



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

# Charlottesville Catholic School

## Friday Newsletter

### Middle School

## February 2nd, 2024

We concluded Catholic Schools week at CCS by having an awesome Catholic Bee and Faith Rally. It was truly awesome to see all of the students embracing their love of Christ through their knowledge and song.

Kudos to all of the middle school students AND Mr. Bruscia for a wonderful science fair!!

The Knights of Columbus host Friday Lenten Soups at Saint Thomas Aquinas during Lent. Please sign up and help out. Making soup is two hours of service for Church or Community. Staying to serve at the Church is another two hours for Church or Community.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49AFAF2CA75-47374580-friday>

**Students who serve soup must be in their CCS uniform. (formal or everyday)**

This spring at Charlottesville Catholic School we will be offering a variety of after-school clubs. Below you will find some information on the offerings. Each CCS staff-led club will cost \$175.00 per student. The cost will go towards supplies and compensation for teachers. Please read about the clubs below and contact the instructor directly if you are interested in signing up or have further questions. Payment for the clubs will be billed through FACTS.

[Spring 2024 Archangel Clubs](#)

Service for the entire family: Below, you will find a link to volunteer for the Mexican Fiesta, which is on February 13th:

[Mexican Fiestas Sign Up Genius](#)

Please note there are slots for parents as well as students. Students, this would be a great way to get a jump on hours for your service logs!! If you have follow up questions, please get back in touch with Lisa Schuetz, our director of development. Have a wonderful rest of your afternoon and thank you so much for considering!!

The Society of Women Engineers at the University of Virginia invites middle school students to register for our **USTEP (University Student Taught Engineering**

**Program)** held on Sunday, February 25th, 2024. 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 have a one-of-a-kind experience taking classes taught by passionate UVA Engineering students in a fun and stress-free environment. Participants register for 50-minute STEM classes and take three of them in the day. USTEP will be held in person on **Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** (~9:30AM to 1:30 PM) at the UVA campus in Charlottesville, VA. More information about the event and the link to the application can all be found on our website: [www.virginiaswe.org/ustep](http://www.virginiaswe.org/ustep). Additionally, we have attached the application link, an [informational flyer](#), and a detailed [course catalog](#). The registration deadline for USTEP (University Student Taught Engineering Program) is **Sunday, February 4th at 11:59 PM**. Follow up questions/concerns may be emailed directly to: Sallie Lumpkin ([dzj2ve@virginia.edu](mailto:dzj2ve@virginia.edu)) & Morgan Carr ([nwu2pc@virginia.edu](mailto:nwu2pc@virginia.edu))  
SWE at UVA - USTEP Co-Chairs

Registration Link: [https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8B5Fqj27Ke8dOC2](https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8B5Fqj27Ke8dOC2)

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.**

Church (or community) service opportunity! Baking muffins for Saint Thomas Aquinas! You may earn 1 hour per dozen of muffins you bake. Muffins may be dropped off at STA's kitchen (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, to the right of St Thomas Parish Hall) on Saturday from 0830-6:00 pm or for Sunday Mass at 07:30, 9:00 or 11:30. A label describing the flavor would be helpful. We are most grateful for all contributions and look forward to baking with you!

You must sign up at <https://stauva.flocknote.com/signup/149340>

### **Spring Service Opportunity:**

Please consider signing up your child/children to work morning carline for one week. Students should be dropped off at 7:40 at the front lobby. It can count toward school service hours.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44ACAA2DA31-46668632-middle>

**Model United Nations** (MUN) is a simulation exercise where participants represent individual nations and collaborate to find solutions to issues of global importance, much like the actual UN. The activity involves researching the position of the given nation, giving speeches to convince others of that position, and writing legislation with other participants. Each year, IRO runs the

Virginia Intergenerational Model United Nations (VIGMUN) Conference, which invites individuals of all ages (from middle schoolers to octogenarians) to UVA to participate in a MUN simulation. More information and registration links can be found at <https://vigmun.squarespace.com/>.

