



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Middle School Newsletter | May 8, 2026

6TH GRADE

Language Arts: Students studied the Hero's Journey plot structure and learned about the Greek myth of Heracles and compared and contrasted it with the Disney movie *Hercules*.

Social Studies: We finished our Ancient India unit. The students learned about an emperor by the name of Asoka, and had to write an essay, using sources, to explain their opinion about him. Then, they took their Ancient India Quiz. Next week, we will start our Ancient China unit. We will discuss the geography, major dynasties, and their achievements.

Science: We have finished Chapter 11 this week, focusing on our moon. We looked at how its movements affect how it appears to us from Earth, and also affect the ocean tides. Study guides have been available since Wednesday morning. We began reviewing for the test next week in class on Friday.

- Tuesday, May 12- Chapter 11 Test

Theology: We discussed life after Jericho by looking at the actions of the Israelites after Jericho. The students are working on a comic strip presenting what happened under the leadership of Joshua.

- Friday May 15 - Virtue Quiz Respect

Math 6G1: Students learned about three dimensional figures, how to find the surface area of prisms and pyramids, and how to find the volume of rectangular prisms. Next week, they will take a quiz over this material. The next topic they will learn about is what integers are and how to compare and order them as well as a look at rational numbers.

- Wednesday, May 13 - Chapter 7 Quiz 2 (7.4 - 7.7)

Math 6G2: Students learned about statistical questions, how to calculate the mean with and without an outlier, and what the measures of center are and how to find them. Next week, students will learn about measures of variation and the mean absolute deviation.

- Friday, May 15 - Chapter 9 Test

7TH GRADE

Language Arts: We learned the history behind the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and discussed the scene of our play when the Franks and their friends react to a break-in during their celebration of Hanukkah. We looked at how characters respond to fear, and where they place their trust—in money, in their families, and in God.

Social Studies: The students finished their Independence unit. We discussed the book *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, and discussed how the Declaration of Independence came to be. Then, we did a deep dive into understanding the Declaration. Students were tasked to create their own Declaration of Independence, which is due on Saturday. Next week, we will discuss the founding fathers and mothers of our country.

- Personal Declaration of Independence - Due Monday, May 11

Theology: We are dissecting the book of Revelation this week. We are looking at the imagery and meaning behind the stories. Next week, we will continue to discuss the book and what it means for us?

- Virtue Quiz Respect - Friday, May 15

Science: We have been learning about the electromagnetic spectrum this week. We learned that different wave frequencies are used in our lives every day, even though we can only see a very small portion of this spectrum. We will continue this chapter next week, learning about the benefits of using digital signaling, rather than analog, in broadcasting.

- Monday, May 18 - Chapter 11 Test

Math 7G1: Students learned about using a protractor to construct triangles and quadrilaterals. They also learned about angle pairs and how to find unknown angle measures. Next week, students will learn about finding the surface area of prisms, cylinders, and pyramids.

- Tuesday, May 12 - Chapter 9 Quiz 2 (9.4 - 9.5)

Math 7G2: Students learned about rational and irrational numbers as well as the converse of the Pythagorean Theorem. Next week, students will wrap up Chapter 9 and will complete the assessments for that chapter.

- Tuesday, May 12 - Chapter 9 Quiz 2 (9.4 - 9.6)
- Thursday, May 14 - Chapter 9 Vocabulary Quiz
- Friday, May 15 - Chapter 9 Test

8th GRADE

Language Arts: We saw an example of the Final Project presentation and began creating our own slides to present our research. We also reviewed for our Sentence Diagramming test next Friday. I am so impressed with how eagerly the 8th graders have tackled the challenge of sentence diagramming; they're knocking it out of the park!

- Friday, May 15 - Sentence Diagramming Test

History: We continued our Civil War unit. We discussed important battles such as Gettysburg, the Siege on Petersburg, and Sherman's March to the Sea. Next week, we will finish our unit on the Civil War as the students will do a Civil War Mini Project. Then, we will discuss Reconstruction, and the students will get their Final Exam Project.

- Civil War Mini Project - Due Thursday, May 14

Science: We started the week by taking the Chapter 10 test. We then moved into our last new material of the year, focusing on ecology. We began by learning about the levels of ecological organization and how all organisms must meet their needs within their habitats. Next week, we will learn how and why population sizes change and how to describe the different types of relationships within communities. This material will be included on the final exam.

