



Middle School News



Saint Michael School

Volume 3, Issue 3

Reminders and Announcements

November 15, 2019

- Trimester 1 came to an end on Friday, November 15. The slate is clean and we are starting over with Trimester 2. The students should put their best feet forward and really give 100% effort.
- Thank you for your support for the Eagle Run. We surpassed our goal! Way to go!
- This Friday's St. Vincent de Paul donations will be toilet paper and paper towels. Thank you for your continued generosity.
- Please make sure to check the uniform policy. Socks, skirt lengths, and missing belts are common areas for infractions. Remember, socks cannot have logos on them and must be black, white, gray, or navy. In addition, please pay attention to the grooming portion especially nail polish, make-up, and hair.

8th Grade

Religion—Mrs. Dayton

We have had a prayerful and spiritual experience as a class listening to the students' presentations on the lives of the saints. Students took the project very seriously and that showed in their research! I was extremely happy to learn new details of many of the saints they picked to report on! All students were extremely respectful and quiet during the presentations which only added to the prayerful environment!

Please take time to look at the Family Time handouts that go home with your students as we begin each unit of Family Life curriculum, and take time as a family to discuss the topics we cover as some are intense and need parental support and guidance. As always, I am here to help in any way or answer any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to beginning a prayerful Advent with your students :)

ELA—Mrs. Rall

In eighth grade, we are learning the history behind the novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* in order to prepare for our analysis of the 1977 Newberry Medal winning novel. In addition, students have been independently studying for spelling tests, as well as working through a self-paced grammar curriculum. The students have finished their second debate topic and will begin another next week.

Math—Mrs. Miron

Math 8: We are continuing our unit of study *Unit 2: Proportional and Nonproportional Relationships and Functions*. In Module 4 we are looking at proportional and nonproportional linear relationships. The students have learned that the slope of a line can tell us what the constant of proportionality is for a proportional relationship, and what the rate of change is for a nonproportional relationship. They've worked hard to learn how to graph these relationships through two methods (1) using a table of values to find the inputs and outputs of the relationship, and (2) using the slope and y-intercept which can be determined from the equation of the line in the form $y=mx+b$. The students are also learning how to determine the equation of a line given a particular situation.

8th Grade—cont.

Math—Mrs. Miron

Algebra I: Factoring polynomials continues to be the name of the game right now in Algebra I. The students have learned how to take steps to figure out the patterns of factorization given the structure of the polynomial. We have worked through recognizing the GCF of the terms, differences of two squares, and trinomial squares. The students have also learned strategies for factoring polynomials that don't fall into those special categories, including the x-puzzle, x-box, and grouping methods. Our next concept is how to solve equations made up of polynomials using the Zero Product Rule. The Chapter 6 assessment will take place right before Thanksgiving or immediately after. The best way to get a handle on factoring is to practice, practice, practice.

Social Studies—Mrs. Calhoun

The eighth-graders have been studying the time period of American expansion preceding World War I. In task rotations, small-group activities, and presentations, students completed an in-depth study of the Panama Canal and an inquiry into how U.S. policy toward selected foreign nations in Latin America, Asia, and Europe has changed over the years.

Our upcoming study of World War I will focus on challenges to U.S. policies, World War I as a very different type of war, the impact of the war, and war songs.

Since civics is a part of the eighth grade curriculum, we will also study the impeachment process and what is currently going on with this in American politics.

As with the other grades, the eighth graders showed a wide range of interests in their Getting into History projects. I appreciate their effort on this project!

Science — Mrs. Davis

All students should be working on their engineering/science fair projects. This week the background research was due. Most students have turned in their background research, however, a few have not or did not do it correctly. For those that need to still turn it in, please do so asap. For those who are fixing their mistakes, please also turn back in asap. Otherwise, students have been given the green light to move ahead and start their projects. Students should be building and/or testing their science projects. Data needs to be collected and for those that are building a project, a testing log needs to be kept. Our next turn in Date is Monday, December 2nd.

We are beginning a new unit on Matter and the Periodic Table of Elements. Currently each 8th grader has adopted an Element from the Periodic Table and they are doing research to learn more about their element. They are learning about electrons, protons, and neutrons, and how each atom is unique. Students are creating baby books on their adopted elements.

Spanish—Sra. DiNino

Students are continuing to learn Spanish grammar. Eighth graders are reviewing subject pronouns. All students are continuing to read and write simple sentences incorporating units they have mastered.

7th Grade

Religion—Mrs. Calhoun

During this month of honoring saints and our deceased loved ones, we will read short biographies of famous saints and newer saints on the scene and study their lives in relation to the practice of social justice, the Works of Mercy, and virtues. Ultimately, the seventh graders will be asked to focus on a “companion” saint who might help them in their personal life journeys. Students have also made prayer cards to remember deceased loved ones.

Our Family Life studies are focusing on the nature of love, various levels of love, and teenage experiences of this in relation to appropriate expressions of sexuality. We will be reading small portions of *Romeo and Juliet* to complement our study of how teens experience love in relationships.

ELA—Mrs. Rall

In seventh grade, we are enjoying *I am Malala* and learning about the memoir as a literary device, as well as the right to education in history. In addition, students have been independently studying for spelling tests, as well as working through a self-paced grammar curriculum. The students have finished their second debate topic and will begin another next week.

Math—Mrs. Miron

Math 7: We finished our first unit of study and are moving into *Unit 2: Ratios and Proportional Relationships*. We will look at the very powerful proportion as a tool for finding unit rates, proportions in size (expansion and dilation), and other applications. We start off with unit rates and how we find an equivalent ratio to a given rate using 1 as our denominator in the unit rate. Applications include finding mileage, speed, and distance.