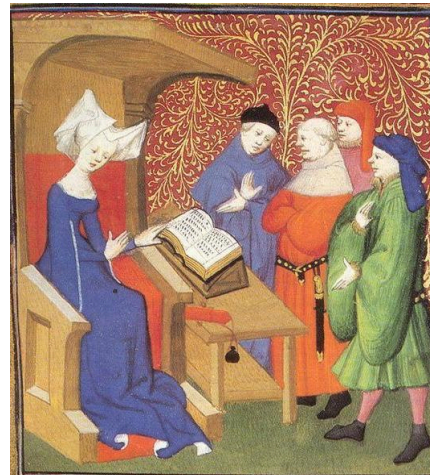
## Social Studies - [r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th: This week the 6th graders began learning about the rise in immigration and the growth of cities. Next week they will have their test on the post civil war era from Reconstruction, through westward expansion all the way to the growth of immigration.

7th: This week the 7th graders began learning about the early Cold War and the Berlin Airlift. Next week they will explore the Civil Right Movement of the 1950s.

8th: This week the 8th graders learned about the Islamic culture and the early caliphates. Next week they will learn about the Middle Ages in Europe and decide if it really deserves to be called a "dark age."



## 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 continuously worked on evaluating expressions using Order of Operations. Parenthesis were emphasized as a means to really help students focus on substituting integers. This coming week, we will work on translating phrases from English to math expressions. I plan on assessing the students' knowledge of this information with a quiz on Friday, February 9th.

Pre-Algebra (Garland): We are taking a deeper dive in our knowledge of the Pythagorean Theorem. Students are becoming more in charge of setting up their own right triangle diagrams, based on word problem scenarios. This coming Friday, February 9th, I am assigning a project where students have to create and solve their own real-life Pythagorean Theorem Word Problems. They will use the equation editor within Google Classroom to produce a polished project, modeled with diagrams clearly showing a labeled right triangle used to solve their problem, which will be due on the 14th.

Geometry (Garland): This past week, we investigated diagonals of rectangles, rhombuses, trapezoids, and kites. This coming week, we will finish the last part of our unit on Quadrilaterals by looking at midsegments. I plan on testing the students on their Quadrilateral Knowledge on Friday, February 9th.

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we completed our unit on Decimal Operations, Scientific Notation and Comparing Numbers in Various Forms. The kids will get their test review on Monday and their 1st test of the 3rd quarter will be on their block day next week either

Wednesday, February 7th or Thursday, February 8th. Our next unit will be on solving equations and inequalities.

Algebra (Reid): This past week we completed our unit on Writing Equations of Lines and Functions. The kids will get their test review on Monday and their 1st test of the 3rd quarter will be on their block day either Wednesday, February 7th or Thursday, February 8th. Our next unit will be on solving systems of linear equations & inequalities.

## Composition, Literature, and Language Arts - [r.hernandez@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:r.hernandez@cvillecatholic.org) & [e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan): This week we wrapped up our unit on pronouns. Next week, we will go back to *Vocabulary Power Plus*, with lesson 12, and begin our verb studies.

6th Grade Literature (Hernandez): This week we finished reading *Hatchet* and began working on the project. The project is due on Monday. I am already seeing many amazing posters and dioramas and descriptive writing. Next week, we will test on the novel. Please help your 6th grader to prepare for the test. (I will provide a study guide on Google Classroom.) Looking ahead, our next IRA is due on Tuesday the 13th of February.

7th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, we read and analyzed "The Black Cat" by Edgar Allan Poe. We started working on "The Tell-Tale Heart" and will compare the two stories next week. We will also continue with our grammar review focusing on adjectives and pronouns. Looking ahead, our next IRA is due on Tuesday the 13th of February.

8th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, we continued with Part 3 of *Unbroken*. We reflected in our journals and discussed how Louie's faith helped him to survive the harrowing experience on the raft. We also did another short grammar review. We will continue with Part 4 next week. Looking ahead, our next IRA is due on Tuesday the 13th of February.

