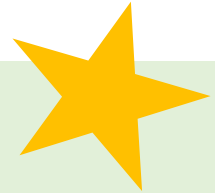


SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 10, 2025



MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Field Trip Monday – Permission Slips Needed!

Our middle schoolers will be attending a Catholic Central/West Catholic play at Aquinas on Monday. Please make sure you sign and return your student's permission slip by Monday, Jan. 13. **Students without permission slips will not be allowed to attend.**

Sports Uniform Return, Please!

From our Athletic Director: Any MS boys basketball players who still have basketball uniforms, please return them to the office ASAP! Thanks.



Middle School Service Project!

During ALL IN Week, our middle schoolers are creating toddler blankets for the Help Pregnancy Center. We need fleece – 2 pieces, each 1.5 yards either coordinating patterns or pattern and solid. Thank you for considering this donation! For more information, contact Betsy Edgerton (betsyedgerton@stthomasqr.org).

Middle School CSW Mass!

Middle schoolers and their parents are invited to represent Saint Thomas at a Diocesan-wide Mass with the Bishop on Tuesday, Jan. 28, during Catholic Schools Week. This is optional. If you are interested in attending, please email Ryan Corcoran ASAP to RSVP. We have 20 spots available for parents and students. Mass will begin at 10am. You can pick up your child from Saint Thomas at 9:30am.

6th Grade Updates

ELA: We learned the background of our new novel, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. We also prepared for our Verb Test next week and introduced our Opinion Essay writing assignment with some fun mini debates!

- Wed. 1/15 - Verb Test (covering the second half of our unit)

Social Studies: Students continued their “Design your own Civilization” project, working on it in class Monday through Thursday. Then, we started discussing Ancient Mesopotamia. The students’ civilization projects are due on Monday. Next week, we will present projects and continue our discussion on Ancient Mesopotamia.

- Design your own Civilization project - Due Monday, 1/13
- Last Day to turn in missing assignments - Tuesday, 1/21

Science: We have been learning about our world’s energy resources this week. We began by learning about the three fossil fuels upon which we depend: coal, oil, and natural gas. We then moved into learning about the alternative energy resources available and discussed the pros and cons of these different options.

- Chapter 6 Test- January 21

Theology: The students this week are doing Abraham’s family tree. They are working on a project that connects Abraham to Joseph. They have been really creative. Next week, we will share our family trees and then begin to learn about the unlikely hero Moses.

- Virtue Quiz Thursday, January 16

Math 6G1: Students learned about converting percents to fractions and decimals as well as converting fractions and decimals to percents. Next week they will learn about comparing and ordering fractions, decimals, and percents.

- Wednesday, January 15 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.2)

Math 6G2: Students learned about evaluating algebraic expressions and writing expressions from word phrases. Next week they will learn about writing equivalent expressions and factoring expressions.

- Tuesday, January 21 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.3 - 5.4)

7th Grade Updates

ELA: We introduced our next novel, *The Hobbit* (possibly my favorite that we study in middle school) and practiced summarizing/retelling stories. We also prepared for our Verb Test next week.

Wed. 1/15 - Verb Test (covering the second half of our unit)

Social Studies: We discussed Spanish conquistadors and the effects of their explorations. Next week, the students will complete a research project on a specific explorer that we discussed this week. Projects will be due on Friday, and the students will begin on Tuesday.

- Spanish Explorers Project - Due Friday, 1/17
- Last Day to turn in missing assignments - Tuesday, 1/21

Theology: The students this week are doing a presentation comparing the life of Jesus to our lives today. They have learned about what life was like for Jesus to help give them a bigger picture of his ministry. Next week, the students will share their presentations.

- Virtue Quiz on Orderliness January 16

Science: Our final chapter in chemistry teaches about acids, bases, and solutions. We have been learning about the different parts of a solution, as well as how to change the concentration of solutions. After an introduction to the characteristics of acids and bases, next week we will explore the use of litmus and pH paper to identify whether different solutions are acidic or basic.

Math 7G1: Students learned about writing and solving proportions, graphing proportional relationships, and scale drawings. They created a scale drawing in class.

- Wednesday, January 15 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.4 - 5.6)

Math 7G2: Students learned about scatter plots and lines of fit. Next week they will learn about two-way tables and how to choose an appropriate data display.

- Friday, January 17 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.3 - 6.4)

8th Grade Updates

ELA: We introduced our new literature unit. This quarter, the students will work together to lead discussions of *A Wrinkle in Time* in Literature Circles. We also kicked off the big Final Project for writing by brainstorming topics. You can find more information on Canvas.

- Wed. 1/15 - Verb Test (covering the second half of our unit)

History: We continued our discussion of Washington's presidency. Specifically, we discussed Alexander Hamilton's financial plan and the effects of the French Revolution on America. Next week, we will finish discussing Washington's presidency and begin discussing the beginning of political parties in the United States.

- Last Day to turn in missing assignments - Tuesday, 1/21

Science: We have continued to focus on genetics in Chapter 5 by learning about how DNA stores the code for building proteins, which are the primary working molecules in the body. This will lead us to learn about genetic mutations and disorders, as well as advances in genetics that are being made in the world today. When we reach the end of this chapter, rather than a test, the class will demonstrate their knowledge of the material through researching genetic disorders and presenting their research to the class.

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

- Tuesday, January 14 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.2)

Math 8G2: Students learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing, substitution, elimination and all about special systems of linear equations. Next week, they will learn about solving equations by graphing and graphing linear inequalities in two variables.

- Tuesday, January 14 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.4)

Theology: Students are researching information on their Saint for Confirmation. Then they are writing a paper on that Saint. Next week, we will continue preparing for Confirmation by learning about the importance of the Bible.

- Virtue Quiz on Orderliness January 16