



7th Grade December Newsletter 2020

As we enter the season of Advent the 7th grade will be preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus Christ with prayer. Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church that slowly builds momentum towards Christmas as the weeks go by. As with all new beginnings, this season is intended to renew our joy, hope, faith and love.

In **Math 7** this month the students will use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions, and simplify algebraic equations and inequalities. The students will begin to translate verbal phrases to mathematical expressions.

In **Math 8** the students have begun to study functions. They will begin to understand the linear relationship of two variables. Later this month the students will be studying angle relationships that are formed when two parallel lines are cut by a transversal. Then they extended this information to understand why a triangle has a sum of interior angles equal to 180° and why the exterior angles of a triangle is the sum of the two remote interior angles of the triangle. Later we will explore the Pythagorean Theorem.

In **Language Arts** we will look at both fiction and nonfiction material that reveal reactions to adversity. Students will be reading either *A Long Walk to Water* or *Animal Farm*. In each of these novels the main characters must find a way to survive in a world with mounting obstacles. As students read they will be asked to cite textual evidence and determine the central idea. They will determine the connotative, and technical meaning of words as they are used in writing. They will also learn to analyze how structure is used to convey meaning, and determine the author's point of view and purpose. We will continue to work on the elements of writing, the use of transition words and finding the main idea and theme in preparation for the Common Core NY State ELA Test. Each week we will also tackle Common Core ELA multiple choice test questions.

In **Social Studies** we will continue to follow the path of the brave and innovative figures that stood up to England and demanded a voice in government. Students will follow the chronological timeline of the American Revolution and determine the causes and effects of this great endeavor. They will focus on key events and figures and use different text structures to get a clear picture of the 1700's. To keep abreast of current events we are reading Upfront. This is a magazine produced by Scholastic and the New York Times. The articles have been fascinating.

In **Science 7** the students will be introduced to the human body and its systems. Your student will learn how the body is organized and how organs in different systems work together to supply energy, manage materials, and control processes. In the following weeks of study, the unit will provide your child with a deepening understanding of the human body.

In **Earth Science** the students will be wrapping up the Rocks and minerals unit in the first week of December. Later this month the students will be learning all about Earthquakes and plate tectonics. They will learn about the causes of earthquakes and the different types of faults across Earth's plates. They will discuss the different scales used to measure earthquakes and they will practice in our lab periods how to discern the origin time and epicenter location of an earthquake. They will then start to learn about Earth's interior and how it makes the giant crustal plates move.

I hope your Christmas Season is filled with the love and blessings of Jesus.

Merry Christmas,
Mrs. Balcanoff

