



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Nov. 17, 2023

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We continued our poetry unit this week by reading and writing some haikus, which was a fun way to dive in! Students also began to study verbs while I was out sick, and I heard great things about their behavior with the sub. Next week, we will studying - and writing - a Psalm of thanksgiving before the holiday!

Social Studies: We discussed the origins of civilization. Specifically, the “Out of Africa” theory, artifacts of early humans, hunter-gatherers, and the importance of creations such as fire. Next week, we will discuss the development of complex cultures, meaning we will discuss cave paintings and paleolithic cave art. Students will also take their vocab quiz on Monday.

- Origins of people Vocab Quiz - 11/20

Science: We have been continuing with the processes that change the shape of the earth. We talked about mass movement events and then focused on the causes of erosion. Next week, we will be talking about the types of land formations that result from sediment being deposited.

- Chapter 3 & 4 Test-11/29

Theology: We began to talk about the story of Joseph and his relationship with his brothers. We made timelines to show some of the events that occurred in life as well. Next week we will continue to look at Joseph and how he became a leader for the Hebrews.

Math 6G1: Students learned about the distributive property and how to factor expressions. Next week students will take a quiz over the last half of Chapter 3.

- Tuesday, November 21 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.3 - 3.4 Extension)
- Wednesday, November 29 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, November 30 - Chapter 3 Test

Math 6G2: Students took the test for Chapter 4 and learned about ratios and ratio tables. Next week, they will learn about rates and comparing and graphing ratios.

- Wednesday, November 29 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.4)

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: The 7th graders dove into our poetry unit with one of my favorite poems, "Introduction to Poetry" by Billy Collins, a former poet laureate of the United States. This poem was a fun read, and gave many students more confidence in their ability to understand and enjoy poetry. Next week, we'll use a Psalm of Thanksgiving to guide us for the two days before Thanksgiving break!

Social Studies: We discussed the cultures of the first North American people and how they had to overcome and adapt to the different regions that they lived in. Next week we will finish discussing the cultures of North American people, more specifically, their religious beliefs and how they organized alliances. The students will take their vocab quiz on Monday.

- Cultures of North America Vocab Quiz - 11/20

Theology: We discussed and analyzed how the different Gospel writers interpreted the Baptism of Jesus. We also discussed the relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus. Next week we will look at the temptation of Jesus in the desert.

Science: We began the week by reviewing for our test on the types of chemical bonds on Wednesday. Then we began chapter 4 which is all about chemical reactions. Next week we will introduce balancing equations.

Math 7G1: Students learned about solving inequalities using addition and subtraction. Next week students will learn about solving inequalities using multiplication and division as well as solving two-step inequalities.

- Tuesday, November 28 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.3 - 4.4)
- Friday, December 1 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz

Math 7G2: Students reviewed and wrapped up Chapter 4. Next week students will learn about solving systems of linear equations by graphing and substitution.

- Tuesday, November 28 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.2)



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.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We studied the imagery and speakers of our first poems, “Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes and “Speech to the Young” by Gwendolyn Brooks. Students also began our unit on verbs with some guided notes while I was out sick on Tuesday. Next week, we’ll study a poem about Thanksgiving and write our own before the holiday.

History: This week the students presented their Bill of Rights presentations, and we did a deep dive into the Constitution. Next week we will continue our discussion of the Constitution, looking in-depth at the Articles, what they give powers to, and how it helps our government run.

Science: We took our test on the cell processes of photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and cell division after reviewing. Then we have started our next chapter, moving away from cells, into an introduction to genetics, the study of heredity.

Math 8G1: Students wrapped up Chapter 3 with a test. They also learned about graphing linear equations. Next week they will learn about the slope of a line and the slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines.

- Wednesday, November 29 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.3)

Math 8G2: Students started to review and wrap up Chapter 3. Next week will be the test.

- Monday, November 20 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz 2
- Tuesday, November 21 - Chapter 3 Test
- Friday, December 1 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.3)

Theology: We discussed the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Beatitudes. We talked about applying them to our daily life. Next week, we talk about how we can serve others, and we will help our reading buddies with Thanksgiving crafts.

