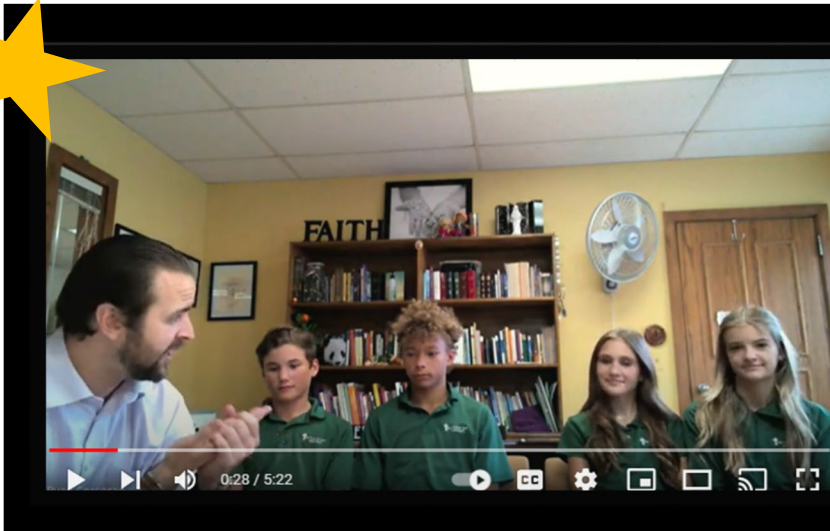
Please complete and return this [Confirmation Sponsor Declaration](#) and the [Confirmation Registration form](#) to the office or via email ([timhorst@stthomasgr.org](mailto:timhorst@stthomasgr.org)) by October 23.

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

**Language Arts:** This week, we took a deep dive into the elements of fiction and focused particularly on mood with Edgar Allan Poe's short story, "The Tell-Tale Heart." Students will have no reading homework this weekend. Next week, we'll get started on their first writing assignment: a short story!

**History:** This week, we discussed the Revolutionary War, specifically Washington crossing the Delaware River and the Battle of Saratoga. The students will take their first test, over the Declaration of Independence and the start of the Revolutionary War, on Tuesday. Next week, we will continue to discuss the Revolutionary War. We will specifically talk about foreign aid, the winter at Valley Forge, and how women and African Americans played a role in the war.

- Declaration and Revolutionary Test - Tuesday 9/26



Check out this week's [Corcoran's Corner](#), featuring a few of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade leaders!

**Science:** We continued to learn about how organisms are classified. We also focused on how the theory of evolution was developed and how it affects how organisms are classified. Next week we will be reviewing for our Chapter 1 test and taking the test, and then we will be moving into learning about the basics of the cell.

- Chapter 1 Test- September 27

**Math 8G1:** This week, students wrapped up Chapter 1. They took the second quiz of Chapter 1 and the vocabulary quiz. Next week students will take the Chapter 1 Test and learn about congruent figures and translations in the coordinate plane.

- Monday, September 25 - Chapter 1 Test

**Math 8G2:** This week, students wrapped up Chapter 1. They took the second quiz of Chapter 1, the vocabulary quiz and the test. Next week students will learn about writing and graphing inequalities as well as solving inequalities using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

**Theology:** This week, we discussed the mystery of the church and how through the Paschal Mystery, Jesus reincarnated fulfilled his mission. Next week, we will look at the precepts and models of the church.

- Virtue Quiz on Leadership September, 28