## Theology— [d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:d.mehl@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(Mehl): This week we completed Chapter 10 of *Catholic Connections*, which is on the Prophets. We did an animated video and Bible study of the early life of Moses. This will be an ongoing activity, as we work to understand the life of Moses and the Exodus from Egypt in greater detail. The Sunday readings allowed us to discuss the way in which, through faith, we come to understand how bad things can happen to good people. Our next assessment will be on Chapters 8 and 10 of *Catholic Connections*. I have created a Quizlet set for Chapter 8 and will create one for Chapter 10 as well. I also encourage the students to spend time studying the *Memorare* prayer in the Quizlet set I've created for that.

7th(Mehl): This week we completed Chapter 26 of *Catholic Connections*, which explores how our liturgy and worship can be traced back in the Bible. We also began studying the Jewish feasts that are outlined in Chapter 23 of Leviticus. The students worked in groups to discover facts related to the feasts and will present these to the class. The Sunday readings

allowed us to discuss the way in which, through faith, we come to understand how bad things can happen to good people. Our next assessment will be on Chapters 25 and 26 of *Catholic Connections*. I have created a Quizlet set for Chapter 25 and will create one for Chapter 26 as well. I also encourage the students to spend time studying the *Anima Christi* prayer in the Quizlet set I've created for that.

8th (Fallica and Bryan): Students should be applauded for their hard work in learning about the Middle Ages in Church History. Students will take a test on Monday and Tuesday and will begin a new unit on renewal and growth in the Church. On Friday, they took a quiz on vocabulary and participated in a Faith Rally with their faith buddies. There was also our second annual Catholic Bee! It was a very enjoyable day!

Church Project Reminders:

Friday, February 15: Provide a photo showing approximately 50% completion

Friday, March 8: Abstract draft due

**Friday, March 22: Final Project Due (Church and Typed Abstract)**

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

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Thanks again for your support with the science fair. Please join me in celebrating your student for all of their hard work. The evening was awesome and many of the judges expressed how impressed they were with the projects.

6th: This week we started kingdom animalia then focused on science fair presentations. Next week we will continue with invertebrates.

7th: This week we experimented with paper airplanes to explore the forces associated with flight. We added battery operated propellers to assist with our flight times. We also focused on science fair presentations. Next week we will start to investigate work and simple machines.

8th: This week we continued to discuss how scientists explore Earth's geologic past. We started to work on a project focused on relative age dating. We also practice our science fair presentations. Next week we will continue relative age dating.

## Spanish—[d.demaio@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:d.demaio@cvillecatholic.org) & [d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th(DeMaio): This week the seventh grade students learned the concept of a verb, its parts: raíz y final (stem and ending) and how to recognize infinitive verbs (ar, er, ir) How to conjugate regular verbs with 'ar' ending according to their subject pronoun. Next week they will do more practices related to this topic and then they will learn the verb *estar*/to be.

7th(DeMaio): This week the seventh grade students are preparing for the test on the topic ¿Qué te gusta hacer?=What do you like to do? On February 6, they have all the information they need in Google class and their *Auténtico* working books.

They also began to learn about verbs, parts of a verb: its stem and ending. To recognize regular infinitive verbs and to conjugate them according to their respective subject pronoun.

They also took the quiz based on the theme of family this past tuesday.

They also learn a little about the dance and music of the Hispanic world.

Next week we will start with the topic "y tú ¿cómo eres?"=and what are you like? the students will be able to listen to and read descriptions of others. Talk and write about their personality traits and describe their personality to others. With this they will review and put into use: Adjectives, definite and indefinite articles and word order: placement of adjectives.

8th(Mehl): This week the students took a quiz on regular and -car, -gar, -zar forms of the preterite tense. In small groups, they prepared reading and translations of selected passages of our novella *Pobre Ana*. Within this assignment, we practiced conversational skills, using the text our topic and focusing specifically on verb forms. The students will also be preparing dialogues in which they will discuss their evening and morning routines utilizing reflexive verbs. Our next major assessment will be on the vocabulary of clothing and reflexive verbs. There is a Quizlet set available for the students to study this.