

St. Eugene School

Middle School News

From Mrs. Webster

Functions in Algebra One

My eighth graders are studying an introduction to functions. This chapter is an overview for much of what we will be studying for the rest of the year. Students need to understand about variables, types of functions, graphs and function rules. By the end of this chapter, every student should know how to create a complete graph from a given word problem including labels, units and intervals. All eighth graders have now started using www.ixl.com to help individualize their math instruction. Students who need help reviewing previously taught material will be using it for that while other students will use it to go ahead and explore new ideas. Although we will be using it at our Power Hours, students are welcome and encouraged to use it at home as well.

Digital Portfolios

Sixth graders created a Google websites to keep samples of their best work. Since so much of their work is electronic, a website gives students a way to preserve and share their projects. In addition to writing, they can include, pictures, presentations, movies and screenshots. These are private websites that cannot

be viewed by the public. They will also be using these websites to start a blog which they will add to each trimester. Seventh and eighth graders will continue adding to the digital portfolios they created last year.

Digital Life Presentations

The eighth graders are preparing presentations on five different topics about being responsible digital citizens. All students are including plagiarism as one of their topics and are choosing their other 4 topics. They also got to choose which presentation tool they would use. They will present their projects to 6th graders once they are finished. Ask your student about the topics he or she choose.

From Ms. Luangrath

Math Joke: What is an owl's favorite subject? Owlgebra!

Weekly IXL homework

Recently, the school started a year-long subscription to IXL, a great website (and app!) to practice math and for differentiation. Every student in middle school has a login, and teachers can

assign certain standards for students to work on. These standards could be below grade level, on grade level, or even above grade level. To fully utilize this great resource—and to make sure we are hitting all of our standards—classes will be given weekly IXL homework. On Monday, the students will be given two standards to practice. The goal is for them to reach a score of 90. They have until the following Sunday to reach this target score on both of their practices. The future due date allows students plenty of time to see me with questions if needed. You'll probably notice that if students get a problem wrong, it knocks their score down. This is a great tool as it forces students to slow down and think through their answer instead of rushing to get it done!

As a note: some standards might take some time to work through, so your student will be most successful if he/she works on it a little bit every night (even if only for 10 minutes or during commercials of their favorite TV show!).

6th Grade Math

The 6th graders wrapped up their blue belt training on long division and decimal operations. Now, we are trying to earn our black belts on fraction operations. With this knowledge, we'll be able to know how much of our ingredients we'll need next time we want to make a cake for 50 of our closest friends!

7th Grade Math

The 7th graders wrapped up their chapter on rates and decimal operations and have become Level 1 black belts! Now, we will take a final cumulative test on fractions, decimals, rates, and mean/median/mode/range. After that, we will try to earn our first green belt on factors and exponents.

Intro to Algebra

Yesterday, the 8th graders quizzed on percent applications to earn their Level 1 black belt. We covered topics such as finding percent of a number, tax, tip, commission, interest, markups, discounts, and percent change. Now, we are taking a cumulative test on solving equations and percent applications before moving on to inequalities!

Science Joke: When does it rain money? When there is a change in the weather!

6th Grade Science (Earth Science)

The 6th graders are wrapping up their chapter on Extreme Weather on Monday. We will then spend a day in the computer lab making sure our weather newscasts include all of the requirements before we share them. The next chapter we head into will be climate and factors that affect it.

7th & 8th Grade Science Fair: DATE CHANGE!

Two more weeks until the annual Science Fair! Just another reminder that the Science Fair has two important date changes: the Science Fair report is now due **Thursday November 16**, and the Science Fair is on **Friday November 17**. In class, we will be talking about what is needed in the report, so students will know what is expected as they start to write – which is hopefully soon!

7th Grade Science (Life Science)

The 7th graders started a new chapter on cellular respiration this week. We've looked at the equation behind cellular respiration, connected it to different systems in our bodies, and will run a lab involving respiration without oxygen (using yeast)!

8th Grade Science (Physical Science)

The 8th graders wrapped up their chapter on atomic theory earlier this week. Now, we are heading into the periodic table. We'll start with looking into the table and how it's set up. This will be good information to lead us into chemical reactions and chemical bonds later!

The 8th graders would also like to thank Mr. Paul Fleisch for coming into our classroom yesterday to show us some science demonstrations! Mr. Fleisch (father of Rose, James, and Ben) works at Marquette High School and was kind enough to come in and show us a lot of different demos. He talked to us about acids and bases, exothermic and endothermic reactions, showed us how much energy is in a piece of wood, and modeled how a cylinder in a car engine works – a class favorite due to the loud explosion! Have your student tell you what needed to happen in order to pop the top off the bottle! Thank you Mr. Fleisch!

From Mrs. Ricker

7th Grade Religion

Each 7th grade student is doing a research project on a Saint in honor of All Saints Day. The students will present information on their chosen saint in the coming days. Be sure to ask your child which Saint they chose.

We will be going on a retreat November 13. More information to follow Blessings!

From Mrs. Prendergast

6th Grade

This class is finishing the novel *Brian's Winter* and all the journaling that goes with it. We will then work in the computer lab to create hyper studio presentations on different survival skills. Each student will present his or her information to the class, and we'll all be better educated for emergencies. In LA we will finish the unit on nouns quickly, and hopefully the students can get one more essay in before Thanksgiving, but time is rapidly disappearing.

7th Grade

The 7th graders will be having their test on nouns very soon (I need to see how the last chapter went – they may need more work before the test) and then we can start one more writing piece before the end of the trimester. I'm amazed at how quickly this first trimester has flown by.

8th Grade

These students have finished their pumpkin stories, and now we are starting the pronoun unit. We will certainly finish this before Thanksgiving. In religion we are finishing chapter 4 and 5 in unit 1., and will then start a unit on prayer in a different book. We are reading Act 1 of *Our Town*. There are vocabulary words for each of the 3 acts, and the students will answer some in depth questions after each act. All answers to these questions are discussed after each act, so if the students are listening, they will have an easy time answering them.

