

St. Joseph's Middle School Newsletter

First Trimester
(Middle)
October 2018



Happy October!

It has been a busy start of the year in the Middle School! Our students enjoyed a great NET retreat, the 8th grade had a fabulous trip to Duluth, and we were able to participate in the Mass of the Holy Spirit with many students from around the Archdiocese. Everyone has settled into the routine of school and we are looking forward to a productive second half of the trimester!

History (Ms. Roettger)

It has been a busy start to the school year and crazy to think it is already mid-October. All subjects have at least had one test and some small projects. Overall, students are doing well.

8th Grade is currently studying our US Constitution and will be looking into their own political beliefs and opinions through discussion and a look at our first amendment rights.

7th Grade has just tested on the US and Canada and will be starting to look at Central and South American geography and culture. This should be very different than our unit on Canada and the U.S., which they know more about.

6th Grade has an upcoming test after MEA on Mesopotamia. This unit has connected a lot with religion so the students have some prior knowledge about the topics. Next we will be starting Ancient Egypt and going into the Maker Space for an Egyptian project.

Communication Skills (Mrs. Bruce)

We have had a great start to Communication Skills! The second half of the trimester will include:

Grammar: We will work with different types of nouns and verbs.

Writing: We will work on different types of narrative and explanatory writing.

Study Skills: We will focus on time management skills as well as learn how to distinguish a credible website from a non-credible website while researching. We are also working on improving keyboarding skills.

Literature (Mr. Schultz)

The sixth graders have begun their first novel of the year, Where the Red Fern Grows.

The seventh graders have begun Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, a novel set in the Deep South in the 1930s.

The eighth grade is currently sailing with Ulysses (Odysseus) in The Adventures of Ulysses.

The independent reading deadline for all grades is November 20.

Mrs. Bruce
Comm. Skills

Ms. Roettger
History

Ms. Schafer
Science

Mr. Schultz
Literature

Ms. Rowe
Religion

Ms. Muellerleile
Math

Science (Ms. Schafer)

It has been a busy start to the school year with students learning lab and Maker Space safety.

6th grade completed their first chapter test with success and we will be moving on to natural disasters: earthquakes and volcanoes. 6th grade will also start their first science/Maker Space project: building an earthquake-safe tower.

7th grade learned how to use and build a microscope to explore what cells look like. 7th grade will be building their own 3D cell to help learn all the organelles in a plant and animal cell.

8th grade started the chemistry unit on describing and measuring matter. 8th grade will soon start learning about the elements and starting their element research project.

Religion (Ms. Rowe)

6th Grade

Sixth graders are and will be studying the patriarchs of the Old Testament: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Noah. Students will discover the strengths and challenges that these folks encountered while being faithful to God.

7th Grade

Seventh graders will be completing Chapter 2 this week. Chapter 2 test will be Tuesday, October 23rd. Following will be discovery of the Blessed Trinity. Students will investigate ingredients of good relationships and how to live our faith through loving relationships.

Students will receive a copy of the Confirmation service form and learn how to use the parish bulletin to discover service opportunities.

8th Grade

Eighth graders are in the midst of exploring how we make moral choices. Forming our consciences is essential. Daily examination of conscience from St. Ignatius of Loyola: a) thanking God for his gifts, 2) asking God's help in facing truth about oneself, 3) reviewing actions of the day, 4) asking God for forgiveness for failing to respond to God's grace, and 5) resolving to cooperate with God's grace in the future.

Upcoming Dates

October 18th & 19th

No School
(MEA)

October 22nd

Picture Day

October 23rd & 25th

Conferences
(4:30-8:00)

October 30th

MS Halloween Party
(3:45-5:30)

November 8th & 9th

No School
(Professional Development)

November 13th

NET Night
(4:00-7:30)

November 21st, 22nd, 23rd

No School
(Thanksgiving Break)

November 27th

Picture Retake Day

November 30th

End of Trimester 1

Math (Ms. Muellerleile)

We have been learning a lot of new math concepts at every grade level.

6th grade will begin learning about ratios and rates before moving to expressions and equations.

7th grade is going to continue their study of the rational number system by working with integers. Students will learn how to add, subtract multiply and divide positive and negative numbers.

8th grade will complete a brief unit on scientific notation before moving to linear equations.

St. Joseph's Catholic School educates students through faith formation, academic excellence, and the development of virtues to be disciples of Christ.

