



SAINT THOMAS

the Apostle Catholic School

Middle School Newsletter | Feb. 7, 2025



MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRACEAC Spring sports registration is open!

Registration is open for Spring GRACEAC sports, which includes: boys baseball, boys & girls lacrosse, girls soccer, girls softball, boys & girls tennis, boys & girls track and field. Sign up at www.graceac.com.

The deadline to sign up is Feb. 15. After Feb. 15, you will be charged a \$35 late fee to register.

West Catholic Support Services Open House

West Catholic Support Services Open House – Wednesday, February 12, 5:45-6:15pm

This open house will take place just before our Welcome West event for 8th graders.

This is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, check out our classrooms, and learn more about our Support Services programming. Parents can ask questions related to how their child's unique learning needs can be addressed throughout their high school experience. After this Open House, 8th grade families can then attend our Welcome to West event.

6th Grade Updates

ELA: We used our previous discussions of Karana's character traits to infer the motivation behind her decision to spare the life of Rontu, the wild dog. We also worked on writing the introduction paragraph of our Opinion Essay.

Social Studies: We discussed the Persian Empire, the emperors of Persia, how it was ran, and other cultural aspects of the Persian Empire. Then, the students began their Persian Emperor Research Project. This is due Next Wednesday. Next week, the students will finish their projects and we will begin looking at the Phoenicians. Students will also get their First Empires study guide on Wednesday, with their test being the following Wednesday.

- Persian Emperor Research Project - Due Wednesday, February 12
- First Empires Test - Wednesday, February 19

Science: We have continued to learn about our atmosphere this week. We learned about the layers of the atmosphere and how energy enters our atmosphere from the sun. We ended the week by focusing on the Greenhouse Effect. We will talk more about heat transfer through the atmosphere and how this leads to winds.

- Chapter 8 Test - February 26

Theology: We began to look at the Ten Plagues this week. We looked up the passages from Exodus that describe them and discussed why God brought them upon the Egyptians. Next week, the students are working on a poster project dealing with the plagues.

- Virtue Quiz-Moderation February 13

Math 6G1: Students learned about what algebraic expressions are and writing expressions. Next week, they will learn about writing equivalent expressions.

- Wednesday, February 12 - Chapter 5 Quiz 1 (5.1 - 5.2)

Math 6G2: Students learned about solving equations using multiplication and division as well as writing equations in two variables. Next week, they will wrap up Chapter 6 with a quiz and a review of the lessons.

- Thursday, February 13 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.3 - 6.4)
- Wednesday, February 19 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, February 20 - Chapter 6 Test

7th Grade Updates

ELA: We had a Side Character Showdown—we used *The Hobbit* to find evidence for a debate over which side character has been the most helpful to our dwarves' quest. We also worked together to peer edit our retellings of the exposition of *The Hobbit*, the first step in our Hobbit project.

Social Studies: We continued discussing the first Europeans colonizing America. We particularly discussed the French, Dutch, and the first English colonies in America. Next week, we will dive deep into Jamestown, looking at multiple different documents that discuss the conditions at Jamestown. Students will then write a five-paragraph essay, using the documents to back up their claims on why so few colonists survived the conditions at Jamestown. This will be due on Friday.

- Jamestown Essay - Due Friday, February 14

Theology: The students reviewed for the Acts part 1 quiz which was yesterday. Next week, we will learn about part 2 of Acts, in which the Apostles continue to spread the good news.

- Virtue Quiz- Moderation February 13

Science: We have been focusing on Newton's three Laws of Motion this week. Next week, we will learn about how to calculate momentum, as well as about free fall and circular motion.

- Chapter 6 Test- February 21

Math 7G1: Students learned about percent of increase and decrease, such as discounts and mark-ups. Next week, they will learn about simple interest and begin to review for the end of chapter assessments.

- Thursday, February 13 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.4 - 6.6)
- Wednesday, February 19 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, February 20 - Chapter 6 Test

Math 7G2: Students learned about comparing linear and nonlinear functions as well as analyzing and sketching graphs. Next week, they will begin to wrap up Chapter 7.

- Wednesday, February 12 - Chapter 7 Quiz 2 (7.4 - 7.5)
- Thursday, February 13 - Chapter 7 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, February 20 - Chapter 7 Test

8th Grade Updates

ELA: Students continued to lead great discussions of *A Wrinkle in Time*, defending wild theories and making connections to our Catholic faith. We also worked on wrapping up research on the second topic in our final project.

History: We discussed the Aaron Burr and Hamilton Duel, along with Thomas Jefferson's residency. Students got a study guide on Tuesday for their First Presidencies Test next Wednesday. Next week, students will have two study guide days and take their First Presidencies Test on Wednesday. Then, we will discuss Thomas Jefferson's Presidency; specifically the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark.

- First Presidencies Test - Wednesday, February 12

Science: We began Chapter 7 this week, learning about plants. We began with learning the characteristics that all plants share. We then learned about the ways that plants are classified, according to whether or not they contain vascular tissue and whether they reproduce using spores or seeds. We will continue to look at plants more deeply next week.

- Chapter 7 Test- March 5

Math 8G1: Students learned about lines of fit and two way tables. Next week, they will learn about choosing appropriate data displays.

- Thursday, February 13 - Chapter 6 Quiz 2 (6.3 - 6.4)
- Wednesday, February 19 - Chapter 6 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, February 20 - Chapter 6 Test

Math 8G2: Students took the vocabulary quiz and the test for Chapter 5. They also learned about properties of exponents. Next week, they will learn about radicals and rational exponents, exponential functions like exponential growth and decay.

- Thursday, February 20 - Chapter 6 Quiz 1 (6.1 - 6.4)

Theology: The 8th graders continued to prepare for Confirmation. We discussed the importance of relationships. Relationship with parents, friends, community etc. Next week we will continue to talk about relationships.

- Virtue Quiz – Moderation, February 13