



**Charlottesville  
Catholic School**  
*Christ Community Scholars*

# Charlottesville Catholic School

## Friday Newsletter

### Middle School

- **Important: MASS changes to Tuesdays, starting February 7th.**
- It is imperative that your child comes to school in proper outerwear for recess. Coats, hats, and gloves are required for the winter months.
- Monday, January 30th, Reed Golomb and Patrick Drury will meet with our middle school to discuss positive leaders and role models. We will also be addressing this within our Advisory Groups.

Charlottesville Catholic School's Science Fair is just around the corner (Thursday, February 2), and Mr. Bruscia is in need of many volunteer judges! Please contact Mr. Bruscia ([m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org)). We want this to be a great experience for our students, so please help us out!

All middle school students are invited to join our choir for mass on Thursdays, from this week on. They need to arrive around 7:45 AM to practice for Mass and can receive in-school service hours if they help in chorus. I would love more middle schoolers to join us in choir during mass! Thank you so much!  
Kate Wisbey

Next week is Catholic Schools Week. Here are some highlights:

1. All next week, we will be having a food drive to collect canned food for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
2. All next week, we will be collecting change for the Alyssa House. The Alyssa House offers housing to families with a child at UVA Children's Hospital. This video shares a little more about the organization: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mykZR4MRCWY>. Please send in coins as a way to show support. Blue and Gold collection bins will be in the hallways.
3. Monday, January 30th, students may wear a shirt from another local group or organization (i.e...youth group, scouts, local sports team, local business, UVA). School uniform bottoms and shoes are required
4. Tuesday, January 31st is a free dress day for students. (No shorts)
5. Wednesday, February 1st is a Red, White, and Blue TAG day to celebrate our Nation.
6. Thursday, February 2nd is Formal Dress because it is our last MASS on a Thursday (we shift to Tuesdays starting February 7th). Science Fair is Thursday pm from 4:30-6:00pm. Details below.

## 7. Friday, February 3rd, is a Blue/Gold Day

USTEP (University Student Taught Engineering Program) is a wonderful STEM opportunity and has a deadline registration of Saturday, February 11th at 5 PM. They still have plenty of spots open, so please encourage your 6th - 8th graders to apply for this fantastic opportunity. USTEP is a fun-filled educational outreach program run by the Society of Women Engineers at UVA to serve middle school students throughout Virginia. Students will be able to have a one-of-a-kind experience taking classes taught by passionate UVA Engineering students. USTEP will be held in person on Sunday, February 26th at the UVA campus in Charlottesville, VA. More information about the event and the link to the application can all be found on their [website](#). Additionally, we have hyperlinked the [registration link](#), [an informational sheet](#), and a [detailed course catalog](#). Please contact the following people if you have any questions or concerns:

[Alysha Akhtar](#) & [Katie Chandler](#) (SWE at UVA - USTEP Co-Chairs)

### **Battle of the Books**

Does your child love to read and compete? St. Edward-Epiphany will be hosting a Battle of the Books this spring. They are hoping to have it on Friday, April 28. We are hoping to have a team for grades 3-5 and a team for grades 6-8. Each team will consist of four to six students. Students would take responsibility for reading books from a [list](#) and then compete in a Family Feud-style competition with students from other schools. If your child would like to compete, please reach out to Mrs. DeVane at [l.devane@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:l.devane@cvillecatholic.org). She will organize which books each student will read and coordinate for the competition day.

*If you would like to volunteer to work with students at CCS, or chaperone field trips, you need to be VIRTUS-trained. The next VIRTUS training session will be Saturday, January 28, at the CCS Library from 1:00-4:00. Capacity is limited to 30 people. You may register at [https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg\\_list2.cfm?theme=0](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theme=0)*

If you are interested/able, here is the sign-up genius, for a service opportunity, which involves baking for First Presbyterian's Soup Kitchen:

[Sign-up for First Presbyterian](#)

## Social Studies - [r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th: This week the 6th graders finished their unit on the Post-Civil War Era. Next week they will begin exploring the Gilded Age.

7th: This week the 7th graders began learning about the 1950s. Next they will continue this unit with a discussion of the early Cold War.

8th: This week the 8th graders wrote an essay about the Mongol Empire and began their unit on the Tang Dynasty of China. Next week they will learn about Feudal Japan and then take their unit test on Friday.



**Mathematics** - [j.garland@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:j.garland@cvillecatholic.org) & [j.reid@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:j.reid@cvillecatholic.org)

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Math 6 (Garland): This past week, we tested out on our Proportional Relationships unit. This coming week, we will start a new unit, entitled, "Expressions and Properties", which really starts laying the foundation of Pre-Algebraic skills. We will revisit the skill of GEMDAS

(order of operations) as we start to substitute values for variables and evaluate expressions.

Pre-Algebra (Garland): At the end of last week, we assessed our Angle solving skills. This coming week, we will get into solving triangles, with a focus on Right Triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will be reminded that when they solve square roots in Algebra, we focus on two possible solutions, however in contrast, when we work in Geometry, we focus only on the positive solution.(distance is always a positive value). Emphasis will be placed on drawing diagrams/labeling them correctly from word problems to help set up equations to solve.

