



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Sept. 29, 2023



Spelling Bee Sign Up!

Our annual Spelling Bee is right around the corner. If your middle schooler would like to participate, please use this [STA Spelling Bee Sign Up](#). Questions? Contact Jeanne Walch at jeannewalch@stthomasgr.org.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We dug deeply into the morality and values of the society in *The Giver* with some individual reflections and an informal debate. This weekend, students are to read and take notes on chapters 14-17 of *The Giver*, and to review their notes about the Elements of Fiction for a Fiction Quiz on Friday 10/6.

Social Studies: The students learned the basics of economics, such as opportunity cost, and supply and demand. Next week we will finish with the basics of economics, the four types of economic systems, and some personal economics.

- Vocab Quiz - Tuesday 10/4

Science: We missed a few class meetings this week and will continue to do so next week for MAP testing, but between that, we continued to talk about the processes of sea-floor spreading and subduction. Next week we will be reaching the end of the chapter and beginning our study guide for the Chapter 1 test.

Theology: We learned about the stories of Adam and Eve. The students made newscasts about the events in the Garden of Eden to reinforce their learning. Next week we'll look at the fall of man, and how God wants us to be made in his image.

- Chapter Test on Thursday October 7

Nov. 27

6th GRADE RETREAT

We will be having a retreat for our 6th graders on Monday, Nov. 27. The theme is *Free Indeed: Identity in Christ*. This retreat acts as a prep for the 8th grade leadership retreat. It will start after first hour (9:09am) and go until 3pm. We will use Aquinas like we do for the confirmation retreat; meals and snacks will be provided. Students will go to Mass at Aquinas and have the opportunity for confession.

Math 6G1: Students reviewed for the Chapter 1 Test. Next week, students will take the Chapter 1 Test and learn about multiplying fractions and mixed numbers and dividing fractions.

- Monday, October 2 – Chapter 1 Test
- Wednesday, October 11 – Chapter 2 Quiz 1 (2.1 - 2.3)

Math 6G2: Students learned about dividing mixed numbers, adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals. Next week students will learn about dividing decimals.

- Wednesday, October 4 - Chapter 2 Quiz 2 (2.4 - 2.6)
- Friday, October 6 - Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz
- Monday, October 9 - Chapter 2 Test



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).

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We looked at two short stories by the American author O. Henry, and learned about well-crafted plot twists and surprise endings. Next week, we will continue with these two stories to review what we've learned about fiction thus far for the Fiction Quiz on Friday 10/6. No homework, except to review their Fiction notes.

Social Studies: The students learned how the Roman Republic became the Roman Empire. We discussed the Punic wars, and Julius Caesar. Next week, we will discuss the beginning of the Roman Empire, and Rome's achievements.

- Vocab Quiz 10/6

Theology: We MAP tested during and learned about the different Gospel writers. Next week, we will continue to take the MAP test and learn about the inspiration for the Gospels.

- Chapter Test will be on Monday October 11

Science: The class finished reviewing and took their Chapter 1 tests this week. After that, we have begun to learn about the different states of matter and what causes particles to move through these phases. We will continue with this concept next week.

Math 7G1: Students learned about subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers. Next week, students will take the Chapter 2 Test and will also learn about algebraic expressions.


- Monday, October 2 - Chapter 2 Quiz 2 (2.3 - 2.4)
- Wednesday, October 4 - Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, October 5 - Chapter 2 Test

Math 7G2: Students learned about similar figures, the perimeter and area of similar figures, and dilations. Next week, students will begin to review for the Chapter 2 Test.

- Tuesday, October 3 - Chapter 2 Quiz 2 (2.5 - 2.7)
- Thursday, October 5 - Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, October 6 - Chapter 2 Test




8th 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) by October 23.



8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We had a tough grammar lesson about the different functions of nouns; students had to push themselves, and I was very impressed! We also got started on our Short Story creative writing project. We will outline our short stories in-class and as homework on Monday (though students are free to do that over the weekend), and then we'll review for our Fiction Quiz on Friday 10/6.

History: Students learned about the Revolutionary War, how women and African Americans made an impact, and how the tide started turning towards the United States. Next week, we will finish the Revolutionary War, discuss the Treaty of Paris, and students will start an essay.

Science: The students began the week by reviewing for their Chapter 1 test, which was taken on Wednesday. We are then moving into Chapter 2, learning about cells. The students received their cell project description in class this week, and are expected to bring back the signed parent acknowledgement next week, as part of their project grade.

- Cell Project – due October 24



Math 8G1: Students learned about congruent figures. Next week students will learn about translations, reflections and rotations in the coordinate plane.

Math 8G2: Students learned about writing and graphing inequalities as well as solving inequalities using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Next week students will learn about solving multi-step inequalities.

- Friday, October 6 - Chapter 2 Quiz 1 (2.1 - 2.4)

Theology: We looked at how God reveals himself to us through Salvation History. We also talked about the 5 Precepts of the Catholic Church. Next week we will look at the 6 Models of the Church and talk about Mystical Communion.

- Chapter Test on Thursday 10/7