



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Dec. 1, 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL VESPERS SERVICE

Our 6th-8th grade Saint Thomas choir will perform traditional Advent songs with reflections for our Annual Vespers Service on **Sunday, Dec. 10 in the Church**. Middle school choir members should arrive by 5:45pm and should be dressed in "Sunday best," preferably in red or green. Please join us! Everyone is welcome.



6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We've begun our final project this week. Students will be writing a portfolio of different types of poetry, so, in preparation for that, we learned about different types of poetry, and practiced writing a couple of them. Next week, we'll dive deeper into some of these and start writing our first few poems.

Social Studies: We kept talking about the paleolithic era or stone age, specifically discussing cave art and the beginning of farming. Next week we will discuss the Neolithic era, or new stone age, and how farming began and how it spread. In addition, we will discuss the rise of civilizations and how cities led to civilizations. The students will have a test next Friday and will be given the study guide on Monday or Tuesday.

- Origins of Civilizations Test - 12/08

Science: We finished up our unit on weathering, erosion, and deposition this week. After a few days of reviewing for the test, we took that on Thursday. Then we ended the week by moving into our next chapter about geologic time and the history of our planet.

Theology: We learned about the life of Joseph. We looked at how he was humbled and then became a great leader. We talked about how pride gets in the way of decision making as well. Next week we will continue to discuss Joseph.

- Virtue Quiz and Chapter Test on Thursday, December 7

Math 6G1: Students wrapped up Chapter 3 and took the test. They also learned about the area of parallelograms. Next week students will continue with parallelograms and also learn about the area of triangles.

- Friday, December 8 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.2)

Math 6G2: They will learn comparing and graphing ratios as well as percentages. Next week students will learn about solving percent problems and converting between the US customary system and the metric system.

- Thursday, December 7 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.5 - 5.7)
- Monday, December 11 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, December 12 - Chapter 5 Test

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We've begun working on our final projects this week. Students are working in groups to teach the class about a different type of poetry. Students started to lay the groundwork for their projects by organizing group roles and finding sources. Next week, we'll analyze another poem together and practice writing our own, to build on the skills needed for these presentations.

- Optional Jeanine Serba Scholarship Essay is due TONIGHT, Friday, Dec. 1

Social Studies: We discussed the feudal system, the European Renaissance, and how all this led to exploration and navigation. Next week we will discuss the Vikings, Columbus, the Columbian exchange, and Europeans continued exploration in the Americas. The students will receive a study guide on Tuesday or Wednesday and will have a test on 12/12.

- European Exploration Test - 12/12

Theology: The students learned about the life of the Apostles. They researched individual Apostles and then wrote a paper about their life. Next week, we will continue to look at the lives of the Apostles.

- Virtue Quiz and Chapter Test on Thursday, December 7

Science: We continued to practice balancing equations early in the week. Then we went over the ways to change the rate of chemical reactions. After reviewing the chapter, we ended the week with a quiz on Chapter 4. We will be learning about acids and bases in our final chapter of new material before exams.

Math 7G1: Students learned about solving two-step inequalities. Next week students will wrap up Chapter 4 and take the test. They will also learn about ratios, rates and proportions.

- Monday, December 4 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, December 5 - Chapter 4 Test

Math 7G2: Students learned about solving systems of linear equations by substitution and elimination. Next week they'll learn about solving special systems of linear equations and linear equations by graphing.

- Thursday, December 7 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.3 - 5.4Extension)
- Monday, December 11 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, December 12 - Chapter 5 Test



8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We turned our ELA class into a History class this week, as we studied the historical context of "Charge of the Light Brigade." Students practiced understanding and retelling the story of this poem in different formats and from different points of view. Next week, we'll get to work on our final projects.

History: We continued to talk about the United States Constitution. We specifically discussed the Bill of Rights, how an amendment can be proposed and ratified, local and state governments, and the voting rights amendments. Next week we will shortly discuss the rights and responsibilities of a citizen. Students will receive a study guide on Monday or Tuesday and will take a test on the Constitution on Friday.

- A Constitution for the USA Test - 12/08

Science: We continued with our introductory chapter into genetics and heredity this week. Next week we will be moving into Chapter 5, focusing more closely on DNA.

Math 8G1: The students learned about the slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines, graphing proportional relationships, and graphing linear equations in slope-intercept form. Next week students will learn about graphing linear equations in standard form and writing equations in slope-intercept and point-slope forms.

- Friday, December 8 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.4 - 4.7)
- Tuesday, December 12 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, December 13 - Chapter 4 Test

Math 8G2: Students learned about writing linear equations in slope-intercept and point-slope forms as well as writing equations of parallel and perpendicular lines. Next week students will learn about scatter plots and lines of fit, arithmetic sequences and piecewise functions.

- Friday, December 8 - Chapter 4 Quiz 2 (4.4 - 4.7)
- Tuesday, December 12 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, December 13 - Chapter 4 Test

Theology: We started to discuss the Four Marks of the Church. We are looking at the First Mark which is One. We defined what a mark is and described what we mean by Unity. Next week we will describe four ways that the church is one, and we will look at the importance of ecumenism.

- Virtue Quiz and Chapter Test on Thursday, December 7

GRACEAC SKI DOWNHILL RACING/SLALOM 2023-24

If your middle schooler is interested in participating in the GRACEAC co-ed downhill racing team, the sign up is open. GRACEAC ski downhill racing/slalom is open to boys and girls in grades 6-8.

Please sign up through the [GRACEAC website](#). The deadline to sign up is Jan. 8.

SAINT THOMAS SKI CLUB

ENJOY WINTER TOGETHER



THE NITTY GRITTY

- Social club, open to all students
- Transportation provided for middle schoolers and 4th/5th graders with a middle school sibling
 - Students who choose this option must be an independent skier
 - Approximately \$80/student for the season (final cost TBD)
 - Only includes after school transportation to Cannonsburg
 - Lift tickets must be purchased separately
 - Chaperones will be on the bus and at the ski lodge, but not on the slopes
 - Parents are responsible for pick-up from Cannonsburg by 8:45pm
- Dates coordinated with Saint Paul and IHM
 - 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/23
- There will be a designated area at school to store ski equipment

Questions? Contact Meredith Maczka mkm9404@gmail.com

To learn more about Ski Club, contact Meredith Maczka (mkm9404@gmail.com) or complete the [Saint Thomas Ski Club Google form](#).