



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Nov. 3, 2023

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent teacher conferences will be Nov. 16 (4-8pm) and Nov. 17 (12-3pm). Please use our [Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up Genius](#) to sign up to meet with your children's teachers. 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 & staff on the first night of conferences.

## CORCORAN'S CHARACTER CLASS UPDATE

We focused on public speaking and understanding your audience. We read the story of how God asked Moses to speak to the Israelites. We practiced the importance of posture, projecting your voice, speaking with confidence and enunciating. All of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders had an opportunity speaking from the ambo.

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** We focused on revising and proofreading students' descriptive scenes, by practicing peer review and self-reflection. We also had a test on our first grammar unit, covering nouns, pronouns, and adjectives. Next week, we will begin studying poetry and verbs and will wrap up students' descriptive scenes.

**Social Studies:** The students presented their projects on the forms of government. We also discussed what it means to be a citizen, both within the United States and around the world. Next week we will begin to discuss the differences between a primary and secondary and start our unit on the origins of civilization.

- Citizen quiz (including vocab) - 11/10

**Science:** We have started talking about weathering this week, as we move into our unit on weathering, erosion, and deposition. This unit is a combination on chapters 3 and 4 from the book. Next week, we will be learning about soil formation and how we need to conserve soil as an extremely important natural resource.

- Chapter 3 & 4 Test-11/29

**Theology:** This was a busy week. We outlined the events in Jacob's life and then worked on making a comic strip timeline of these events. We also discussed the importance of saints in our lives. Next week we will finish up the life of Jacob and then take the chapter test on Thursday (yes finally 😊).

- Chapter Test and Patriotism Virtue Quiz 11/9

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

- Tuesday, November 7 - Chapter 3 Quiz 1 (3.1 - 3.2)

**Math 6G2:** Students learned about the area of triangles and trapezoids. Next week students will learn about the areas of composite figures and plotting polygons in the coordinate plane.

- Thursday, November 9 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.3 - 4.4)
- Monday, November 13 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, November 14 - Chapter 4 Test

## 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** Students worked together to evaluate their how-to essays. Using each other's feedback as well as my own, we will continue to edit & revise final drafts of our how-to essays next week, while diving into our study of poetry. Students also took their first grammar test this week on nouns, pronouns, and adjectives.

**Social Studies:** We began looking at the beginning of the Americas. More specifically, we discussed the land bridge theory and the coastal route theory. We also talked about the Olmecs, Mayans, and Aztecs. Next week we will discuss the Incas and continue talking about the cultures of North America.

- Architecture, Jesus, and Fall of the Roman Empire Test - 11/7

**Theology:** We talked about the role of Mary in our lives. We talked about the events and Lourdes and Fatima. We also learned about the importance of the Saints in our lives. Next week we will finish up the chapter and then take the chapter test on Thursday.

- Chapter Test and Patriotism Virtue Quiz - 11/9

**Science:** We have been focusing on ionic bonding this week by learning how ionic compounds are formed with the goal of balancing the positive and negative charges of the ions. We then learned about covalent bonding, which is the result of atoms sharing their valence electrons. After that, we will move into metallic bonding.

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

**Math 7G1:** Students learned about solving two-step equations. Next week students will wrap up Chapter 3 with assessments and will learn about writing and graphing inequalities.

- Tuesday, November 7 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, November 9 - Chapter 3 Test

**Math 7G2:** Students learned about the slope of parallel and perpendicular lines and graphing proportional relationships. Next week they will learn about writing and graphing equations in slope-intercept form, graphing equations in standard form, and writing equations in point slope form.

- Monday, November 13 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.4 - 4.7)

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** Students began editing their short stories. I was very impressed with our rough drafts, and am very excited to read the final drafts in the coming weeks! Students also took a test on nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, and will begin studying verbs and adverbs next week. Next week also marks the beginning of our poetry unit.

**History:** We talked about the Constitutional Convention. We focused on who led the Convention, the Great Compromise, and the 3/5th Compromise. Next week we will discuss federalists, antifederalists, and the Bill of Rights. The students will begin doing a Bill of Rights project, where they do a deep dive into the amendments, what they mean, and their importance.

**Science:** We have been focusing on the way that autotrophs make their own food using the sun's energy. We are then moving into the process of cellular respiration, which all cells use to turn the sugars in foods into the energy they need to live. The last process we will cover is cellular division before having our Chapter 3 Test.

- Chapter 3 Test – November 14

**Math 8G1:** Students learned about the angles of triangles. Next week students will learn about the angles of polygons and how to use similar triangles to solve problems.

- Thursday, November 9 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.3 - 3.4)
- Monday, November 13 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, November 14 - Chapter 3 Test

**Math 8G2:** Students learned about graphing linear equations in standard form and slope intercept form. Next week students will learn about transformations of graphs of linear functions and graphing absolute value functions.

- Monday, November 6 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz 1
- Friday, November 10 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.4 - 3.7)
- Tuesday, November 14 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz 2
- Wednesday, November 15 - Chapter 3 Test

**Theology:** We looked at the importance of service and the role Saints play in our lives. We discussed how we can be Saintly, and that the Saints have paved the way for us. Next week we will finish up the chapter and then take the chapter test on Thursday.

- Chapter Test and Patriotism Virtue Quiz 11/9



## **MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY**

Middle School parents, please join us in the Church on Nov. 8 at 2:45pm  
for our Middle School Awards Ceremony.