

february

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

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



Genre Studies Program:

On Feb. 1 Mystery/Adventure novels will be due for 7th and 8th grades. They have had the luxury of only reading one novel during this time, so ideally they used their time wisely. Their next genre will be Biography/Autobiography. The 7th graders will be reading biographies of women in recognition of Women's History Month in March, and the 8th graders will be reading biographies of African Americans as a preparation for

To Kill a Mockingbird as well as in recognition of African American History Month in February. The 6th graders have already begun their biographies and may choose between the two options. Instead of projects and tests, the 6th and 7th grade students will be making a powerpoint presentation of their person, and the 8th graders will be writing a research paper.

6th Grade:

The 6th graders are enjoying their new book A Fish in a Tree, and many of the characters, situations, and themes resonate with the students. In class we have been discussing character, figurative language, and analyzing the protagonist's mind movies. We will continue tracking these concepts throughout the novel, and we will also get a chance to listen to the audiobook and compare the experience between reading and listening. We will also read several nonfiction texts about dyslexia. They will begin a new essay this month, and they will continue with the weekly grammar program, adding some new concepts to each day.

7th Grade:

We are well into our unit on the Holocaust. Last week, the students created their reading calendars and chose their roles for their literature circles. We also read the Church's position on Catholic-Jewish relations and the importance of remembering the Holocaust, and this month the students will fully begin their literature circles. We will be looking at both the historical implication of the Holocaust while reading as well as literary elements, like point of view, narrator, figurative language, and character. I will show pictures and movie clips, and we will also read non-fiction articles written about the Holocaust as well as some Nazi documents to better understand how it happened. In grammar we will be adding new concepts to their weekly program.

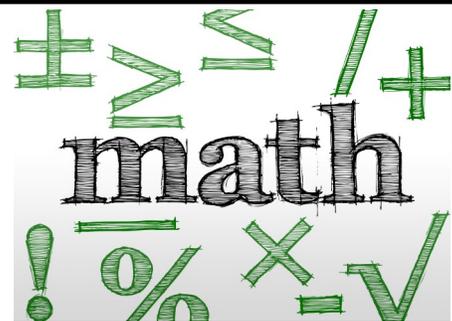
8th Grade:

We are wrapping up our unit on Macbeth and Shakespeare. Last week, the students performed condensed versions of the play that they wrote and staged together. Next week, they will be taking their Final Exam on the novel, and then we will be rolling right into literature circles with classic novels. The main focus of the unit will be reading strategies and close-reading, but in between meetings they will be reading and analyzing nonfiction texts and short stories. We will incorporate transitions into their next essays, and they will also be beginning the daily grammar program in full.

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

Hello Middle School Parents,

I hope the new year has been full of many blessings thus far. Please see below for a brief summary of what each grade will be up to in the coming weeks.



6th Grade

We will be finishing our discussion on rational numbers in coming week. After this, we will look at addition properties with fractions and mixed numbers. Students will estimate, then add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers. They will also evaluate expressions and solve equations with fractions.

7th Grade

Since finishing our review of fractions we have been discussing ratios, unit rate and unit cost, and solving proportions. In the next two weeks we will begin our new chapter on percent and consumer applications. Students will learn how to find simple and compound interest, calculate sales tax, discounts, sales prices and tips.

8th Grade

For the last week we have been introduced to polynomials. Specifically, we have identified different types of polynomials and learned how to multiply binomials and multiply monomials. We have also learned how to deal with special products such as the square of a binomial and the difference of two squares. In the coming weeks we will begin learning how to factor trinomials before beginning our chapter on linear functions and inequalities.

From the desk of Ms. Arabo, Jr. High Advanced Math Teacher

Advanced Math: We've begun the trial period for advanced math with the start of the 3rd Quarter! We've assessed where they're at and have jumped into interpreting, solving, adding and subtracting inequalities. Throughout February, we will continue and work through multiplying and dividing them as we make our way through this course.

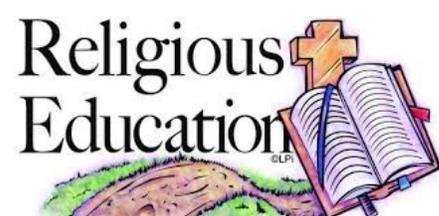


From the desk of Ms. Raban, Jr. High Religion Teacher

6th - We have spent a great deal of time learning about Moses.

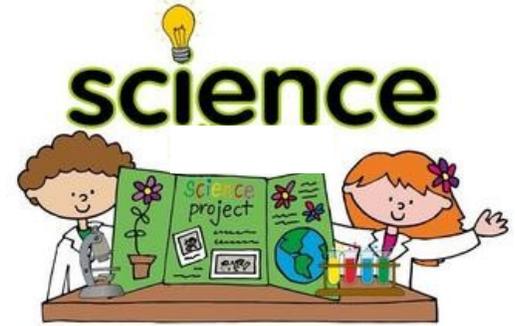
During the month of February, we will be completing a project about the life of Moses. We will then continue into the desert with the people of Israel.

7th & 8th - After spending weeks on the 10 Commandments, we will dive more deeply into the morality behind them in the month of February through different lectures, articles and projects.



From the desk of Ms. Arabo, Jr. High Science Teacher

8th Grade: In February, we'll be taking a deeper look into solutions, namely how to understand them, along with identifying the different components that make it up. We will then wrestle to understand the effects concentration and solubility have on solution, before making our way to acids and bases. After our visit with acids and bases, we'll step into the world of organic chemistry for a chapter as we study the properties of Carbon and how living organisms need it for survival.

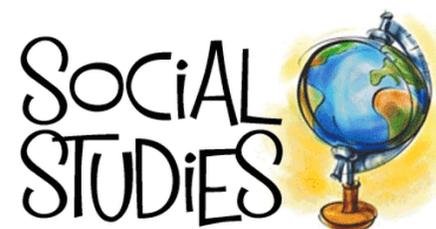


7th Grade: In February, we'll be transitioning from Mendelian genetics and human inheritance to evolution and how living organisms have changed over time. We will begin with scientists to aided in developing this theory, focusing on Jean – Baptiste de Lamarck to August Weisman to Charles Darwin. We will also be looking at the different evidence available, ranging from fossils to comparative anatomy among organisms. We will then discuss the evolution of different species and how organisms are classified using phylogenetic tree. With the discussion on evolution, I will also be explaining the stance of the Catholic Church and where she stands throughout this unit.

6th Grade: We've been working our way through Earthquakes – what they are, how they're monitored, the potential damaged that could be caused by one and how to stay safe in the event of one. From there, we'll be switching gears and diving into volcanos! We will be learning about the relationship between volcanos and plate tectonics, how and why they erupt, and volcanic landforms. The 6th graders will be doing a volcano-related project during the month of February, which we're all excited about!

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

Cumulative Work Folders will come home at the end of the month.



Sixth Grade: So far we have covered 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. Looking forward, we will be learning about Ancient Greece from geography to Alexander the Great, and Ancient Rome the rise and fall.

Seventh Grade: We have covered Christianity and the medieval society. We looked at - political and social change, and challenges to the church authority. We will now look at The Renaissance - Italian and beyond Italy. The Reformation of Christianity, Protestant and Catholic Reformation and the effects of Reformation.

Eighth Grade: We have covered - launching of the new nation, Washington's leadership, Hamilton and national finances, and the presidency of John Adams, the Constitution, understanding of the Bill of Rights, the rights of the people and citizenship. We will look at the THE NEW REPUBLIC — Jefferson era - becoming the president, the Louisiana purchase, and the coming of the war of 1812. A New National Identity - American foreign policy and American culture.