Math 8G1: Students learned about rational and irrational numbers as well as the converse of the Pythagorean Theorem. Next week, students will learn about finding the volume of cylinders, cones, spheres, and the surface area and volume of similar solids.

Math 8G2: Students learned about graphing quadratic functions in many different forms as well as comparing linear, exponential and quadratic equations. Next week, students will learn about properties of radicals, solving quadratic equations by graphing, using square roots, completing the square, and the quadratic formula.

- Tuesday, May 12 - Chapter 8 Quiz 2 (8.4 - 8.6)

Theology: We are looking at the Crusades from the Catholic perspective. The students are presenting facts from the different sides involved. Next week we will prepare for the ACRE Test, which is a standardized Theology test.

8TH GRADE END OF THE YEAR ACTIVITIES/DATES

We are approaching the end of the school year, and for our 8th graders, this means a lot of graduation/end-of-the-year activities. Here is a list of a few of those activities:

- Memory book and graduation video pictures due to Jenn Ford – May 1
- Class trip to Mackinac Island – Monday, May 18
- Anointing Mass – May 20 - at 8:15am
- 8th Grade Exams – May 26-28
- 8th Grade Last Mass – May 27
- 8th Grade Breakfast - Hosted on the students' last day of school by parents, May 29
- 8th Grade Last day of school – May 29
- Cedar Point Trip (parent-organized; not a school-sponsored field trip) – June 1
- Graduation – June 3

Sports Physicals

SAT, MAY 9
9 AM- NOON



Sign up here

\$20 per student; Cash or Check
Made payable to St. Thomas Boosters

St. Thomas Gym
1429 Wilcox Park Drive SE



Dr. Michael App, MD, MPH



SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ASA, IHM, SJV, SPA, STA, & ST. ROBERTS PRESENT:

Friday, May 8th
7TH & 8TH GRADE
DANCE

IHM GYM
7PM - 9PM

JOIN US FOR A HAWAIIAN LUAU AT IHM!

A NIGHT FULL OF FUN, DANCING, AND TROPICAL VIBES AWAITS!
DRESS IN YOUR HAWAIIAN BEST AND GET READY TO HULA!

FOOD SIGNUP



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NIGHT INCLUDE:

- PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED
- DJ, DANCING, AND A LIMBO CONTEST
- FREE THROW CONTEST
- SNACKS AND MORE!

(THERE WILL BE CHAPERONES
FROM ALL SCHOOLS)

Questions?

Contact Rachelle Rizik at rachelle.rizik@gmail.com

2026 West Catholic Color Guard Spring/Summer Schedule:

May:

Wednesday 6 th	6-8:30 pm	Open Spin
Wednesday 13 th	6-8:30 pm	Open Spin
Wednesday 20 th	6-8:30 pm	Signups/Auditions

June:

Wednesday 3 rd	6-8:30pm	Practice
Wednesday 10 th	6-8:30pm	Practice
Wednesday 17 th	6-8:30pm	Practice
Wednesday 24 th	6-8:30pm	Practice

July:

Wednesday, 22 nd	10AM-6PM	GUARD CAMP!
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All practices will meet at WC outside the band room, unless other instruction is given. Please, let me know if you will be unavailable to attend any rehearsals as soon as you can or at least 7 days prior. Remember that all practices are important for everyone to attend. Even if you can only make part of a practice every little bit will make us better! Also, bring plenty of water and dress appropriately for the weather we may be outside. Practice schedules may change because of COVID or space restrictions.

Looking Forward To A Great Season,

-Liz

616-304-1752,
Liz.ForteSewingAndDesign@gmail.com

Catholic Central Color Guard

Anyone at CC is welcome to
come to the Open Spins and
Tryouts!

7th and 8th graders are also welcome at the
Opens Spins to see what is like for when
they get to high school or for the next
winter season



Important Dates

Open Spins:

Tues May 5th 6-8:30 pm

Mon May 11th 6-8:30 pm

Tryouts:

Tues May 19th 6-8:30 pm

Where and what to bring

Located in the Catholic Central Band
Room. Wear comfortable clothing you
can move in and bring a water bottle!

Contact Info:

(616) 304-1752

liz.fortesewinganddesign@gmail.com