



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Sept. 8, 2023



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. Your child can pick out a planner of their choice.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Marygrace Tyrrell (marygracetyrrell@stthomasqr.org).

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: This week we began studying works of fiction with a short story, *Nadia the Willful*. Students analyzed character traits, practiced writing paragraphs that used quotes from the text, and discussed the story's theme. We also began studying grammar. Next week, we will continue to practice analyzing fiction with *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Students will get books and notes sheets in class today, and are expected to read the first 3 chapters (25 pages) by Tuesday. Additionally, students have optional grammar corrections due in-class on Monday.

Social Studies: This week students continued to learn about geography. Specifically the globe, map projections, and distortions that come with different types of projections. The students also had their first Vocab Quiz on Friday. They were given a study guide and time to work on it in class Thursday. Next week, we will discuss the impact 9/11 has had on the United States, finish talking about map projections and distortions, and start discussing the 5 themes of geography!

Science: We have continued with science basics this week by discussing lab safety procedures and then investigating the different types of equipment that is used in science. Next week we will learn about experimental design and ways to share findings.

Theology: This week we discussed the four parts of the Old Testament, and we also reviewed for yesterday's test. Next week we will talk about the story of creation and how everything good is created by God.

- Virtue Quiz: Docility, Thursday September 14. The virtue and bible verse are linked on the Theology Canvas page.

Math 6G1: This week students learned about powers, exponents and evaluating expressions using the order of operations. Next week, they will learn about prime factorization and how to find the greatest common factor of two or more numbers. A study guide will be completed in class and correct answers are posted to Canvas. Students should review the study guide at home, and bring it back to school with them since they can use it on the quiz.

- Tuesday, September 12 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

Math 6G2: This week students learned about evaluating expressions using the order of operations and prime factorization. Next week they will learn about how to find the greatest common factor and the least common factor of two or more numbers. They will also be adding and subtracting fractions. A study guide will be completed in class and correct answers are posted to Canvas. Students should review the study guide at home and bring it back to school with them as they can use it on the quiz.

- Friday, September 15 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.6 Extension)

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: This week in ELA, we discussed the elements of fiction in a short story called "7th Grade." Students practiced reading strategies like connecting and visualizing. We also studied grammar and a few literary devices like metaphor and flashback. Next week, we will look into character motivation and cause and effect relationships with the story "Thank You, M'am," which they should read and answer questions about on Canvas by Monday at 10pm. Additionally, students have optional grammar corrections due in-class on Monday.

Social Studies: This week we discussed the Roman government, and how it is similar and different from the United States government. We specifically talked about checks and balances, separation of powers, rule of law, and the three branches of the Roman Government. The students also had their first Vocab Quiz on Friday. They received a study guide and had time to work on it in class on Thursday. Next week, we will discuss the impact 9/11 has had on the United States, and finish discussing the Roman government. The students will have their first content quiz next Friday, September 15th. They will be given a study guide Thursday and time to work on it in class.

Theology: This week we talked about the impact of Jesus on our lives. We also reviewed for the test they took yesterday. Next week we will look at our Friendship with Jesus, and how Jesus truly is the Son of Man.

- Virtue Quiz: Docility, Thursday September 14th. The virtue and bible verse are linked on the Theology Canvas page.

Science: We began this week by practicing experimental design and writing CERs (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) by doing a virtual lab. We then have moved into our first section in the book, learning about the difference between the chemical and physical properties of matter. We will then be learning about how matter is classified by exploring the periodic table.

Math 7G1: This week students learned about subtracting and multiplying integers. Next week they will learn about dividing integers. A study guide will be completed in class and correct answers are posted to Canvas. Students should review the study guide at home and bring it back to school with them as they can use it on the quiz.

- Wednesday, September 13 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.5)
- Friday, September 15 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Monday, September 18 - Chapter 1 Test

Math 7G2: This week students learned about solving equations with variables on both sides and how to rewrite equations and formulas. Next week they will review for the end of Chapter 1 assessment. A study guide will be completed in class and correct answers are posted to Canvas. Students should review the study guide at home and bring it back to school with them as they can use it on the quiz.

- Tuesday, September 12 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)
- Thursday, September 14 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, September 15 - Chapter 1 Test



8th 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. Parents, please remember to turn in your letter to your child by Monday, Sept. 11.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We focused on character motivation this week in 8th grade ELA. We read a short story called Checkouts and discussed in small groups why characters make the choices they do in a story. We then synthesized characters' actions and motivations to begin to determine the theme of the story. Next week, we will continue to explore fiction and make predictions with "The Chaser" by John Collier. Students should read the story, make predictions, and identify literary devices on Canvas by Monday at 10pm. Additionally, students have optional grammar corrections due in-class on Monday.

History: This week we finished up talking about the Declaration of Independence. The students created a presentation about one of the signers of the Declaration, and presented it to the class. The students also had their first vocab quiz on Friday. They received a study guide and had time to work on it in class on Thursday. Next week, we will discuss the impact 9/11 has had on the United States, then dive back into the American Revolution. We will be discussing generals, battles, and other key parts of the Revolution.

Science: We started in our book this week with learning about the characteristics that all living things share and the four basic needs of all living things. We are then moving into how life is classified and organized.

Math 8G1: This week students learned about solving multi-step equations. Next week they will learn about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas. A study guide will be completed in class and correct answers are posted to Canvas. Students should review the study guide at home and bring it back to school with them as they can use it on the quiz.

- Tuesday, September 19 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)
- Thursday, September 21 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, September 22 - Chapter 1 Test

Math 8G2: This week students learned about solving equations with variables on both sides. Next week they will learn about solving absolute value equations and rewriting equations and formulas. A study guide will be completed in class and correct answers are posted to Canvas. Students should review the study guide at home and bring it back to school with them as they can use it on the quiz.

- Tuesday, September 19 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.5)
- Thursday, September 20 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, September 21 - Chapter 1 Test

Theology: This week we talked about how we are a community of disciples and reviewed for yesterday's test. Next week we will recall the important events in salvation history, and discuss the difference between Scripture and Tradition.

- Virtue Quiz: Docility, Thursday September 14. The virtue and bible verse are linked on the Theology Canvas page.