



# SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Middle School Newsletter | Aug. 29, 2025

## MIDDLE SCHOOL News!

Our middle school newsletter comes out on Fridays with the Buzz. It includes information about what we've worked on in class that week and upcoming quizzes, tests and projects. It will be divided by grades – so a section for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL Orientation

We'll be hosting our Middle School parents for **Middle School Orientation on Sept. 3 at 6pm.**

Please meet in the Ministry Center for a brief talk and to get your child's schedule. Then you will travel to each MS classroom teacher for a brief overview. This event is geared for Middle School parents only (students are welcomed but not expected).

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Language Arts:** We kicked off our first novel unit this week with *The Giver*. We learned about the elements of fiction and talked about our main character's traits and his community's way of life. We also began our grammar unit on Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives. Next week, we'll talk about structuring a paragraph and essay in preparation for our first writing project!

**Social Studies:** We started off our Basics of Geography unit. We discussed the importance of a compass rose, the different hemispheres, how to use a map key and legend, and longitude and latitude. Next week, we will continue this unit. We will look at different types of maps, then get into the 5 themes of geography. The students will start their 5 Themes of Geography Project, and this will be due Monday, 9/8.

- 5 Themes of Geography Project - Due Monday, 9/8.

**Science:** I have loved getting to know all the new middle schoolers these past two weeks! We have started the year with an introduction to middle school science by focusing on lab safety and the different types of equipment that are used in a lab. Next, we will go over science inquiry skills and processes.

**Theology:** It's been nice getting to know the 6th graders. This past week we have worked on character development traits and worked on a Bible scavenger hunt to familiarize them with the Bible. Next week, we start looking at the different genres of the Old Testament and the different books of the Bible.

**Math 6G1:** Students have done a wonderful job setting up their binders and getting into the groove of middle school. We have started IXL assignments, notes and homework this week. The topics we have covered in class are powers and exponents as well as order of operations. It might take a little bit of work to get into the routine of math class, but we will keep working at it until it works like clockwork! Next week, students will practice more with the order of operations and learn about the properties of operations.

- Tuesday, September 9 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1(1.1 - 1.3)

**Math 6G2:** Students have done a wonderful job setting up their binders and getting into the groove of middle school. We have started IXL assignments, notes and homework this week. The topics we have covered in class are powers and exponents, order of operations and the properties of operations. It might take a little bit of work to get into the routine of math class, but we will keep working at it until it works like clockwork! Next week, students will prepare for a quiz and learn about prime factorization

- Thursday, September 4 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1(1.1 - 1.3)

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Language Arts:** Students got their first novel of the year, *The Outsiders*! We also began our unit on Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives, and discussed the elements of fiction and theme this week to prepare to discuss our reading. Next week, we'll start preparing for our first writing project.

**Social Studies:** We began our Roman Republic unit. We looked at the geography, understanding the importance of the Roman Forum and the government of the Roman Republic. Next week, students will analyze documents to help them form an opinion on the question of "How democratic was the Roman Republic?" Then, we will discuss the Roman army and the cultures that had influence over them.

**Theology:** The seventh graders have settled in nicely. This past week we have worked on character development traits and worked on a Bible scavenger hunt to familiarize them with the Bible. Next week, we start to look at the structure of the New Testament.

**Science:** After reviewing lab safety and lab equipment, we have started into our first chapter in chemistry, which is an introduction to matter. We will talk about how matter is described, classified, and measured over the next few weeks.

**Math 7G1:** Students are getting adjusted to a few new changes to math class. They are doing well with organizing binders and working in a notebook instead of doing homework assignments online. The topics we have covered are rational numbers and absolute value, adding integers and adding rational numbers. Next week, students will prepare for a quiz and learn about subtracting integers.

- Thursday, September 4 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

**Math 7G2:** Students are getting adjusted to a few new changes to math class. They are doing well with organizing binders and working in a notebook instead of doing homework assignments online. The topics we have covered are solving simple equations and solving multi-step equations. Next week, students will prepare for a quiz and learn about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas.

- Wednesday, September 3 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.2)

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Language Arts:** We began our Short Stories unit this week in ELA. Students are reading “Checkouts” and learning about different literary devices that we’ll see in this story and others that we read. We also began our first grammar unit. Next week, we’ll discuss our reading and begin our writing unit, where students can write their own short stories.

**History:** We began discussing the Revolutionary War more in-depth. We discussed the Battle of Long Island, Washington crossing the Delaware, the Battle of Princeton, the New England Plan, and we began discussing Valley Forge. Next week, we will continue to discuss Valley Forge in-depth by analyzing multiple primary and secondary sources. Then, students will write an essay in which they explain whether they would've stayed in the army or quit at Valley Forge. This will be due Monday, 9/8. Lastly, next week, we will discuss the Battle of Saratoga and the importance of foreign aid.

- Valley Forge Essay - Due Monday, 9/8.

**Science:** This year, we will be focusing on life science. After first reviewing lab safety and science skills, we discussed the characteristics and needs that all living things share. Next week, we cover how life is classified and organized. We will learn about taxonomy and how evolution and classification are related.

**Math 8G1:** Students are getting adjusted to a few new changes to math class. They are doing well with organizing binders and working in a notebook instead of doing homework assignments online. The topics we have covered are solving simple equations and solving multi-step equations. Next week, students will prepare for a quiz and learn about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas.

- Wednesday, September 3 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.2)

**Math 8G2:** Students are getting adjusted to a few new changes to math class. They are doing well with organizing binders and working in a notebook instead of doing homework assignments online. The topics we have covered are solving simple equations, solving multi-step equations, and proportions and measurements. Next week students will prepare for a quiz and learn about solving equations with variables on both sides.

- Thursday, September 4 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

**Theology:** It's been a good start to the school year so far for the eight graders. This past week, we have worked on character development traits and worked on a Bible scavenger hunt to familiarize them with the Bible. Next week, we start discussing how life is full of choices, and we can use GPS (God Positioning System) to help us with decision making.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat is from September 11-12. We will depart from and return to the school by bus. Please prioritize this opportunity for your child – this means they may miss sporting events or other extracurriculars in order to participate. Students will not have access to their phones. If there is an emergency, while on retreat you can contact the school or my cell phone at (616)-232-1875. For your child to participate this [FORM](#) needs to be completed **by Monday, September 8.**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation**

Please make sure you complete your 8<sup>th</sup> grader's [Registration for Confirmation](#) (Sponsor/ Parent & Child Meetings begin in October; Confirmation takes place in March 2026)