



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Nov. 10, 2023

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Here's the format for our Middle School conferences:

- Parent teacher conferences are Nov. 16 (4-8pm) and Nov. 17 (8am-3pm).
- Families sign up for one hour block - [Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up Genius](#)
- During the one-hour block, parents have the opportunity to visit three stations:
 - Station 1: Mrs. Hoedeman (Math)
 - Station 2: Mr. Baxter (Theology) and Ms. Eggenberger (ELA)
 - Station 3: Mrs. Bendon (Science) and Mr. Walsh (Social Studies)
- Conferences will take place in the middle school hallway.
- Conferences are scheduled to last 5 minutes per station.
- Please watch this [Corcoran's Corner video](#) for more details about Middle School conferences.

Please use our [Teacher & Staff Conference Dinner Sign Up](#) if you would like to contribute a dish for a potluck dinner for teachers and staff on the first night of conferences.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17 MIDDLE SCHOOL HALF-DAY SCHEDULE

After chapel, 7th grade will follow their regular schedule. The 6th and 8th graders will join Mr. Corcoran in the Church Lower Level to watch a documentary. The documentary is called *Marian Apparitions of the 20th Century*. If you do not want your child to watch this, please email Mr. Corcoran (ryancorcoran@stthomasgr.org). Then the whole Middle School will attend Mass at the regular 10:10am time. We are adjusting the schedule to accommodate parent teacher conferences for our 105 middle school students.

SAVE THE DATE – MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONIES

Mark your calendar for the next couple of Middle School awards ceremonies:

- Feb. 7, 2:45pm
- April 10, 2:45pm.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We began our poetry unit. We learned about rhyme schemes and rhythm and looked at a few common literary devices poets use in their work. Students should be wrapping up their descriptive scene final drafts as well as optional corrections for last week's noun quiz.

Social Studies: The students finished up their citizenship unit, and took a test on Friday. They also began their origins of civilizations unit. We first discussed primary and secondary sources, and then discussed artifacts. Next week we will continue discussing the origins of civilizations, specifically hunter-gathers and how they started spreading out around the world.

- Origins of Civilizations Vocab Quiz - 11/16

Science: We started the week by focusing on weathering by doing a lab to reinforce the types of weathering. We then learned about soil formation and tested the permeability of different types of soil. Next week, we will be learning more about the processes of erosion and deposition.

- Chapter 3&4 Test-11/29

Theology: We reviewed the life of Jacob, and looked at how God still showed favor on him. We had our virtue quiz and chapter test as well. Next week we look at the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Math 6G1: Students learned about properties of addition and multiplication. Next week students will learn about the distributive property and how to factor expressions.

- Tuesday, November 21 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.3 - 3.4Extension)

Math 6G2: This week students learned about the areas of composite figures and plotting polygons in the coordinate plane. Next week students will take the test for Chapter 4 and learn about ratios and ratio tables.

- Monday, November 13 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, November 14 - Chapter 4 Test

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.

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We began our poetry unit this week! Students used a poem by Robert Frost to learn about rhyme and rhythm and identified literary devices and symbols that Frost uses in his poetry. Students also should have turned in noun quiz corrections if they chose to do them, and next week they'll turn in final drafts of their how-to essays.

Social Studies: The students officially finished Rome, as they took their fall of Rome test. Then, we finished discussing the Early American civilizations, such as the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas. Next week we will discuss American Indians, and how different regions of the United States impacted these groups.

- Early Americans Vocab Quiz - 11/16

Theology: We talked about the Marian miracles in Mexico and Lourdes and how they impact us. We took our virtue quiz and chapter test. Next week we will look at the Mission of Christ.

Science: We have focused on the three main types of chemical bonds: ionic, covalent, and metallic over the past few weeks. We have learned about the properties of compounds created by these different kinds of bonds. We will be starting our study guides next week for the test that will be on Wednesday.

- Chapter 3 Test (with atomic symbols)- 11/15

Math 7G1: Students learned about writing and graphing inequalities. Next week students will learn about solving inequalities using addition and subtraction.

- Thursday, November 16 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.2)

Math 7G2: Students learned about writing and graphing equations in slope-intercept form, graphing equations in standard form, and writing equations in point slope form. Next week students will review and wrap up Chapter 4.

- Monday, November 13 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.4 - 4.7)
- Wednesday, November 15 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, November 16 - Chapter 4 Test

8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: The 8th graders taught each other about the elements of poetry - its form and structure, types of poetry, and the literary devices that poets use. Students should have turned in corrections for their noun quizzes if they chose to do them, and should be wrapping up their short stories.

History: We had a full week! We discussed Enlightenment thinkers and other ideas that impacted the Constitution. We also discussed Federalists and Antifederalists. Finally, students started their project on the Bill of Rights. Next week, students will present their projects on Wednesday. We will also discuss understanding the Constitution and citizens rights and responsibilities.

Science: We finished learning about cell processes this week by finishing up with cellular respiration and learning about the way that cells reproduce using the cell cycle. On Friday, we began study guides for the test next Tuesday.

- Chapter 3 Test- 10/14

Math 8G1: Students learned about the angles of polygons and how to use similar triangles to solve problems. Next week students will wrap up Chapter 3 with a test. They will also learn about graphing linear equations and the slope of a line.

- Monday, November 13 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, November 14 - Chapter 3 Test

Math 8G2: Students learned about the transformations of graphs of linear functions and graphing absolute value functions. Next week they will start to review and wrap up Chapter 3.

- Tuesday, November 14 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.4 - 3.7)
- Thursday, November 16 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz 2
- Monday, November 20 - Chapter 3 Test

Theology: This week we looked at what prayer is and how it impacts our lives. We talked about the importance of the Liturgy of the Hours, and we looked at Mary as a role model of the Church. Next week, we will re-look at the Beatitudes and their importance, as well as talk about the differences between the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.