



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Middle School Newsletter | Jan. 9, 2026

A note from Ms. Trenshaw, Tech Teacher

As a follow up to the first quarter and to partner together regarding grades, I wanted to send a message prior to the end of the second quarter. The students have been working to finish all of the assignments, in class. They were given two classes this week to work on all things they will be graded on and I am going to grade what I have this weekend so students know what to complete next week. If your student does not get 100% on Sunday or things are marked as missing, they can adjust it and re-submit for full credit by Friday, Jan. 16. This is just to bring attention to the work they are not done with, but should still be worked on during school hours – it should not be homework.

Check out the [checklist for the Game of Life](#), which is the majority of their grade this quarter. Please reach out (jessicatrenshaw@stthomasgr.org) if you have any questions.

6th GRADE

Language Arts: We kicked off our new literature unit by learning about the author and the inspiration behind *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell. We also learned about the different types of conflict and engaged in some conflict ourselves with mock debates. Lastly, we reviewed our verb content in preparation for next week's test.

- Wednesday Jan. 14 - Verb Test

Social Studies: We discussed Mesopotamia and the multiple empires that emerged. We discussed the Babylonian, Assyrian, and the Chaldean Empires. Next week, we will talk about the Persian Empire. Then, the students will start and complete their Persian Empire Project.

- Persian Empire Project - Due Monday, Jan. 19
- All missing assignments are due on Tuesday, Jan. 20

Science: We have been working on a short chapter this week, learning about energy resources. We started with fossil fuels, learned about their pros and cons, and the fact that they are in limited supply. Due to this limit, we then moved on to discussing possible alternative energy sources, such as solar, hydroelectric, and wind power.

- Wednesday, January 21- Chapter 6 Test

Theology: The students are working on Genesis Creative Story Project. They are connecting all the stories in Genesis that we talked about and tying them together with the central theme “God shows mercy to us, even when we fail.” Next week, we will continue the project and present them to the class.

- Virtue Quiz – Orderliness – January 16, 2026

Math 6G1: Students wrapped up Chapter 3 with a quiz. The vocabulary quiz and test will be next week. Next week, they will take the quiz and learn about percentages and fractions.

- Tuesday, January 13 - Chapter 3 Vocabulary Quiz
- Wednesday, January 14 - Chapter 3 Test

Math 6G2: Students started a new chapter about algebraic expressions and properties. They learned about the parts of algebraic expressions and writing expressions. Next week, they will learn about writing equivalent expressions and factoring expressions.

- Friday, January 16 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.3 - 5.4)
- Wednesday, January 21 - Chapter 5 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, January 22 - Chapter 5 Test

7TH GRADE

Language Arts: We kicked off our new literature unit, focusing on *The Hobbit*! I would highly recommend that students take advantage of the audio version on Canvas if they struggle with Tolkien’s old-fashioned and literary writing style. We also studied for our verb test next week.

- Wednesday Jan. 14 - Verb Test

Social Studies: We discussed the beginning of exploration. We discussed the Vikings, we discussed Christopher Columbus, and the continuation of Spanish exploration. Next week, we will continue to discuss the Spanish, especially when they started to settle in Texas. We will talk about the missions, the social classes, and we will also discuss how the transatlantic slave trade started.

- All missing assignments are due on Tuesday, January 20

Theology: The students are working on a biographies of the Apostles. The project is designed for them to be members of the Vatican and they are doing research for an exhibit. Next week they will continue the project and present them to the class.

- Virtue Quiz Orderliness- January 16

Science: We began the week by learning about the parts of a solution, the different methods one can use to change a solution's concentration, and the factors that affect the solubility of different substances. This will lead us into the pH scale next week. We will learn the characteristics of acids and bases, as well as what causes a solution to be acidic or basic.

- Thursday, January 22- Chapter 5 Test

Math 7G1: Students learned about rates and unit rates as well as identifying proportional relationships. Next week, students will learn about writing and solving proportions, graphing proportional relationships, and scale drawings.

Math 7G2: Students learned about solving systems of linear equations by graphing and substitutions. Next week, students will learn about solving systems of linear equations by elimination and also about special systems of equations.

- Friday, January 16 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.3 - 5.4)

8TH GRADE

Language Arts: We talked about the structure for our upcoming Quarter 3 literature unit—students will be leading their own discussions of our novel! We practiced with a short story this week, and we'll start reading our novel next week. We also began talking about the Final Project, and studied for next week's grammar test.

- Friday Jan. 16 - Verb Test

History: We finished talking about John Adams' presidency. We discussed the election of 1800, and the students worked on a campaign poster showing the issues that both parties focused on during the election. The students will finish their campaign posters next Monday, and it will be due on Tuesday. Then, we will discuss the Hamilton and Burr duel, along with Thomas Jefferson's presidency.

- Election of 1800 Campaign Posters - Due Tuesday, January 13
- All missing assignments are due on Tuesday, January 20

Science: We have focused on DNA this week, and how the information encoded in your genes leads to the traits in your body through protein synthesis. This leads into the discussion of mutations, both positive and negative. We will continue to look further into this next week.

- Wednesday, January 28- Chapter 5 Test

Math 8G1: Students learned about solving systems of linear equations by substitutions and elimination. Next week, students will learn about special systems of equations.

- Tuesday, January 20 - Chapter 5 Quiz 2 (5.3 - 5.4)

Math 8G2: Students learned about arithmetic sequences and piecewise functions. Next week, students will finish with Chapter 4 and learn about solving systems of linear equations by graphing.

- Tuesday, January 13 - Chapter 4 Vocabulary Quiz
- Thursday, January 15 - Chapter 4 Test

Theology: The students are working on their Confirmation Saint research paper. They are researching what Saint they would like to emulate, and then are writing a paper about them. Next week they will finish the paper and present to the class.

- Virtue Quiz Orderliness- January 16