



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | May 10, 2024

LINCOLN DEVELOPMENTAL FIELD TRIP UPDATE

Because of inclement weather this week, we had to change our Lincoln Developmental Center field trip plans. They only had room indoors for 8th grade to attend. Our 8th graders worked alongside students in different activities. Adults who were present were impressed with our 8th graders' leadership and compassion for others.

6th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: students got to work on their Greek Mythology Final Project, with a lesson about doing research and an example of what their presentations should look like. We're also beginning to review for our Grammar Quiz, which will take place in two weeks.

Social Studies: Students learned about multiple empires and dynasties in India and China. Students also learned about Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism. Next week, we will finish discussing Chinese dynasties, and students will take their Ancient India and China tests. The students received their study guides on Friday. We will also begin discussing Ancient Greece.

- Ancient India and China test – May 15

Science: We began the week by learning about the early models of what people thought the solar system looked like and how scientists were able to determine the actual arrangement. We then move into specifics about the other planets, dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, and other smaller items in our solar system. This material will be included in the final exam and will not be tested separately.

Theology: We learned about the leadership of Joshua and how he led the Israelites to the promised land. We also talked about the virtue of Respect. Next week, we will identify the pattern of the Israelites' lives during the period of Judges.

Math 6G1: Students learned about the surface area of pyramids and the volume of rectangular prisms. Next week, they will take the Chapter 8 Test and will have an introduction to statistics and learn about mean.

- Tuesday, May 14 - Chapter 8 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, May 15 - Chapter 8 Test

Math 6G2: Students learned about stem-and-leaf plots and histograms. Next week, students will learn about using the shapes of distributions to choose appropriate statistical measures and how to create and interpret box-and-whisker plots.

- Friday, May 17 - Chapter 10 Quiz 2 (10.3 - 10.4)
- Tuesday, May 21 - Chapter 10 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, May 22 - Chapter 10 Test

7th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: Students analyzed the characters in *The Diary of Anne Frank* by making inferences about their lines and actions in the play, and by doing research into the actual historical figures. We also got started on our final project based on *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Social Studies: We discussed “no taxation without representation” and the multiple taxes that the British implemented on the Colonists. We also discussed who the Sons of Liberty were, The Boston Massacre, and The Boston Tea Party. Students began a project in which they have to create a song explaining the importance of “no taxation without representation.”

- No taxation without representation song - due May 16

Theology: We worked on our Beatitudes project. The students rewrote the Beatitudes in their own words, then they found famous people who live out the Beatitudes. Next week, we learn about Jesus’s Kingdom of Truth. We will look at about the seventh and eighth commandments.

Science: We finished our chapter on electromagnetic waves this week as we learned about the differences between analog and digital signals and their uses in communication. The class began the study guides in class on Friday for the test on this material that will be this coming Tuesday.

- Chapter 10 Test- Tuesday, May 13

Math 7G1: Students learned about cross sections of 3-dimensional figures and began to review for the end of Chapter 9 assessments. Next week, students will take the Chapter 9 Test and learn about experimental and theoretical probability.

- Monday, May 13 - Chapter 9 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, May 14 - Chapter 9 Test

Math 7G2: Students began to review for the end of Chapter 11 assessments. Next week, students will take the Chapter 11 Test and will learn about angle relationships and triangles.

- Friday, May 10 - Chapter 11 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, May 14 - Chapter 11 Test

8th GRADE UPDATES

Language Arts: We reviewed citing sources and learned how to write a strong introduction and conclusion to our essays. Students should be turning in three full drafts of their essays by this weekend; next week, we'll start editing and preparing to present our ELA final projects! We're also reviewing for our grammar quiz, in two weeks.

History: Students finished Andrew Jackson's essay. We also discussed the Oregon Trail and students played the Oregon Trail video game. Finally, we discussed the Mexican-American War and the California Gold Rush. Next week we will discuss the Missouri Compromise, The Compromise of 1850, and the Fugitive Slave Act. We will then discuss the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the importance of the Dred Scott court case. Finally, we will discuss how Abraham Lincoln became president, why the South seceded, and the strengths and weaknesses of the Union and Confederacy.

Science: We have focused on many of the systems of the human body this week. We started the week by exploring the ways that the muscular and skeletal systems work together by dissecting chicken wings. We then learned how the digestive and respiratory systems work together to bring materials in and out of the body that the circulatory system delivers to the cells. We will continue with more body systems next week. This material will be included in the final exam and will not be tested separately.

Math 8G1: Students learned about exponents, product and quotient of powers properties, as well as zero and negative exponents. Next week, they will learn about reading, writing and performing operations with scientific notation.

Math 8G2: Students learned about how to solve quadratic equations by using square roots. Next week, they will learn about solving quadratic equations by completing the square and using the quadratic formula as well as solving nonlinear systems of equations.

Theology: We discussed the virtue of Respect, as well as looking at the importance of the Martyrs. The students are working on a newspaper. They are writing articles on different stories from the Acts of the Apostles. Next week, we continue to look at how the church was a beacon of hope during the dark ages.

8th GRADE CHICAGO FIELD TRIP – MAY 14

The 8th grade Chicago field trip will be Tuesday, May 14. We will be leaving Saint Thomas at 7:30am, visiting the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, and then returning around 9pm. Here are details:

- Permission slips were sent home earlier this week. Please return by May 13 (the earlier the better).
- Students will need a sack lunch as we will be eating at the museum. Please pack only things that can be thrown away when lunch is done.
- Dress code for the trip is non-uniform and students must comply with that policy.
- Student phones will be collected for the bus ride to and from Chicago. When we arrive at our destination, students will be given their phones to use responsibly in the museum and the zoo.
- They may bring money for souvenirs either at the museum or the zoo or both if they prefer.
- We are asking for donations of snacks and drinks for the bus to and from Chicago. Please visit our [8th Grade Chicago Field Trip Sign Up Genius](#) to contribute.

Questions? Please contact Nicole Hoedeman (nicolehoedeman@stthomasgr.org).

MAY
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**7TH & 8TH GRADE
DANCE
FRIDAY, MAY 10TH**

**IHM Gym
7-9pm**

ALOHA! Please join us for a night of fun at IHM!

Dress in your Hawaiian best and be ready to HULA!

(Pst...there's a prize for the best dressed)

DJ, Dancing, Limbo and Free Throw contest, snacks and more!

There will be chaperones from IHM, STA, and SPA at the dance.

If you have any questions, please contact Kellie Berkemeier at 616.240.3120

Sign up to bring treats to the dance using our [7th/8th grade dance Sign Up Genius!](#)