



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 12, 2024

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We reviewed all our verb knowledge from before break, and we began our Keeping Up My Correspondence writing unit; we'll be learning how to write a formal letter, email, and a grant proposal for All-In Week! Unless Friday's a snow day, we will also begin reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

Social Studies: We discussed All In Week topics. This entails discussions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), empathy, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Then we discussed Mesopotamia, and the city-state of Sumer's government, religion, and society. We will continue discussing Mesopotamia and the first empires next week.

- Vocab Quiz - Friday 1/19

Science: We have been focusing on energy resources this week. We have discussed our current dependency on fossil fuels and how the world is moving towards using more alternative energy sources. Next week we will continue learning about energy conservation.

- Chapter 6 Test- January 23

Theology: We began to work on our All In Week service project. The students learned about Catholic Social Teaching and are applying it to the project. We brainstormed ideas on how to make the playground more universal and are now beginning to sketch and build the ideas. Next week, we will continue to work on the service project.

Math 6G1: Students learned about ratios and ratio tables. Next week they will learn about rates, unit rates and comparing and graphing ratios.

Math 6G2: Students learned about integers by comparing and ordering them. They also learned about putting fractions and decimals on a number line. Next week, they will learn about absolute value, the coordinate plane and reflecting points in the coordinate plane.

- Tuesday, January 16 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.3)

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: The 7th graders started brainstorming ideas for our Opinion Essay assignment. We also reviewed our verb knowledge from December, and, as long as we don't get snowed out, on Friday we will begin reading *The Hobbit*.

Social Studies: We discussed All In Week topics. This entails discussions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), empathy, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Then we discussed Moctezuma and Cortes and the fall of the Aztec Empire. Next week we will continue to discuss Spanish Colonization and New Spain.

Theology: We began to work on our All In Week service project. The students learned about Catholic Social Teaching and are applying it to the project. We brainstormed ideas on how to make the playground more universal and are now beginning to sketch and build the ideas. Next week, we will continue to work on the service project.

Science: We have moved into physics this week by learning about what forces are. We have also been practicing calculating velocity and acceleration. We will be continuing to learn about Newton's Laws over the next few weeks.

Math 7G1: Students learned about solving proportions, slope, and direct variation. Next week they will wrap up the concepts from Chapter 5.

- Tuesday, January 16 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.4 - 5.6)
- Friday, January 19 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz

Math 7G2: Students learned about relations and functions, representations of functions and linear functions. Next week they will learn about linear and nonlinear functions and about analyzing and sketching graphs.

- Tuesday, January 16 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.3)

8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: The 8th graders started two big assignments: the Literature Circles assignment for 3rd quarter and their Final Project, which we will work on throughout the rest of the year. (If there is a snow day on Friday, we will go over that on Monday.) Information on both can be found on Canvas.

History: We discussed All In Week topics. This entails discussions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), empathy, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Then we discussed Mesopotamia, and the city-state of Sumer's government, religion, and society. This and next week, we will discuss Washington's presidency, his farewell address, and the two-party system.

Science: We have begun work on research projects about different genetic disorders. Each student selected a disorder and is working on creating a Google Slide presentation to teach the class about the disorder that they studied. Next week, we will be practicing speaking in front of a group by teaching the class about the disorder they studied.

Math 8G1: Students learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing and substitution. Next week, they will learn about solving systems of linear equations by elimination and solving special systems of linear equations.

Math 8G2: Students learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing, substitution, elimination and solving special systems of linear equations.

- Wednesday, January 17 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.4)

Theology: We began to work on our All In Week service project. The students learned about Catholic Social Teaching and are applying it to the project. We brainstormed ideas on how to make the playground more universal and are now beginning to sketch and build the ideas. Next week we will continue to work on the service project.

UNIFORM POLICY UPDATE

We are grateful that students do well adhering to the [school uniform policy](#). Let's admit, this time of year, things start slipping. 1.) Black leggings are not part of our uniform. 2.) Boys need to wear uniform ties on Mass days. 3.) White shirts must be worn on Mass days. 4.) Middle school students must wear a belt with pants. Thank you for ensuring that your child comes to school in the correct uniform.