



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Middle School Newsletter | Oct. 31, 2025

UNIFORM update

As of Nov. 1, students now must wear pants or skirts WITH leggings. Also, one of our uniform providers, My Aplus Uniforms, is having a sale – 30 percent off all in-stock merchandise from now until Dec. 23. Shop online at www.myaplusuniforms.com. Also, **the physical store, located at 2055 28th St. SE, Suite 18 in Grand Rapids, is closing on Dec. 23.** They will still be available for online purchases.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY

Mark your calendars...the next Middle School Awards Ceremony is Nov. 5 at 2:45pm.

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Fall conferences are Nov. 13 (evening) and Nov. 14 (daytime). Nov. 14 is a half day. Please use our [STA Parent Teacher Conference Sign Up](#) to choose a time to meet with the Middle School teachers.

The formatting of Middle School conferences is slightly different than elementary and preschool. Middle school parents will sign up for an hour block. Parents will rotate around to meet with Middle School teachers during that hour. Conferences are Thursday evening and all day Friday for middle school. We use this format to accommodate the large number of middle schoolers we have. Check out this [Corcoran's Corner explaining conferences](#). Students are expected to come to school for the half day on Friday. They will be doing different lessons with Mr. Corcoran as well as participating in their regular specials classes.

6TH GRADE

Language Arts: We kicked off our poetry unit by learning the elements of poetry and applying what we learned to a poem by Robert Frost. We'll dive into various types of poems throughout the quarter. We also began a new unit in grammar, focusing on verbs.

Social Studies: We continued our Origins of Civilization Unit. We discussed archeology and anthropology, historical maps, how fossils are dated, and early hunter-gatherers. Next week, we will discuss the early

human migration theories, how humans have adapted over time, and we will discuss the cave art that early humans left behind.

Science: We have started our unit on Weathering, Erosion, and Deposition this week, which covers Chapters 3 and 4. We began by learning about the types of weathering, mechanical and chemical. We did a lab simulating the different types. Next week, we will learn about soil formation and conservation.

Theology: The students have been researching the different Marian apparitions around the world. They are going to present their findings to the class next week. We will then start talking about the Fall of Man.

- Virtue Quiz-Patriotism November 6

Math 6G1: Students learned about adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals. Next week, they will learn about multiplying decimals and dividing whole numbers and decimals.

- Tuesday, November 11 - Chapter 2 Quiz 2 (2.5 - 2.8)
- Thursday, November 13 - Chapter 2 Vocabulary Quiz

Math 6G2: Students learned about using ratio tables to solve problems. They took a quiz over the first half of Chapter 3. Next week they will learn about graphing ratio relationships, rates and unit rates, and converting measures.

- Monday, November 10 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.4 - 3.6)

7TH GRADE

Language Arts: We started our unit on poetry by going over the basics of poetic form and structure, and breaking down the structure and meaning of a poem all together. We also began our grammar unit on verbs and adverbs.

Social Studies: We discussed the Mayans and their way of life. Next week, we will finish with the Mayans and the theories as to how they disappeared. Then, we will begin discussing the Aztecs, how they lived, and how they eventually got taken over by the Spanish.

Theology: The students have been researching the different Marian apparitions around the world. They are going to present their findings to the class next week. We will then begin discussing the Gospel of Matthew.

- Virtue Quiz-Patriotism November 6

Science: The seventh-grade students have been focusing on the periodic table and the structure of atoms in Chapter 3. We then started with the first type of chemical bonds: ionic bonds. Next week, we will learn about the other two types, covalent and metallic bonds.

Math 7G1: Students took a quiz and began to review for the upcoming test. Next week, students will continue to review and will take the vocabulary quiz and test for Chapter 3. They will also learn about solving equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

- Monday, November 4 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, November 5 - Chapter 3 Test

Math 7G2: Students learned about angles of polygons and how to use similar triangles to solve problems. Next week, they will begin to review for the end of chapter assessments.

- Tuesday, November 4 - Chapter 3 Quiz 2 (3.3 - 3.4)
- Thursday, November 6 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, November 7 - Chapter 3 Test

8th Grade

Language Arts: We reviewed the basics of poetry by analyzing the structure and meaning of a poem together in-class. We also kicked off students' ELA exam project: Students will present a biography of a poet and recite and teach one of the poet's writings. We also began our grammar unit on verbs & adverbs.

History: We discussed how the Constitution was ratified and what powers belong to state and local governments. Then, students did a deep dive into the Constitution, as they looked at all seven articles. Next week, we will finish our Constitution unit. Students will learn about how the Constitution is amended, and we will spend time discussing United States citizenship. The students will receive a study guide on Tuesday, and their test will be the following Tuesday.

- Constitution Test - Tuesday, November 11

Science: We have been focusing on the cellular processes of photosynthesis and cellular respiration this week. We have been learning about how animals and plants work together to maintain a steady balance of carbon dioxide and oxygen in our atmosphere. Next week, we will learn about the process of cellular division.

Math 8G1: Students learned about angles of polygons and how to use similar triangles to solve problems. Next week, they will review for the end of chapter assessments. They will also learn about graphing linear equations and the slope of a line.

- Tuesday, November 4 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, November 5 - Chapter 3 Test

Math 8G2: Students learned about characteristics of functions, linear functions and function notation. Next week, they will learn about graphing linear equations in standard form and slope intercept form.

- Tuesday, November 4 - Chapter 3 Quiz 1 (3.1 - 3.4)
- Wednesday, November 5 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz Part 1

Theology: The students have been researching the different Marian apparitions around the world. They are going to present their findings to the class next week. We will then continue to discuss the role of Jesus in our lives.

- Virtue Quiz-Patriotism November 6



SAINT THOMAS

8TH GRADE LEADERSHIP, VIRTUE, AND FAITH STUDY

*Building tomorrow's Catholic leaders –
one conversation at a time*



- Encourages faith formation and leadership development

- 📅 Father & mother led groups for 8th grade boys and girls meeting separately once or twice per month
- 🗨️ Parent leads discussion using Catholic curriculum
- 🕒 Meets for 25 minutes at 7:30am (with doughnuts!)
- ★ Provides positive father and mother role models

For more info, contact the school office or visit stthomasgr.org