

St. Eugene School

Middle School News

From Mrs. Webster

Algebra One

While we are finishing the last chapter of our Algebra text which deals with rational functions, our main focus for the remainder of the year will be on checking to make sure we have retained previously learned skills. This will be by its very nature a very individualized endeavor. The goal is to get every student confident in their Algebra I skills and as prepared as possible for honors math classes in high school.

Students have begun their own review journals which are based on several assessments they have taken. When we find a skill that they have forgotten, they record it and practice it and then I reassess their mastery. It sounds pretty simple - and it is - but it also takes a good deal of initiative on their part. I have given them a number of suggestions for reviewing these skills, it is up to them to decide how they learn best and follow through. Feel free to ask your child to see their review journal and ask how they are plan to master these skills!

Business Fair

Business Fair projects should be keeping the 8th graders quite busy. Their entire computer projects, their 3D object, and final commercials are due by May 12. On May 18 and 19, they will present their finished projects to their classmates, Mrs. P and myself. Make sure you have May 25 on your calendar to come and see their work at our annual Business Fair.

Seventh Grade Geometry Skills

Seventh graders are using Geometer's Sketchpad software to explore some of their geometry standards. Students chose two 3D figures and created their nets. Using the software, students measured the needed dimensions and calculated the surface area and volume. The great part of this software is that it is dynamic. When students change the size of the figure, the measurements and calculations change automatically.

Help Needed - Junior Achievement Field Trip

I am still looking for one more parents who would be willing to accompany the seventh graders on our field trip on May

1 to Finance Park. Details are in a flyer in the Thursday folder. Students should also turn in their permission slips so I can get an exact count.

Global Awareness Book Trailers

The sixth graders are beginning to create book trailers for our library collection of books on global awareness. Students read their books and created video storyboards. Now they are busy combining a variety of different media to entice fellow students to read their chosen book. Students are using Final Cut Pro, which is professional level software, to edit their video. In Lit class, they will share their final videos with their classmates.

From Ms. Luangrath

Math Joke: What do you call a number that can't keep still? A roamin' numeral!

6th Grade Math

Tomorrow, the 6th graders wrap up their first chapter on geometry, where we've covered concepts such as angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, congruent and similar figures, and line symmetry—whew! Next, we'll stick with geometry and get into area and circumference of figures.

6th Grade BizTown – Chaperones needed!

Tomorrow is the day that students find out what job they have received! After spending the last two weeks applying for jobs and partaking in speed interviews, employment letters will be sent out tomorrow. We tried to place students in a job that they chose as their top three picks, but unfortunately with numbers, that might not have happened.

Regardless of what job they got, it will still be a great day for all! Starting next week then, we will work in our business teams to prep our business. Less than a month until we go!

Additionally, permission slips are due April 25th. At the time of this writing, we already have 3 chaperones, but are still in need of 1-2 more. See the volunteer form that was attached to the permission slip for more information.

7th Grade Math

The 7th graders quizzed on the second half of our geometry chapter yesterday that dealt with transformations of figures, and will now take a cumulative test on all things geometry so far. This includes: angle pairs, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, reflections, translations, dilations, and similar figures. After that, we'll stick with geometry and look at real numbers and right triangles—where we'll get into a little basic trigonometry!

Intro to Algebra

The 8th graders are cruising right along with quadratic functions. We went through the basics with quadratic functions and are now learning the different ways to solve quadratic equations. The cool thing is that we'll use some prior skills (graphing and factoring) as two methods to solving these! The last method will be to use the quadratic formula!

Science Pun: What do you call a cow with no legs? Ground beef!

6th Grade Science (Earth Science)

Earlier this week, the 6th graders wrapped up their chapter on where volcanoes form. Next, we're sticking with volcanoes and looking into the

effects of volcanoes—both positive and negative—and the different types of volcanoes. In addition, the 6th graders will have a volcano project that they will need to complete. More information will be presented next week in class.

7th Grade Science (Life Science)

Earlier this week, the 7th graders wrapped up their chapters on asexual and sexual reproduction. Next, we are sticking to the cellular level for one final time this year and learning about the cell cycle and mitosis. This information will be coupled with meiosis, as both processes are similar yet different in their own way.

7th and 8th grade trip to Chicago

Next week Wednesday is the annual Chicago field trip, and everyone is very excited! The policy on missing work is still in effect up until we go: students must have all work turned in for all classes in order to attend. The students are well aware of this as there has been a sign in my room for multiple weeks now. Please help stay on top of your child's work so he/she can come along on this wonderful opportunity!

8th Grade Science (Physical Science)

The First Annual 8th Grade Challenge was a success! The students came up with some really cool designs to land dice on a target on the gym floor. Some devices were extremely accurate, others were really powerful, and then some did well in practice, but faltered for the competition. Overall, job well done 8th graders! Tomorrow, we wrap up our chapter on forces and motion, and then we'll get into different types of energy, starting with potential and kinetic energy.

From Mrs. Prendergast

6th Grade

We read a Greek myth, and then the students worked in pairs on reading world myths and shared with the class the activities they worked on. Soon they will write a short myth of their own to explain an occurrence in nature. We won't start our next novel till after break.

They had a verb test today, so Friday we will start exercises for writing a persuasive essay that will concern the traits of a character in a short story.

7th Grade

This class is also writing a persuasive essay. They finished their test on prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections on Wednesday, so they we have already started exercises for thinking about persuasive writing. These essays will be turned into speeches when finished.

8th Grade

The 8th graders have been working on perfecting the Living Stations for next week. I hope you can come join us at 2:00 when they are presented to the school or at 6:00 in church when the parish is invited.

They are also working on their Business Fair commercials – all video is due the 13th. When we get back from break, we will work in the lab during LA class to put the commercials together. They are due May 5th. We will also be working on reviewing using different punctuation forms next week.

In Lit we have reached the interesting part about the trial. In groups the

students will be analyzing the evidence to come to their own conclusions. We should be finishing the book right after break.

From Mrs. Tulley

6th Grade Social Studies

We are finishing up our look at the glory of Ancient Greece. We've discussed the daily life of ancient Greeks, compared Athens and Sparta, and looked at the spread of Greek culture because of the conquests of Alexander the Great. Next we move on to the Roman Empire.

6th Grade Religion

The class is beginning their look at the story of Moses and how he led the Hebrews out of slavery. We'll also analyze how Jesus established a new covenant through the Eucharist and we will take a quick look at the Eastern Catholic Church.

7th Grade Social Studies

The class has finished their work on their mini projects about Latin America. They did a very nice job putting their project together and presenting it to their classmates. We have moved on to Europe and we are now taking a quick look at European geography.

7th Grade Literature

We are working on the chapter book *My Brother Sam is Dead*. This story is an historical fiction that deals with the story of Tim Meeker a young man with torn loyalties because his brother Sam is a patriot and his father is a loyalist during the Revolutionary War. This book does a wonderful job of showing Tim's conflicts about war itself and the tragic consequences for his family.

The book reports for the 3rd trimester

are a choice book, an adventure book, and a historical fiction book. The **choice book** will be presented as a **picCollage and is due April 13th**.

8th Grade Social Studies

The class continues to work on their study of World War II. They have looked at the development of fascism in Europe, militants in Japan, and the leaders of Germany and Italy. Next we will be discussing the concept of appeasement, the beginning of the war, and the early years of the war including the Battle of Britain.