



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Oct. 6, 2023

Middle School Field Trip

Middle School students will be attending Catholic Central's Fall Play, *Treasure Island*, on **Monday, Oct. 16 at 9:30am** at Aquinas College. We will be walking over to Aquinas on Monday morning. Look for a permission slip coming home with your child. We need four additional parent chaperones. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you are available that day.

Parent Seminar: May I Have Your Attention Please?

Join us on **Monday, Oct. 30, at 6:15pm in the Ministry Center** as Mary Ashby, Teacher Consultant for All Belong, explores: the causes and components of ADHD, how ADHD may impact children academically, socially, and emotionally, and strategies for creating an ADHD-friendly home environment. Check out this [All Belong flyer](#) for more information.

Infinite Campus Grade Updates

Parents: Friday is a great day to log into Infinite Campus and check your child's grade updates! If you need help logging into Infinite Campus, please contact Cammi Lawrence (clawrence@stthomasgr.org) in the office.

Corcoran's Character Class

This week, we spoke about the importance of silence. Mr. Corcoran discussed the story of Elijah and the still small voice from 1 Kings 19. Mrs. Nowak, a Saint Thomas parent, shared her testimony. She spoke about her middle school experience and how silence has helped her.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We spent a good bit of our time reviewing for our fiction quiz. We also got to work on rough drafts of our descriptive scene writing assignments, by finalizing our outlines and looking at different ways writers start stories. Lots of creativity this week! Next week, we'll learn more about nouns and begin our nonfiction unit.

Social Studies: We continued to discuss the basics of economics, and students had an economic vocab quiz on Wednesday. Next week, we will finish the basics of economics, discuss economic systems, and have a short discussion on the basics of personal finances.

Science: Along with MAP Testing, we have continued to learn about plate tectonics this week. We ended the week by beginning to work on our study guide. On Monday, we will go through the study guide to ensure that everyone has the correct answers for the test next Tuesday.

- Chapter 1 Test- October 10

Theology: We discussed Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood and the Tower of Babel. We took our chapter test on Thursday. Next week we will do a project involving the 4 Bible stories.

- Virtue quiz on Loyalty, Thursday

Math 6G1: Students took the Chapter 1 Test. They also learned about multiplying and dividing fractions. Next week, they will learn about dividing mixed numbers.

- Thursday, October 12 - Chapter 2 Quiz 1 (2.1 - 2.3)

Math 6G2: Students learned about dividing decimals and reviewed for the Chapter 2 assessments. Next week, students will take the Chapter 2 test and learn about what algebraic expressions are and how to write them.

- Monday, October 9 - Chapter 2 Test
- Monday, October 16 - Chapter 3 Quiz 1 (3.1 - 3.2)

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.



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 prepared for our fiction quiz, and developed our research skills. We learned how to evaluate a source for credibility and how to take effective notes on sources. Next week, we will continue working on researching and drafting our How-To Essays, and we'll study nonfiction.

Social Studies: We finished discussing how the Roman Empire rose to power, and students had a vocab quiz on Friday. Next week, we will discuss the achievements of the Romans, such as their roads, aqueducts, architecture, medicine, and literature. Then, we will discuss the origins of Christianity, who Jesus was, and what the political scene was like during that time.

Theology: We MAP tested on Tuesday and Thursday. On Monday and Wednesday, we discussed who the main audience was for the Gospel writers, what their purpose was in writing their gospels and learned about who they were.

Next week, we have a chapter test on Monday. This week is one of those cool occasions where Theology and Social Studies topics overlap. Mr. Walsh and I are going to be discussing Jesus' life, and the political situations in Palestine at that time. In Theology we will take a journey into the land of where Jesus lived. We will locate Palestine's three main regions, to get a better idea of the region that Jesus lived in. We will also look at various religious groups among the Jewish people. We have the virtue quiz on Loyalty on Thursday.

Science: We have been learning about the different states of matter and what causes objects to change state. We will be learning specifically about the way that gasses behave in different conditions next week, before ending the week by beginning our Chapter 2 study guides.

- Chapter 2 Test- October 17

Math 7G1: Students wrapped up Chapter 2 with a quiz and reviewing all concepts. They took the Chapter 2 Test. Next week students will learn about algebraic expressions, adding and subtracting linear expressions and factoring expressions.


- Monday, October 16 - Chapter 3 Quiz 1 (3.1 - 3.2 Extension)

Math 7G2: Students wrapped up Chapter 2 with a test. Next week, students will learn about parallel lines, transversals and angles of triangles.

- Thursday, October 12 - Chapter 3 Quiz 1 (3.1 - 3.2)




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: This week was a bit choppy due to MAP Testing, but we spent our time well, preparing for our Fiction quiz and building outlines for our short stories. Next week, we'll begin creating rough drafts of our short stories and we'll continue grammar lessons with pronouns.

History: We discussed the battles in Carolina during the Revolutionary War, along with who Benedict Arnold was, and the importance of the battle of Yorktown. Next week, we will finish discussing the Battle of Yorktown and the Revolutionary War. We will discuss the many reasons why the Americans won, and the students will complete a 5 paragraph essay stating why the Americans won the Revolutionary War. We will also begin discussing the Articles of Confederation and how this led to the Constitution.

- Why America won the Revolutionary War essay - due 10/13

Science: We have been exploring the history of cell theory and the basics of cells. We also learned about microscope parts and basics and began to explore looking at specimens through the microscope. As we get further into the parts of the cell, next week we will be doing a microscope lab looking at the differences between plant and animal cells.

- Cell Project- due October 23

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

- Tuesday, October 10 - Chapter 2 Quiz 1 (2.1 - 2.4)

Math 8G2: Students learned about solving multi-step inequalities. Next week students will learn about solving compound inequalities and absolute value inequalities .

- Thursday, October 12 - Chapter 2 Quiz 2 (2.5 - 2.6)

Theology: We talked about the 6 Models of the Catholic Church and we as members of the Church can demonstrate those virtues. The students took their chapter test on Thursday as well. Next week, we begin to discuss how we are people of prayer. We will identify two types of prayer communal and personal. On Thursday next week, we will start a group project for All Saints Day. The 8th graders will be researching saints that contributed to advancing Science. They will be making posters and then creating scavenger hunts for the lower grade to learn about their saint.