



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 16, 2026

6TH GRADE

Language Arts: We got to know our main characters in *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. We also wrapped up our grammar unit on verbs and adverbs and kicked off our Debate assignment for quarter 3; students will work in teams to debate the question, "What is the best type of conflict in fiction?"

- Wednesday, Jan. 21 - Last day for missing assignments

Social Studies: We continued to discuss our discussion of Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent. We particularly discussed the Persian Empire, and students began their Persian Empire Project. Next week, we will discuss MLK Jr. Then, the students will finish their project and present it on Thursday. Lastly, we will spend a day discussing the Phoenicians.

- Last day for missing assignments - Tuesday, Jan. 20
- Persian Empire Project - Due Thursday, Jan. 22

Science: We finished our chapter on energy resources this week by continuing to look at alternative energy sources and ways to extend the life of our current resources. We will review and take the test next week. Then we will start a chapter focused on our atmosphere.

- Wednesday, January 21- Chapter 6 Test

Theology: The students finished up their Genesis Creative stories project. They presented their projects to the class with a gallery walk. Next week we will begin to talk about Moses and his leadership.

Math 6G1: Students wrapped up Chapter 3. They began Chapter 4 which covers percentages and fractions. Next week, students will continue with percentages and decimals.

- Monday, January 26 - Chapter 4 Quiz 1 (4.1 - 4.2)

Math 6G2: Students learned about writing equivalent expressions using the Distributive Property and factoring expressions with the greatest common factor. Next week, they will wrap up Chapter 5.

- Wednesday, January 21 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, January 22 - Chapter 5 Test

7TH GRADE

Language Arts: We discussed the exposition of *The Hobbit*; the older language in this book can be tough to understand at times, but I've been impressed with students' determination! We ensured that we understood who everyone is and what their quest is. We also took our verb test.

- Wednesday, Jan. 21 - Last day for missing assignments

Social Studies: We discussed the Spanish conquistadors. In particular, we discussed them in Texas and their main goals of God, gold, and glory. Next week, we will discuss MLK Jr. Then, we will continue to discuss the Spanish conquistadors, the start of the slave trade, and students will begin their Spanish Exploration Research Project.

- Last day for missing assignments - Tuesday, Jan. 20
- Spanish Exploration Research Project - Due Wednesday, Jan. 28

Theology: The students finished up their Apostles Case Files project this week. The students shared great information that was really in-depth and creative. Next week, we will start exploring the Acts of the Apostles.

Science: We ended this week by experimenting with different indicators to identify and rank the pH of different solutions. This was the culmination of learning for chapter 5, so we will review and take the test on this material next week. Then we will start the physics section in our textbook by learning about the different forces.

- Thursday, January 22- Chapter 5 Test

Math 7G1: Students learned about writing and solving proportions, the graphs of proportional relationships, and scale drawings. They started a scale drawing project on Friday. They will have one day to work in class next week. Next week, students will work on scale drawings and prepare for a quiz.

- Friday, January 23 - Scale Drawings Due
- Monday, January 26 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.4 - 5.6)
- Wednesday, January 28 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, January 29 - Chapter 5 Test

Math 7G2: Students learned about solving systems of linear equations and about solving special systems of linear equations. Next week, students will wrap up Chapter 5.

- Wednesday, January 21 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, January 22 - Chapter 5 Test

8TH GRADE

Language Arts: We held a practice round of our Literature Circle discussions for quarter 3. Students were very prepared, took turns participating, and shared thoughtful questions and answers. We also got into the Final Project this week by choosing our topics and beginning to find and cite our research sources, and we took our verb test.

- Wednesday, Jan. 21 - Last day for missing assignments

History: We finished up our Election of 1800 Projects. Then we discussed the Hamilton and Burr duel. Lastly, we began discussing Thomas Jefferson's presidency. Next week, will discuss MLK Jr. Then, we will continue to discuss Thomas Jefferson's presidency. In particular, we will discuss Lewis and Clark's expedition and the Marbury vs. Madison court case.

- Last day for missing assignments - Tuesday, Jan. 20

Science: We continued with DNA this week by looking at mutations and how they can be harmful, helpful, or neither. Next week, we will focus more closely on human inheritance and on current advances in genetics.

- Wednesday, January 28- Chapter 5 Test

Math 8G1: Students learned about solving special systems of linear equations and prepared for a quiz. Next week, students will wrap up Chapter 5

- Tuesday, January 20 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.3 - 5.4)
- Thursday, January 22 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, January 23 - Chapter 5 Test

Math 8G2: Students wrapped up Chapter 4 and learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing. Next week, students will learn about solving systems of linear equations by substitution and elimination as well as solving special systems of linear equations.

Theology: The students finished up and presented their Saint reports this week. The students have shared fascinating stories about the stories and I have enjoyed learning why they chose their Saints. Next week we will learn about what sets up the Catholic church apart from other religions.