Pre-Algebra 7: The students are currently finishing their study of equations with decimals. This has been an interesting chapter that dealt with solving equations with variables and decimals and using the metric system. Some of the students were rusty in their place value skills until we got going. The students learned the three main measurements we use in metric: mass, length, and capacity. They also learned the foundational measurements of the metric system: gram, meter, and liter. They spent some time learning how to convert from one metric measurement to another, and were surprised to find that against intuition, when we are finding small units from bigger units, we have more small units than big units, so we multiply by a power of ten. When we find big units from smaller units, we have fewer big units, so we divide by a power of ten.

Social Studies—Mrs. Calhoun

We are wrapping up our unit on the origins of Islam and getting ready for a chapter assessment. This test on Monday, November 19, will be open-note, and students are currently engaged in delving into chapter concepts and vocabulary with careful note taking and preparation. A study guide to help students prepare for the thought/essay-style questions has been provided.

In our task rotations students have had the opportunity to read about and reflect on primary source interviews in relation to being Moslem in America.

Our first current events reports are underway, and four students each week will be responsible for preparing presentations.

7th Grade—cont.

Social Studies—Mrs. Calhoun (cont.)

The Getting Yourself into History projects have been going well, and students have chosen very interesting time periods to research. The class has been enriched by the variety of presentations!

As we move forward across the centuries, students will study the Empire of Islam and the height of Islamic culture in Cordoba, Spain.

Science—Mrs. Davis

All students should be working on their engineering/science fair projects. This week the background research was due. Most students have turned in their background research, however, a few have not or did not do it correctly. For those that need to still turn it in, please do so asap. For those who are fixing their mistakes, please also turn back in asap. Otherwise, students have been given the green light to move ahead and start their projects. Students should be building and/or testing their science projects. Data needs to be collected and for those that are building a project, a testing log needs to be kept. Our next turn in Date is Monday, December 2nd.

Seventh grade is beginning a new unit on Cells. We are learning about the similarities and differences in plant and animal cells. Next week students will learn about the functions of all the organelles inside cells. Each student will be assigned individually to research a cell organelle and then they will educate the rest of the class on their cell organelles functions.

Spanish—Sra. DiNino

Students are continuing to learn Spanish grammar. The seventh graders are working on prepositions. All students are continuing to read and write simple sentences incorporating units they have mastered.

6th Grade

Religion—Mrs. Miron

We are continuing our Family Life curriculum and have gotten to Unit 3: The Gift of Life. Our focus is on how a baby grows in the womb, the care an expecting mother must take for herself and her baby, how family life can change once a baby comes, and how the family must care for a newborn. We also are discussing the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity we all have no matter how small. We will be watching the award-winning PBS NOVA special called "Life's Greatest Miracle." It is a phenomenal look into the womb as a baby grows and gives great insight into how conception happens and the changes a woman's body goes through as the baby grows.

ELA—Mrs. Rall

In sixth grade ELA, we are finishing *The Lightning Thief* and concluding our unit on the Hero's Journey. We are looking forward to an essay project following the novel study. Students have also been independently studying for spelling tests, as well as working through a self-paced grammar curriculum.

Social Studies—Mrs. Calhoun

We are wrapping up our unit on early civilizations and working on activities that relate developments in ancient social groups to modern society. Students will read two articles about how the U.S. deals with surplus grains and why we still have world hunger even with extra supplies. They will also work with a partner to design a civilization of the future that demonstrates the features of civilization as presented in our text. On Tuesday, November 19, there will be a summative assessment on Chapter 5, and students have received a study guide to help them prepare for this.

The Getting Yourself into History projects showed a broad range of historical interests. Thank you for help in helping students with their drawings and research.

Guidelines for how to present a current events report will also be reviewed in the near future. I appreciate any help you can provide to help students be aware of current events in politics, science, technology, or social issues in general.

Our next unit of study will be Mesopotamian culture and its major achievements, such as the development of writing.

Math—Mrs. Miron

We have started Unit 2: Number Operations with a concept that many students struggle with: multiplying, adding, and subtracting fractions. The students are seeing first hand how learning the GCF and LCM is needed in order to add and subtract fractions. The GCF is used for simplifying fractions, and the LCM is used to find like denominators. We will tackle dividing fractions next, and the students will be introduced to the concept of the reciprocal. Looking forward, we will apply these concepts to multi-step problems involving mixed numbers and fractions. The students will need to practice the underlying skills often to prepare for multi-step problem-solving.

Science—Mrs. Davis

All students should be working on their engineering/science fair projects. This week the background research was due. Most students have turned in their background research, however, a few have not or did not do it correctly. For those that need to still turn it in, please do so asap. For those who are fixing their mistakes, please also turn back in asap. Otherwise, students have been given the green light to move ahead and start their projects. Students should be building and/or testing their science projects. Data needs to be collected and for those that are building a project, a testing log needs to be kept. Our next turn in Date is Monday, December 2nd.

Sixth grade has been learning about convection currents. The warming up and cooling of air masses cause convection currents due to warm, less dense air rising and cooler more dense air sinking. This switching and movement of air masses, are convection currents. These convection currents are what causes the changes in our weather.

Spanish—Sra. DiNino

Students are continuing to learn Spanish grammar. Sixth graders are being introduced to subject pronouns. All students are continuing to read and write simple sentences incorporating units they have mastered.
