



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Feb. 2, 2024



MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARD CEREMONY – WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

Please join us Feb. 7 at 2:45pm for our next **Middle School Award Ceremony** in the church.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We began our second mini-project in the Keeping Up My Correspondence writing unit - students will work in pairs to write a professional email. We also continued our discussions of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*; next week, the story picks up and gets very exciting (and a bit sad)!

- Wednesday, February 14 - Verb Quiz

Social Studies: We finished started discussing the Assyrian and Persian Empires – how they developed and the rulers of these empires. On Friday, we had a “catch-up” day for those who have missing assignments. Those who did not started our project that has the student research four different Persian emperors. Next week, we will finish the notes on Monday, and students will work on their projects Tuesday through Thursday.

- Persian Emperor Project - Due Friday 2/9

Science: We began a chapter on the atmosphere this week. We have been learning about the composition of the air around us and about how air has mass and there for exerts pressure. We also have been exploring the different layers of the atmosphere and how and why they are separated.

Theology: We began to learn about the life of Moses. We looked at his earl life and how he persevered. Next week, we will continue to look at how he became the leader of the Hebrews.

Math 6G1: Students learned about percentages, solving percent problems, and converting between the customary and metric systems of measurement. Next week they will begin to review for the Chapter 5 assessments.

- Wednesday, February 7 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.5 - 5.7)
- Monday, February 12 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, February 13 - Chapter 5 Test

Math 6G2: Students learned about writing equations and solving equations using addition and subtraction. Next week they will learn about solving equations using multiplication and division as well as writing equations in two variables.

- Thursday, February 8 - Chapter 7 Quiz 1 (7.1 - 7.4)

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We got back to work on our Opinion Essays after our All-In Week mini writing projects. We outlined our ideas, and will begin drafting next week. We also continued our discussions of *The Hobbit* – the adventures are beginning!

- Wednesday, February 14 - Verb Quiz

Social Studies: We discussed heavy topics, such as the enslavement of Native Indians in Spanish Colonies, along with the beginning of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Next week, we will discuss Martin Luther, along with the first French, Dutch, and English colonies. We will then discuss the early years of Jamestown and the beginning of the New England colonies in the United States. Students will be taking their first vocab quiz on Friday.

- Foreign Colonization Vocab Quiz - Friday 2/9

Theology: We talked about the Sacraments of Initiation. We talked about why God's grace is revealed in the sacraments. Next week, we will start to look at how Jesus used the parables to teach about the kingdom of Heaven.

Science: We have continued to learn about force and motion this week. We started the week by doing a lab on Newton's Laws of Motion, and then by completing a virtual lab, applying their knowledge of forces, mass, and acceleration. We finished up the chapter by learning about momentum, free fall, and centripetal force.

- Chapter 6 Test- February 8

Math 7G1: Students learned about the percent proportion and the percent equation. Next week they will learn about percent of increase and decrease, discounts and markups, and simple interest.

Math 7G2: Students learned about square roots, cube roots, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Next week, students will learn about approximating square roots, repeating decimals, and using the Pythagorean theorem.

- Monday, February 5 - Chapter 7 Quiz 1 (7.1 - 7.3)

8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We began research for our Final Projects. Most of our writing in February will revolve around finding and using sources for this project. Students also continued our Literature Circle discussions from last week.

- Wednesday, February 14 - Verb Quiz

History: We finished up our unit on George Washington's presidency and discussed the first political parties in the United States. I handed out study guides and allowed for a review day. Next week we will begin our unit on John Adams and Thomas Jefferson's presidencies. We will be discussing items such as the XYZ affair, the Alien and Sedition Act, and landmark Supreme Court cases. Students will be taking their George Washington Presidency Test, as I pushed the date back until Tuesday 2/6.

- George Washington Presidency Test - Tuesday 2/6

Science: We have been continuing our chapter on plants this week. The main focus so far has been on plant classification. Next week, we will be moving onto to learning about the parts of a plant and plant reproduction.

Math 8G1: Students took the Chapter 5 test and learned about relations, functions, and how functions are represented. Next week, they will learn about linear functions, comparing linear and nonlinear functions, and analyzing and sketching functions.

- Wednesday, February 7 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.3)

Math 8G2: Students wrapped up Chapter 5 with assessments. Next week, students will learn about radicals and rational exponents, exponential functions such as growth and decay functions.

- Friday, February 9 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.4)

Theology: The 8th graders researched and wrote about their Confirmation Saint. Next week, we will start looking at the second mark of the Church – that mark being “Holy.” We will discuss how we all can be Holy.