



**Charlottesville
Catholic School**
Christ Community Scholars

Charlottesville Catholic School

Friday Newsletter

Middle School

December 1st, 2023

- Please note that we will NOT have Mass on Tuesday, December 5. Instead, Mass will be on Friday, December 8 for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Students do not need to wear their formal dress uniforms on Tuesday, December 5.
- Help Wanted! Spend Quality Time with Jesus (12/5) This Tuesday, December 5th, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during our day of Reconciliation for students to pray with and spend time with Jesus. However, Jesus cannot be left alone! Please consider setting aside an hour of your time and signing-up to come and pray with our Lord in the CCS Chapel. We also are in need of volunteers who can help walk students from the confessional spaces in the school to the chapel. Each opportunity is available in one hour increments. Sign up using the [LINK HERE](#). Please contact Megan Pearing, Religion Coordinator, with any questions. m.pearing@cvillecatholic.org
- Even though the weather is turning colder, we will continue to get the students outside for recess as often as possible. Please make sure your child has the outerwear needed so that they can participate in recess. Below are the guidelines we follow:
 - Students should stay inside if the wind-chill factor is below 25°F.
 - If the wind-chill is in the 30s, students should have a coat (not a sweatshirt) and it should be encouraged that their heads are covered (hat or cinched coat/sweatshirt hood).
 - If the wind-chill is in the 40s, students should at least have a sweatshirt on.
 - **Students who do not have the proper outerwear will sit in the front office for recess.**

- **Our next Middle School FANS event will be on Tuesday, December 19th. Permission slips were sent home to students this past week and are due on December 8th, to your child's homeroom teacher. We will need to have parent drivers, so please consider volunteering. An email was also sent out to parents with the permission form attached.**
- **Middle School Midterm Exams will be on Thursday(12/14), Friday (12/15), and Monday (12/18)**
- Join the Fun! Camp4Real Kids Night Out is Coming to Charlottesville Catholic on Dec. 15! Kids Night Out (KNO) is a three-hour drop-off event featuring a catered dinner and an exciting lineup of engaging P.E.-style games and activities for children in kindergarten through 6th grade! Family fun with an impact! Camp4Real is proud to support the CCS community and will donate a portion of the event proceeds right back to our school! Discounted early registration is now open! [Click here](#) to learn more and snag your child's spot!

Social Studies - r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week the 6th graders finished their US government unit. On Monday they will take their US government unit test.

7th: This week the 7th graders learned about the US entrance into World War 2. Next week they will explore US involvement in the war and its impact on the people on the homefront.

8th: This week the 8th graders learned about the rise of the Roman Republic and the Punic Wars. Next they will explore the life of Julius Caesar and the transition of Rome from a republic to an empire.



Mathematics - j.garland@cvillecatholic.org & j.reid@cvillecatholic.org

Math 6 (Garland): This past week, the students tested their math skills on all decimal operations. This coming week, we will test out on our Rational Numbers unit (fractions and decimals) and then focus on preparing for the midterm exam.

Pre-Algebra (Garland): We are still continuing to work on setting up and solving Algebraic Word Problems. I plan on quizzing on this skill this coming Friday and then we will focus on reviewing for the midterm exam.

Geometry (Garland): This past week, we put the finishing touches on our Triangles and Polygon unit. This coming week we will review and test these skills during our block day on Thursday. We will then start reviewing for our midterm exam.

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we completed our unit on fractions. On the block day, kids got their test review for the 2nd test of the quarter on fractions & their operations and we reviewed together on Friday in class. The Test on Fractions & Their Operations will be on Monday, November 4th. I also emailed every family this week encouraging you all to talk to your children about their progress on the Math 7 Exam Review - 1st Semester. This is due Monday, December 11th at the beginning of class. This assignment will not be accepted incomplete or late. It is a 25 point homework assignment weighted twice in the gradebook. Next week, after the test, we will start our unit on decimals.

Algebra (Reid): This past week we started to write the equations of lines given different pieces of information and learned how to transform an equation from standard to slope-intercept form. We will have our 2nd test of the quarter on graphing & finding the equation of a line on the block day next week. This will stop the new material before we take our 1st semester exams. I also emailed every family this week encouraging you all to talk to your children about their progress on the Algebra 1 Exam Review - 1st Semester. This is due Monday, December 11th at the beginning of class. This assignment will not be accepted incomplete or late. It is a 25 point homework assignment weighted twice in the gradebook.

