

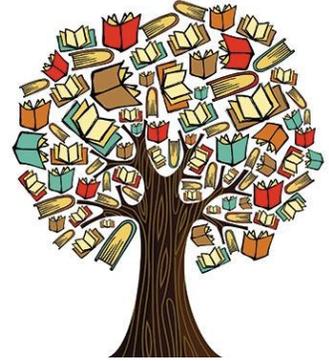
November



JR. HIGH ENGLISH, MATH, RELIGION,
SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES

From the desk of Mrs. Baine, Jr. High English Teacher Genre Studies Program

All grades have begun the 2nd genre of novels in our reading program. We are now reading Historical Fiction. Unlike Fantasy and Science Fiction, Historical Fiction novels are not always obvious, so I expect the students to have to put a little more effort into finding their novel. To be Historical Fiction it must take place in a time previous to the time the author wrote it. I always recommend using the public library, but the Book Fair will be here next week. Your students may find a book they like there.



6th Grade

We have finished our first novel of the year. As their final assessment, the students are working on a 3-paragraph essay about the protagonist's growth during the novel. They will go through several drafts, and we will work on peer-editing as well as self-editing over the next few weeks. Our time this month will be cut short because of Camp and Thanksgiving, so we are not starting any new units until after Thanksgiving. Our next unit will be short story. We will read several short stories, discuss the elements that make up a good story, and then they will write their own short story. We will also be moving to clauses and punctuation in our Grammar studies.

7th Grade

The students began reading their new novel, The Graveyard Book, at the end of October. As most of the novel takes place in a graveyard, we will be discussing how setting and mood intertwine as well as how the author uses Celtic Mythology as the basis for one of his characters. After Thanksgiving we will start focusing on essay writing, and the students will write a multi-paragraph essay about the novel. We will also be moving to clauses and punctuation in our Grammar studies.

8th Grade

Macbeth! Shakespeare! The Theatre! I am extremely excited to be starting Shakespeare's Macbeth with the 8th Graders. The play is action-packed and full of interesting characters; but it is also a morality play and addresses ambition, greed, and power. We will read the play in class, and the students will be reading the modern translations at home. Many of our activities will involve acting and drawing, and we will be viewing excerpts of the play in film, comparing the different films to the play and also to each other. We will also be moving to clauses and punctuation in our Grammar studies.

From the desk of Sr. Tarbytha, Jr. High Religion Teacher

"A saint is a sinner who keeps trying." -St. Josemaría Escrivá

In preparation for All Saints Day on November 1st, we have been focusing on the process of Canonization in the Catholic Church. As our example, we are learning about recently Canonized Saint Oscar Romero. We will finish up discussing saints during the first couple week of November. The students will also be presenting this Saint projects. You will be able to see them for yourselves when you come for your parent-teacher conferences.



From there, we will return to the Old Testament. We will move on from Abraham and learn about Isaac, Jacob and finally the 12 tribes of Israel.

From the desk of Sr. Anahyd, Jr. High Science Teacher

Hi Parents - The first quarter really flew by!



6th Grade: The 6th graders have officially finished learning about soil, soil conservation, and the different types of erosion and deposition that occurs as a result. We are now moving into studying Earth's interior, focusing on the specific characteristics of each level, the type of heat transfer, continental drift and Pangea. We will also be looking at the ocean floor, the theory of plate tectonics, the different forces in the Earth's crust and earthquakes and seismic waves.

7th Grade: The 7th graders have been learning about the cell theory, cell history and the different organelles, their functions and how cells divide via mitosis. This information is what will set the stage for understanding meiosis, genes, and overall inheritance. We will be studying the work of Gregor Mendel, learning about dominant and recessive alleles, using Punnett squares to determine heredity and will be creating our own family pedigrees. From there, we will study how our bodies create new proteins, how to use the genetic code and the effects mutations have the body.

8th Grade: the 8th graders have spent quite some time learning about atoms and the elements on the Periodic Table. We will be taking this information and will be going over how different elements on the periodic table bond (specifically using Electron Dot diagrams and Lewis Structures), and will also be looking at the types of bonds they form. From there, we will be taking a closer look at observing chemical changes by describing and controlling chemical reactions.