



# SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 26, 2024

## 6th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** The 6th graders worked together to create a grant proposal to fund their inclusive playgrounds for All-In Week! We also started reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Next week, we will learn about writing a formal business letter.

**Social Studies:** We discussed the first empires in the world, along with the rulers and the laws of the empires. Next week, we will discuss Assyrian and Persian Empires. We are talking about how they developed, the rulers of the empires, and the society within them. The students will also have their first vocab quiz of the quarter next week on Tuesday.

- Early Civilization and Empires Vocab Quiz - 1/30

**Science:** We finished up the chapter on Energy Resources with a test on Thursday. Then we started Chapter 8, where we will be learning about the earth's atmosphere. We will learn about the composition of our atmosphere, air pressure, the different layers of the atmosphere, as well as what causes winds.

**Theology:** The 6th graders continued working on their All in Week Project. Next week, we look at the life of Moses and examine how we went from spoiled stepson to reluctant leader.

**Math 6G1:** Students learned about unit rates and comparing and graphing ratios. They also took a quiz over this material. Next week they will learn about percentages, solving percent problems, and converting between the customary and metric systems of measurement.

**Math 6G2:** Students learned about absolute value, the coordinate plane and reflecting points in the coordinate plane. Next week, they will wrap up Chapter 6 and take a test. They will also learn about writing equations and solving equations using addition and subtraction.

- Tuesday, January 30 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, January 31 - Chapter 6 Test



## 7th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** The 7th graders worked in groups to research and write about disability and accessibility in the United States. We also began our discussions of *The Hobbit* (which I'm very excited about)! Next week, we will begin our Opinion Essay unit and continue reading *The Hobbit*.

**Social Studies:** We discussed Spanish conquistadors and colonization. We talked about the fall of the Aztec and Incan Empires, along with the beginning of New Spain within central America. Next week, we will be discussing the first French, English, and Dutch colonies.

**Theology:** The 7th graders continued working on their All in Week Project. Next week, they will explain the purpose and value signs, symbols, and rituals associated with the Sacraments.

**Science:** We have been continuing to learn about the different forces at work around us, such as friction and gravity. We have also been learning about Sir Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion and how they apply.

- Chapter 6 Test- February 6



**Math 7G1:** Students wrapped up the concepts from Chapter 5. They also learned about percents and decimals and comparing and ordering fractions, decimals, and percents. Next week they will learn about the percent proportion and the percent equation.

- Thursday, February 1 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.4)

**Math 7G2:** Students learned about analyzing and sketching graphs and reviewed for the end of chapter assessments. Next week, students will learn about square roots, cube roots, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

- Monday, January 29 - Chapter 6 Test



### SAVE THE DATE – WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

Please save the date, Feb. 7 at 2:45pm. We will be having our next Middle School Award Ceremony in the church.

## 8th GRADE UPDATES

**Language Arts:** The the 8th graders learned how to do research, and started doing a bit of research for their final projects. We also started our Literature Circle discussion groups. Next week, we will start finding credible sources and taking notes for our projects, and continue our reading groups.



**History:** We continued our conversation about George Washington's first presidency. We discussed Hamilton's financial plan, the Whiskey Rebellion, the French Revolution, and how the Americans viewed the French Revolution. Next week, we will discuss the two party system, and Hamilton and Jeffersons political views. We will also have our first test of the quarter will be next Friday 2/2.

- George Washington Presidency Test - 2/2

**Science:** The eighth graders did a great job on their Genetic Disorder Research Presentations to start the week. It was great practice in presenting in front of a group. This project brought our study of genetics to a close. Next, we will be focusing on plants. This chapter focuses on how plants are classified, their different parts, and how they reproduce.

**Math 8G1:** Students learned about solving special systems of linear equations and solving linear equations by graphing. Next week, they will end the chapter with assessments. They will also learn about relations, functions, how functions are represented and linear functions.

- Monday, January 29 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, January 30 - Chapter 5 Test

**Math 8G2:** Students learned about solving equations by graphing, graphing linear inequalities and systems of linear inequalities. Next week students will wrap up Chapter 5 with assessments.

- Monday, January 29 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.5 - 5.7)
- Wednesday, January 31 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, February 1 - Chapter 5 Test

**Theology:** The 8th graders continued working on their All in Week Project. The model playgrounds they made are terrific. Next week, they will research their Saint and then write a paper about their Confirmation Saint. It is due February 1.

