



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Middle School Newsletter | Sept. 5, 2025

6TH GRADE

Language Arts: We learned about the Hamburger Paragraphs structure, and students practiced finding text-based evidence to support a claim by identifying Jonas' character traits in *The Giver*. Students did a great job finding strong evidence and citing page numbers, which is setting us up well to start our Character Analysis Essay next week.

Social Studies: We discussed the importance of a map key and the 5 themes of geography. The students began their 5 Themes of Geography Project. This will be due on Tuesday. Next week, we will discuss different forms of modern mapping and map distortions. The students will also get their first study guide, and their Geography Basics Test will be on Monday, September 15. We will also have a discussion on 9/11, and why it is important to the United States, and to remember what occurred.

- 5 Themes of Geography Project - Tuesday, September 9
- Geography Basics Test - Monday, September 15

Science: We have continued our introduction to science this week by going into the scientific inquiry process and focusing on how to design a controlled experiment. We will continue with this next week, learning more about the units of measurement we use in science and the difference between the independent and dependent variables.

Theology: The students talked about humility this week and became familiar with the Bible while working on a Bible scavenger hunt in class. Next week, they will begin to learn about the books and genres of the Bible.

- Virtue Quiz - Circumpsection- September 12

Math 6G1: Students learned about the order of operations when evaluating expressions and the properties of operations. Next week they will learn more about the properties and about prime factorization.

- Thursday, September 11 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1(1.1 - 1.3)

Math 6G2: Students took their first quiz and learned about prime factorization. Next week they will learn the greatest common factor and least common multiple between numbers.

- Friday, September 12 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2(1.4 - 1.6)

7th Grade

Language Arts: We discussed the traits of all our main characters in the Greaser gang in *The Outsiders*, and practiced the Hamburger Paragraph structure in preparation for our Serba Scholarship Essay assignment, which we'll start next week. We also studied some of the ways a noun can function in a sentence.

Social Studies: The students worked on document-based questions (DBQs) and formed their opinion on the Roman government. Then, we discussed the Roman army. Next week, we will discuss the people who influenced the Romans, Roman everyday life, and Roman religion. We will also have a discussion on 9/11, and why it is important to the United States, and to remember what occurred. The students will also get their Roman Republic study guide, and their test will be on Monday, September 15.

- Roman Republic Test - Monday, September 15

Theology: We had some really good discussions this week on humility and circumspection. We also started talking about the origins of the New Testament. Next week we will begin exploring New Testament, looking at its structure and messages.

- Virtue Quiz: Circumpsection - September 12

Science: We have spent time this week on how all matter on Earth is either a pure substance or a mixture, and how to determine the difference. We have also learned the parts of a chemical formula. Next week, we will look at the different ways that we can measure matter.

Math 7G1: Students took their first quiz and learned about subtracting integers. Next week they will learn about subtracting rational numbers and will begin to wrap up the first chapter .

- Thursday, September 11 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.5)

Math 7G2: Students learned about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas. Next week they will begin to wrap up the first chapter.

- Thursday, September 11 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)
- Monday, September 15 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, September 16 - Chapter 1 Test

8th Grade

Language Arts: We had a great week learning about literary devices. We used the short story "Checkouts" to learn how an author can use epithets to help us connect with characters, repetition to create emotion in a story, and metaphors to make a story more beautiful. We also had the first of two lessons on the seven noun functions.

History: We discussed Valley Forge. The students learned about the challenges that the soldiers faced, then put themselves in the shoes of the soldiers, and had to form an opinion if they would stay at Valley Forge or not. They used specific documents (DBQs) to help form their claim. Next week, we will discuss how the Revolutionary War started to turn for the Americans, the foreign help they received, and how Women, African Americans, and American Indians impacted the Revolutionary War.

- Valley Forge Essay - Monday, September 8

Science: We have moved into learning about how all organisms on Earth can be classified into eight taxonomic levels, as well as how every organism has a scientific name that comes from its genus and species. We have also learned how a dichotomous key can be used to identify items. Next week, we will practice more with identification and look further into the four kingdoms in the domain Eukarya.

Math 8G1: Students learned about solving equations with variables on both sides and rewriting equations and formulas. Next week they will begin to wrap up the first chapter.

- Wednesday, September 10 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)
- Tuesday, September 16 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, September 17 - Chapter 1 Test

Math 8G2: Students took their first quiz and learned about solving equations with variables on both sides. Next week they will learn about solving absolute value equations and rewriting equations and formulas.

- Tuesday, September 16 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.6)
- Thursday, September 18 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, September 19 - Chapter 1 Test

Theology: We had an in-depth lesson on humility this week, and we began to prepare for confirmation with our first lesson this week. We discussed how we can trust God. Next week, we will continue to learn about how to make good decisions and not have stinky thinking.

- Virtue Quiz: Circumplexion - September 12

8th Grade Retreat

The 8th 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.**

8th Grade Confirmation

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