



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



### From the desk of Mrs. Baine, Jr. High English Teacher

#### Genre Studies Program:

The 7th and 8th graders finished up their 2nd genre studies novel last month (projects are posted around the room) and should now be looking into getting their next book → either a mystery or an adventure novel. The Mystery/Adventure novel will be due Feb. 1. The students have exactly 8 weeks per novel. The 6th graders are finishing their historical fiction novels over Christmas break, and their projects and assignments will be due Jan. 11. Since the 6th graders are reading one less novel this year, as they have 10 weeks per book, their next novel will be Biography. Because of African American Heritage Month and Women's History Month falling during this period, they must choose a biography about an African American or a woman, possibly both.

#### 6th Grade:

The students started reading their new novel, Fish in a Tree, over Christmas break. This novel shows the struggles a 6th grade girl has with school and how she learns to believe in herself. One of our themes will be persistence, that success is honestly just about not giving up. We will continue studying figurative language, poetry, plot, and writing. In our grammar studies, we will briefly study punctuation, and then we will start our full weekly practice of putting all the different concepts together.

#### 7th Grade:

The students will be finishing up The Graveyard Book this month and completing their long term essay assignment. Over the last month they've been building an essay paragraph by paragraph, editing each one as they add more. We will continue working on organization and structure, embedding quotes, and overall focus. Our next unit will be Holocaust novels and literature circles. The students will choose their novel in their assigned groups right after Christmas, so there is plenty of time to get what is needed. The 7th graders are the first class to complete the Daily Grammar Practice introduction, and we are ready to begin the full weekly program!

#### 8th Grade:

We've finished reading Macbeth! Before moving on to our literature circles, we will be looking at the play in more depth. We will focus on the themes of ambition and gender roles, and we will be incorporating poetry and non-fiction texts into our readings for comparison and deeper understanding. The students will also create and perform their own condensed 3-5 minute play and take a challenging Final Exam on the play. We will be starting up again with grammar, beginning with clauses and punctuation, and the goal is to be ready for the regular weekly program in February.

## From the desk of Mr. Jimenez, Jr. High Math Teacher

Dear Middle School Parents:

It has been a great first part of the year. So much work has been done by your children in the last four months and there is still so much more to do when we get back from Christmas Break. In the meantime, I hope the upcoming Christmas Season provides plenty of time for rest, family and reflection on the many ways in which Christ is present in our lives.



Please see below for a brief summary of where each class will be going in their math studies upon arriving back to school from break:

### 6th Grade

We will focus in on number theory and fractions. We will discuss prime factorization and greatest common factors before diving into writing fractions in simplest form. These skills will allow students to see where fractions are on the number line and order and compare them.

### 7th Grade

We will combine the skills we have acquired in solving two step algebraic equations with our recent review of fractions. That said, we will look at solving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations that contain fractions.

### 8th Grade

Right before school lets out, we will have concluded our discussion on inequalities. When the students come back from break, we will begin our our unit on Polynomials and Factoring.

Many blessings and safe travels during break.

## Religion

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

"In reality, truth is often feared because it is not known. Truth, exactly as Christ revealed it, is a guarantee of genuine and full freedom for the human person." - Pope Saint John Paul II

6th Grade - We will be moving forward through the history of Israel, going from Moses and the sin of the Golden Calf to the wandering of the Israelites in the desert for 40 years.

7th & 8th - So far, we have gone through the first five commandments. We will continue through the rest of the commandments starting the year off with the 6th Commandment. In order to more realistically prepare the students for discussing morality, we will be doing a Socratic Seminar on the 10 Commandments.

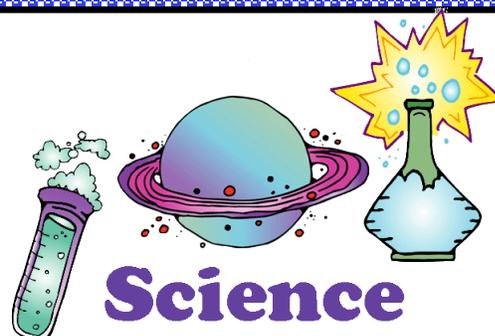


### From the desk of Sr. Anahyd, Jr. High Science Teacher

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: We will continue to study the Earth, focusing on the Earth's Crust and looking into the different types of stress along with the different types of faults. We will also study how the Earth's crust changes before we continue to learn about earthquakes and seismic waves.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: In January, we will continue looking into the world of human inheritance and will be studying the effects of specific alleles control certain genes (like colorblindness). We will also be studying human genetic disorders that arise and what causes them. We will be constructing our own family pedigrees while also looking into certain advancements in genetics along with genetic engineering.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: In January, we're going to be diving deeper into the world of chemical reactions, and observing chemical changes. We will be seeing how matter changes as a result of the bonding on both the physical and chemical level. We will be studying the different types of chemical reactions, and how to set up and balance their equations! We will also be looking at different factors that can both speed up and slow down reactions. We will then dive into the world of acids and bases.



### From the desk of Ms. Ashley, Jr. High Social Studies Teacher

Sixth Grade: So far we have covered ancient China - geography and history, Ancient India and Persian geography, Southern Asia - Hinduism and Buddhism. Mesoamerica Civilizations -geography, the Olmec, the Maya and Aztecs. Looking forward, we will be learning about the early peoples of South America, the geography and the Inca. The early North American peoples, the geography, the Southwestern peoples, the Mound Builders and the early Canadians.

Seventh Grade: We have covered China, Confucianism, the Ming Dynasty, Japan - Arts and culture and the growth of the military society. Presently, we are on the middle ages - the geography of Europe, the fall of Rome, feudalism, and manor life. We will move into the later Middle Ages exploring Popes and Kings, crusades, Christianity and the medieval society. We will look at - political and social change, and challenges to the church authority. The Renaissance - Italian and beyond Italy. The Reformation of Christianity, Protestant and Catholic Reformation and the effects of Reformation.

Eighth Grade: We have covered the English colonies - Southern and New England. Life in the English colonies and conflict in the colonies. The American revolution, Independence and patriots. Forming a government- confederation and the problems of the new nation. Presently, we are on citizenship and the Constitution, understanding of the Bill of Rights, the rights of the people and citizenship. Looking forward, we will go into - launching of the new nation, Washington's leadership, Hamilton and national finances, and the presidency of John Adams. We will then look at the Jefferson era - becoming the president, the Louisiana purchase, and the coming of the war of 1812. A new national identity, American foreign-policy, and nationalism in American culture.

