



October 2019 8th Grade Newsletter

With the first month of school behind us, everyone is on track for a successful year. Please remember to check assignment pads and Google Classroom for homework and announcements.

In Social Studies we have finished the Civil War and Reconstruction. We will take a brief look at the changing West and then find ourselves in an industrial boom with the rise of railroads, businesses, and unions.

In Literature we are reading the novel *Inside Out and Back Again*. It tells the story of Vietnamese refugees after the war through the eyes of Ha. We will also read excerpts from the history of Vietnam to see how surroundings affects characters. It fits perfectly with our social studies curriculum. We will also work on our written responses to ensure they are filled with evidence to support what the text infers and says explicitly. Students should be reading at home for at least fifteen minutes each evening.

In Math 8 students are immersed in scientific notation. They are learning how to compare and compute with numbers in scientific notation. The students will discover the importance of the exponent with respect to magnitude. Also, this month, students will use what they know about exponential notation, properties of exponents, and scientific notation to interpret results that have been generated by technology.

In Algebra students will define, evaluate, and compare functions and use them to model relationships between quantities. Later this month they extend their study of functions to include function notation and the concepts of domain and range.

In Earth Science students will be learning about models, maps and minerals. The students will learn the types of information that can be conveyed through models and maps. They will learn about isolines and they will build 3-D topographical maps using contour lines. They will then learn about the many different types of minerals in the world and they will learn how to identify some of them based off of their different characteristics.

In Religion, we will continue working with the many qualities that make up our relationships with God and each other. We will discuss how we make choices and how our conscience develops. We are also following the steps Stephen Covey sets out in **The Leader in Me**. Individually, students have set short term goals and devised ways to achieve them. We will also continue to research the history of the Church. Monsignor O'Connor is helping us each week with this quest.

The 8th grade will host the Halloween Dance on October 18, 2019. A parent representative will be calling for your help. This is a special night for everyone and one of our fundraisers.