

St. Joseph's Middle School Newsletter

Second Trimester
(Middle)
February 2019



Winter Has Arrived!

The second half of the trimester has been interesting thanks to Mother Nature! We continue to be busy at school with academics, winter sports seasons beginning to wrap up, and rehearsals for the Middle School musical in full swing! While the weather has been challenging, we have been working hard and anticipate a successful end to the second trimester!

Communication Skills (Mrs. Bruce)

All grades have been busy and the end of the second trimester will include:

Grammar: 6th grade will work on the mechanics of writing as they prepare to write their Biography Fair papers. 7th & 8th grade will be working with adjectives and adverbs.

Writing: All grades are working on a writing piece to accompany their art project for the Night of the Arts.

History (Miss Roettger)

We are halfway through second semester! Students in all grade levels have had at least one test and probably some projects.

6th Grade Social Studies will be focusing on Ancient Greece and Rome before moving into more "recent" history.

7th Grade Geography has moved into Southwest Asia (Middle East). There is a lot of discussion about the current situations in places like Syria, Iraq, etc. Students will also be following Jesus's path through these countries as well.

8th Grade U.S. History is finishing up WWI and will be starting the roaring 20's and the Great Depression. This unit will be faster than some of the others we have covered.

Math (Ms. Muellerleile)

Every class has been working very hard on their algebraic skills this Trimester.

6th grade has been improving their skills on solving equations and graphing on the coordinate plane.

7th grade is working hard on solving multi-step equations and inequalities. They will soon be looking at proportions and proportional reasoning.

We have been hard at work looking at systems of equations and inequalities in 8th grade. Next we will look at linear and non-linear functions.

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Literature (Mr. Schultz)

The sixth graders are currently reading about Ernest Shackleton's amazing survival story in *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*. They are also continuing their research for the Biography Fair.

The seventh graders are finishing up *The Hobbit*, and will follow up with *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

The eighth graders have finished *Fahrenheit 451*, and are now working on writing extended metaphor poems.

The Independent Reading deadline for all grades is February 20th.

Upcoming Dates

February 12th
NET Night (4:00-7:30)

February 13th
Sixth Grade Retreat

February 18th
No School
(President's Day)

February 26th
Eighth Grade Confirmation Retreat
(4:00-9:00)

March 6th
Ash Wednesday

March 8th
End of Trimester 'Two

Religion (Ms. Rowe)

6th Grade

Sixth graders are continuing their studies of the Israelites, our ancestors in faith, on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. The students will compare the role Moses and Jesus in Scripture.

We will be investigating each aspect the Paschal Mystery as we approach the Lenten Season.

7th Grade

Seventh graders are studying Jesus as the Promised Messiah. Students will examine the Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah and its fulfillment. Studies will feature the exploration of Jesus's mission to proclaim the coming of God's Kingdom.

Seventh Grade retreat is rescheduled to **March 18th**. Its focus will be on Jesus, the Son of God.

Wednesday, Feb 13 begins the first Nicene Creed quiz. The prayer has been divided into 'chunks'. Basically one sentence at a time. These quizzes will occur each Wednesday until April 10th.

8th Grade

Eighth graders just completed the first of several Confirmation project, the saint research project. We will move into a review of who Jesus is (Lesson 5) and then the consideration of why be Catholic. (Lesson 6).

Students should be reviewing Confirmation guides to prepare themselves for their Confirmation interview in May.

Check Confirmation service experience form to be sure that student has completed all of the experiences or to make plans to complete service expectations. This form is due April 1, 2019.

Add to calendar::

Feb. 26 - Confirmation Retreat w/NET 4:00-9:00. It is a required event for candidate only.

Science (Ms. Schafer)

The 2nd trimester is just flying by!

6th grade has been busy learning about Earth's Changing Surface and how different elements of nature (wind, moving water, gravity, etc...) can transform the land. 6th grade will finish their 2nd textbook this week and work on a fun engineering challenge in the makerspace before moving on to Climate & Weather.

7th grade just completed their very first dissection (of a squid) with one more to go! In the words of some students, "This is the coolest thing ever!" 7th grade has started a massive animal unit that will conclude with building a "to-scale" model of an animal's zoo habitat and a field trip to the MN Zoo in May.

8th grade just learned how to draw Lewis Dot Diagrams, Bohr Models, balance Ionic Compounds, and draw Covalent Bonds. They are currently working on how to balance chemical equations. If you guessed it already, they are heavily learning about why elements and molecules react the way they do. 8th grade will wrap up the Chemistry unit with the 3rd annual Bake-Off in a couple of weeks! The 8th grade students will also partner up with Mr. Beaman to start the 3D models of baseball/football stadiums in the makerspace.