Geometry (Garland): This past week, we investigated midsegments of trapezoids. Next week we will practice this skill, which finalizes our unit on Quadrilaterals. We will take a Socrative Quiz and SOL Practice on Quadrilaterals on January 31st and February 2nd. I plan on testing on February 3rd.

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we took our test on Number Sense and started doing some algebraic work by creating our Operations Word List and using it to translate words into algebraic expressions. If you want a good giggle (and see learning in action), ask your child to give you a dramatic reading off of their homework 😊 We have had so much fun this week and learned a lot! Next week, we will continue to work with expressions by evaluating them and starting to simplify them.

Algebra (Reid): This past week we have worked more with finding equations of lines (both parallel and perpendicular). Next week, we will finish equations of lines with line of best fit and use it to make predictions. I will also introduce their Mountain Range Project which will blend math and art 😊 We will test on Equations of Lines on Thursday, February 9th.

## Composition, Literature, and Language

Arts—[e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org) & [l.lowdon@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:l.lowdon@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan):

6th Grade Literature (Kerrigan):

7th Language Arts (Lowdon): The next IRA is due Feb. 14. Students are to read the remainder of Chapter 1 (*Red Pony*) for Monday. If they are confused, they may listen to it. We will begin Wordly Wise lesson 5 on Monday. There are grammar slides on coordinating conjunctions in Google classroom. We will practice identifying and diagramming these next week. The date for the quiz will be announced.

8th Language Arts (Lowdon): The next IRA is due Feb. 14. On Monday we will finish watching the movie version of a play by Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*. There is a Wordly Wise test on lesson 4 on block day. I will be conferencing with each student on his/her writing, now that the rough drafts of the fictional adaptations of *Lord of the Flies* have been completed.

## Religion– [l.devane@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:l.devane@cvillecatholic.org), [v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org), [h.bryan@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:h.bryan@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th (DeVane): This week we focused on the story of Moses. They also took their quiz on Chapter A (The Patriarchs). Next week, we will finish talking about Moses and take a quiz. We will also have a Catholic Bee as part of Catholic Schools Week and start talking about Joshua.

7th (Fallica): We had a great week reading and discussing our chapter on the structure of the Catholic Church. We focused on Matthew 28: 16-20 and the Great Commission. The Great Commission is when Jesus told his Apostles they must go out and teach others; make them disciples and baptize them. We will have a Chapter 23 quiz on Monday. Additionally, we will be reading The Winged Watchman by Hilda van Stockum over the next several weeks. This beautiful novel is about a Catholic family and their faith in God during the German occupation of Holland.

8th (Bryan): To prepare for their Church project, students continue to study architectural styles and are beginning to sketch their designs. We will be studying Christian Morality and Social Justice for the next few weeks, beginning with a closer look at what Jesus teaches in the Beatitudes. We learned about C.S. Lewis and began to learn the vocabulary for *The Screwtape Letters*, which we will be reading in class. Feel free to purchase the book for your student if they'd like a copy. In class, we'll be using the digital/audio version from Learning Ally.

Learning Ally - [read.learningally.org](http://read.learningally.org) - An online library resource with Read Aloud Book options, and can be accessed at home at no additional cost to you.

Username - For example - [h.bryan@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:h.bryan@cvillecatholic.org) (Student email)

Password - For example - catholic1234 (catholic + last 4 of Student ID)

## Science– [m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org)

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Charlottesville Catholic School Science Fair is around the corner and will be an open-house event. All are welcome. Bring your students from 4:30-6:00 pm on Thursday, February 2. Middle school students will have their projects on display throughout the school and will describe their research to you and the judges. We are offering a study hall for students that need to stay until the event starts. Please plan to pick up your student at 6pm. Recommended dress is professional attire. Students may stay in uniforms but are welcome to change.

6th: This week we continued to explore plants. We dissected flowers and seeds and observed pollen with the microscopes. Next week we will start exploring the animal kingdom following the science fair.



7th: This week we started physics and explored motion. We tested and experimented with our running skills and compared our speed with Usain Bolt's World Record time. We also look at speed as slope on a distance vs time graph. Next week after the science fair we will continue with motion and experiment with acceleration.

8th: This week we started geologic time. We discussed superposition and the difference between eons and epochs. Next week after the science fair we will start to research periods in time and the fossil record.

## Spanish—[j.osteen@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:j.osteen@cvillecatholic.org)

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7th and 8th: Last week we worked on clothing and Friday we did relay races! The students were told an article of clothing in Spanish and had to go find it before racing back and tagging the next teammate. We had a lot of fun practicing clothes and making some crazy outfits!

This week students kept practicing clothing and worked on noun adjective agreement. For example: "Pantalones rojos" are red pants. Rojo is the color red, but we have to make it plural so it agrees with pantalones since pants is a plural word.

This week students had a quiz on clothing and turned in their paper doll project. We then started on rooms of the house and objects of the house!

Next week students will learn how to describe the location of an item and will practice describing different rooms. This will work on rooms of the house, objects, location, and noun and adjective agreement!

The students are learning a lot and doing a great job talking about a variety of topics. I encourage you to ask your student what they have been up to in Spanish and have them speak a bit for you! It is truly amazing what they all have accomplished so far this year!

