



# SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Middle School Newsletter | Dec. 5, 2025**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL Exams

Middle school exams are approaching – Dec. 16-18. Please check the [Middle School Exam Schedule](#) to find out which subjects your student has on each day. The first exam is 8:25-9:55am; the second is 10-11:30am. These are half days for middle schoolers ONLY; dismissal is at 11:30am.

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

**Language Arts:** We learned about odes, and students worked in groups to write their own ode to their favorite Christmas decoration. Students are wrapping up the rough drafts of all our poems, and in the coming days, we'll begin working on editing and assembling our Poetry Portfolios, which will serve as their ELA exam.

**Social Studies:** The students worked on creating their own civilization. We discussed the eight main features of civilizations, and using these features, students had to create their own civilization. Next week, students are expected to have their projects done. We will be presenting their projects. Students will also receive their exam study guides on Monday. We will begin working on them on Wednesday. I will discuss the written response questions on Wednesday and go through the whole study guide on Friday.

- Civilization Project - Due Monday, December 8

**Science:** We have been talking about the Geological Time Scale, the record of Earth's 4.6-billion-year history compiled from the fossil record. We will continue to learn about Earth's past until we start preparing for exams, which will begin towards the middle of next week. The Chapter 5 material will be included on the exam before Christmas.

**Theology:** The students this week learned about the early Patriarchs of the Church. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They learned about that even though they were not perfect, God had a plan for them. Next week, we will talk about Joseph and his brothers, and review for exams.

**Math 6G1:** Students took a quiz about ratios and they learned how to graph ratio relationships. Next week, they will learn about rates and unit rates. They will also receive their exam reviews to begin preparing for exams.

**Math 6G2:** Students learned about solving percent problems and took a quiz. Next week, they will take the Chapter 4 Test. They will also receive their exam reviews to begin preparing for exams.

- Monday, December 8 - Chapter 4 Test

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

**Language Arts:** We compared a poem by my favorite poet, Billy Collins, to a pop song, to see how different artists can help us to be grateful for the blessings in our lives. We also continued working on their Poetry Pairing Project, which will serve as the ELA exam.

**Social Studies:** Students took their Early Americas Test. Then, we began our unit on Early Europe, Africa, and Asia. We started discussing the Medieval times. Particularly, the social classes and what their daily lives looked like. Next week, we will continue to discuss the Medieval times. We will discuss how religion played a factor, along with the crusades. Students will also receive their exam study guides on Monday. We will begin working on them on Wednesday. I will discuss the written response questions on Wednesday and go through the whole study guide on Friday.

**Theology:** We continued our deep dive of the Gospels. This week, we looked at Mark's Gospel and began looking at Luke's Gospel as well. Next week, we will continue to look at Luke's.

**Science:** We have been looking more deeply into chemical reactions this week by continuing to practice with balancing chemical equations. We also learned about different methods that can affect reaction rates, such as increasing concentration or adding heat. We began reviewing for the abbreviated test on Tuesday, covering this material. Then we will begin reviewing for our first semester exam.

- Chapter 4 Test- December 9

**Math 7G1:** Students wrapped up Chapter 4 with a test. Next week, they will review solving equations and inequalities. They will also receive their exam reviews to begin preparing for exams.

**Math 7G2:** Students took a quiz and began to prepare for the Chapter 4 Test. Next week, they will take the Chapter 4 Test. They will also receive their exam reviews to begin preparing for exams.

- Monday, December 8 - Chapter 4 Test

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

**Language Arts:** Students edited their slideshows, made notecards, and practiced for their Poet Biography Presentations, which will serve as their ELA exam; we will begin presentations next week. We also continued our verb unit by studying verb moods.

**History:** We finished our Washington presidency unit. We discussed how Washington dealt with the French Revolution and his farewell address to the nation. Then, we also discussed the beginnings of the first two major political parties between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Next week, we will discuss the Election of 1796 and the start of John Adams' presidency. Students will also receive their exam study guides on Monday. We will begin working on them on Wednesday. I will discuss the written response questions on Wednesday and go through the whole study guide on Friday.

**Science:** We have continued to learn about heredity this week, including how most traits are not passed on as simply as those Mendel originally studied, and are instead the result of more complex patterns of inheritance. Chapter 4 will conclude next week by explaining the role of the chromosomes in inheritance and how gametes are produced through meiosis. The chapter 4 material will be included on the exam before Christmas, which we will begin preparing for towards the middle of next week.

**Math 8G1:** Students wrapped up Chapter 4 with a test. They also learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing. Next week, they will learn about solving systems of linear equations by substitution. They will also receive their exam reviews to begin preparing for exams.

**Math 8G2:** Students learned about writing equations in point slope form as well as writing equations of parallel and perpendicular lines. Next week, they will learn about scatter plots and lines of fit. They will also receive their exam reviews to begin preparing for exams.

**Theology:** We discussed the importance of the Bible this week. We looked at why we read it, how to read it and how to understand it better. Next week, we talk about relationships and will begin studying for exams.

## CC Musical Auditions

Hello from Catholic Central High School's Drama Department! It's already time to start planning for our Spring Musical. CC's musical this year is the *The Addams Family*, and we would love our partner middle school students to be a part of it!

Auditions will be held in the CC Choir Room at Catholic Central High School on Monday, Dec. 8, or Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 3:30 pm. You can enter through the CC Main entrance, and someone will be there to guide you to the Choir Room. At the audition, we will be singing and dancing; no preparation is necessary, but a prepared portion of a song is welcome. A full rehearsal schedule will be released after auditions. Rehearsals begin in January, with performances in the 3rd week of March (March 17-21).

Please contact our Director, Mr. Jason Marlett, with any questions or interest at [JCMElway@yahoo.com](mailto:JCMElway@yahoo.com). If you are unable to attend the audition but remain interested, please contact Mr. Marlett. Thank you!