Composition, Literature, and Language Arts - r.hernandez@cvillecatholic.org & e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org

6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan): This week, students studied compound subjects and predicates and how to diagram them. We also wrapped up lesson 9 of *Vocabulary Power Plus*, which is the last new set of vocabulary words prior to the midterm. Next week will be a review week for lessons 7-9, with a test on Friday.

On Monday, students will be receiving their midterm study packet, which is due the following Monday, Dec. 11. They should be working on it a little bit each day, and no late assignments will be accepted.

6th Grade Literature (Hernandez): This week, students submitted their third IRA and we finished our study of *A Long Way from Chicago*. Next week, we will start reading Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet*, which will carry us into midterm exam review.

7th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, students submitted their third IRA and we continued our study of Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Some students presented their background research on topics relating to the novel. Next week, we will continue with Orwell and *Animal Farm*, which will carry us into grammar review and the midterm exam.

8th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, students submitted their third IRA and we began our study of Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken*. Next week, we will continue with *Unbroken* and read and analyze Hillenbrand's award-winning personal essay, "A Sudden Illness." This will carry us into midterm exam review.

Theology– d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org & v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org & h.bryan@cvillecatholic.org

6th(Mehl): This week we started studying the Patriarchs more closely by doing select readings from the book of Genesis on Abraham. In preparation for Advent, we took a careful look at the readings for this Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent. In particular we discussed the various ways in which we are waiting for Christ. Next week we will continue to read about the Patriarchs. As the midterm exam approaches, we will also focus more and more on our preparation and review for it.

7th(Mehl): This week we studied Chapter 24 of Catholic Connections, the topic of which is “End Things: Heaven and Hell.” We also started taking a closer look at the Gospel of Luke, doing readings that show Jesus’ particular concern for the poor, the sinners, and the outcasts. We will continue to read from this Gospel next week. An ongoing focus for us has been putting Salvation History and learning the books of the Bible in order, beginning in the Old Testament. This week we did more work in this regard. In preparation for Advent, we took a careful look at the readings for this Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent. In particular we discussed the various ways in which we are waiting for Christ. As the midterm exam approaches, we will focus more and more on our preparation and review for it.

8th(Fallica and Bryan): On Monday, students visited with Father Walter at St. Thomas Aquinas to learn the purpose and meaning of many items in the Church. In class, we continued our walk through ACTS, learning more about how the spread of false teachings like Arianism led to the creation of the Nicene Creed. Students will take a quiz on the Church Fathers on Monday and continue their map projects in class next week.

Science– m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week students concluded the work on Genetics, Heredity and Mutations. We extracted DNA from Wheat Germ during the lab this week and discussed the role of wheat in global food production. Next week we will dive deep into Taxonomy and the various characteristics that are utilized in the classification system.

7th: This week we discussed and practiced balancing chemical equations. We used plus to represent elements and atoms and learned techniques to align chemical equations with the rules of The Law of Conservation of Mass. We also experimented with a single replacement reaction to produce copper. Next week we will investigate the 5 chemical reactions and experiment with these reactions.

8th: This week we finished our unit on Plate tectonics and started the conversation about weathering and erosion and how these processes lead to various landforms. During our lab this week we used graham crackers and pudding to model the various plate boundaries and used our homemade playdough to model landforms to visualize how they change over time due to weathering. Next week we will focus on Volcanoes and Earthquakes.

6th(DeMaio): This week the 6th grade students learned about adjectives. Its definition, function and general grammatical rules when using them in spoken and written language.

For example: Adjectives that end in **o** drop the final **o** and add a **a** after a feminine noun.

Example: el niño mexicano la niña mexicana

In Spanish, most adjectives come after the noun.

Examples: el gato negro = the black cat

la vaca gigante = the giant cow

The students also did activities in which they had to identify which adjective was in the correct position in a sentence and change adjectives to modify the noun.

7th(DeMaio): The 7th grade students have finished with the topic ¿Qué hora es?= What time is it? and they have started the topic ¿Qué te gusta hacer? What do you like to do? They are learning new vocabulary related to activities they like or don't like to do. Grammar: Indefinite verbs (ar,er, or, ir)

Next Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th they will have their oral exam. All the information regarding the topic of study is found in the Google Classroom. Their written exam will be on December 14. Next week: Negatives, expressing agreement or disagreement.

8th(Mehl): This week we looked at the material from this semester that will be on the midterm exam. We completed the fourth episode of our video series, ¿Eres tú, María? We also talked about demonstrative adjectives. Next week we will continue with demonstratives. Soon we will start studying the preterite tense, one of the primary past tenses. As the midterm exam approaches, we will focus more and more on our preparation and review for it.