



# Charlottesville Catholic School

## Friday Newsletter

### Middle School

February 23rd, 2024

Things to note for this up and coming week:

- **We will not have Mass this coming Tuesday.**
- **Middle School Advisories will meet for a RAP session to discuss Fasting during Lent (during the time in which we would have had Mass)**
- All adults who will be working with/supervising students (including chaperoning on field trips) need to be VIRTUS-trained. We will be holding another VIRTUS session on Saturday, February 24 from 9:00-12:00 at CCS. Please use the following link to sign up for this session:

[Sign Up Here](#)

- SECOND WEEK OF LENT ~ CRS Rice Bowl Story of Hope  
OVERCOMING HUNGER

In Akwangagwel, Uganda, the climate is very hot and dry. Farmers in this region depend heavily on the rainy season for a successful harvest. But lately—due to the changing climate—the rain has been coming later than it used to and is more inconsistent. Sometimes, when it does rain, it causes flooding and ruins the crops. Learn how Adolf and Florence have taken the matter into their own hands, implementing new farming techniques they learned from a Catholic Relief Services program to improve their farm and fight against hunger in their community. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to read this week's Story of Hope.

- Please join us on Thursday, March 7 at 5:30PM in the gym for our “Light My Path” Capital Campaign kickoff event! Wine and light refreshments will be served, and childcare will be provided for school-aged children (**please note that because middle school children will be staffing childcare, we are unable to accept children under 4 years of age**). RSVPs are required for this event. If you plan on attending, please click the link below.

[RSVP to Capital Campaign Kickoff](#)

- Mary Poppins, Jr. at CCS  
Charlottesville Catholic School's production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's "Mary Poppins, Jr." will take place on Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2 at 6:30PM in the school gym. "Step in Time" and join us for this "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" "Jolly Holiday" with Mary Poppins, Bert, and the Banks family! Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at <https://events.cvillecatholic.org/mary-poppins-jr/>

Albemarle High School will be hosting the Junior Albemarle Math Competition (JAMaC), on Saturday, March 9th from 9am - 4pm. **This is the rescheduled date.** Those interested in participation are encouraged to organize themselves in teams of 3 - 4 people with a coach. The cost is \$10 per student. This will cover pizza for lunch. To register, please click [here](#)

### **Service Opportunities:**

- 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)**
- **Additional date for service at the Church of the Incarnation–We have added a date to our Donuts & Coffee [sign up](#) for Incarnation for Sunday, Feb 25th. Please consider signing up!!**
- St. Thomas Aquinas is planning another Garden Work session on Saturday, March 16, with the 23rd as the rain date. We start promptly at 9:00 and will work until about 11:00 or 11:30. We need some parents to stay and help with the supervision and work. Everyone needs to bring hand clippers, gloves are recommended, and snug tie-on shoes for work on the hillside, and long pants.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44ACAA2DA31-48023756-march>
- 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>
- 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>

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.**

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

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6th: This week the 6th graders learned about political cartoons and their impact on Boss Tweed. Next week they will take their Gilded Age Test.

7th: This week the 7th graders finished their 1950s. Next week they will move onto the 60s and Beatlemania!

8th: This week the 8th graders learned about the Mongols and Genghis Khan. Next week they will learn about Feudal Japan.



## 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 continued to focus on simplifying expressions through the use of color coding. We will continue that skill this week and combine it with Distribution, a property we have talked about before in an earlier unit. Towards week's end, we will look at the Distribution property in reverse, and refer to it as Factoring out a Greatest Common Factor (GCF)

Pre-Algebra (Garland): We took a dive into Geometric Transformations on the Coordinate Plane. This coming week, we will finish up this mini-unit of Geometry by looking at Rotations and Translations. During on block class, we will review all of these skills and will test on Friday, March 1st.

Geometry (Garland): This past Friday, we investigated similarity ratios that exist between perimeter and area of similar figures. This coming Monday, we will do an investigation on the Geometric Mean of a triangle. We will quiz on our Similarity Unit this coming Thursday and do a Unit Test Review on Friday. (I plan on testing on March 5th)

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we continued our work of solving 1 step equations. We finished the week solving equations using multiplication and division by revisiting our work with fractions. Some of the kids are having an easier time of letting all of that soak in, while some are struggling. That is completely normal as we are dealing with an abstract concept

of solving for an unknown. If your child continues to struggle with solving 1 step equations, please encourage your child to contact me and figure out a time we can work on this skill together. Next week starting on our block day, we will start to solve 2 step equations which will involve using both addition or subtraction **and** multiplication or division to solve the equation.

Algebra (Reid): This past week we continued our work with systems of linear equations and inequalities. As we are studying systems, I am also trying to teach the kids how to use the Desmos online graphing calculator. On Friday, the kids got an assignment made up completely of word problems. After the system is set up, Desmos makes it very easy to solve. We are using the previous skills of translating word problems as well as assigning variables in word problems. We are pushing towards our next test on systems of equations & inequalities on the kid's block day either March 6th or 7th.

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

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6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan): Students took an open-notes quiz on the first four lessons of verbs on Friday, which included verb forms, irregular participles, and troublesome verbs, like *lie* vs. *lay*. Next week, we will jump back into *Vocabulary Power Plus* with Lesson 13. We will also continue our verb unit with linking verbs and simple verb tenses (present, past, future).

6th Grade Literature (Hernandez): This week, we continued with *A Long Walk to Water*. We practiced making inferences from the text and then put that knowledge to use in our analysis quiz for chapters 1-3. We will continue with chapters 4-6 next week. Looking ahead, our next IRA is due Tuesday, March 19th.

7th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, the 7th grade took a test on the Poe texts that we have studied so far. We also started looking at Poe's most famous poem, "The Raven." Next week, we will continue with "The Raven" and "The Bells" and start a writing project for our Poe unit. Looking ahead, our next IRA is due Tuesday, March 19th.

8th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, we continued reading and analyzing *Unbroken*. We also did a bit more grammar revision. 8th grade interviewed people as part of a narrative writing project for *Unbroken*. The rough draft for that project is due March 1st. Looking ahead, our next IRA is due Tuesday, March 19th.

## 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 did Stations of the Cross in the Chapel, and we also started to work on memorizing them. The students did the Sunday readings on their own, answering questions that I had prepared for them. They were prompted to see how the word "Son"

was prominent in all the readings, including the Psalm. We studied Chapter 11 of Catholic Connections, which focuses on Jesus Christ as True God and True Man. The students currently have study sets to memorize the Memorare prayer, the Old Testament Books of Wisdom and the Prophets, and the Stations of the Cross. On Tuesday, we will have a test on the Memorare prayer.

7th(Mehl): This week we did Stations of the Cross in the Chapel, and we also started to work on memorizing them. The students did the Sunday readings on their own, answering questions that I had prepared for them. They were prompted to see how the word “Son” was prominent in all the readings, including the Psalm. We studied Chapter 27 of Catholic Connections, which is an introduction to the Liturgy. The students currently have study sets to memorize the Anima Christi prayer, the Books of the New Testament, and the Stations of the Cross. This week students are handing in their projects on ancient Jewish feasts. On Tuesday, we will have a test on the Anima Christi prayer.

8th (Fallica and Bryan): This week students dissected *The Nicene Creed* to better understand the 3 parts of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They finished *Do Hard Things* and began our new unit in church history, reforming and rebuilding the Church. Finally, our Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl charity emphasized the life and dignity of the human person and our commitment to living this social responsibility.



We are enjoying teaching this special group of 8th graders! Please let us know if you have any questions anytime.

Reminder: Church projects are due March 22.

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

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6th: This week students started to work on their invertebrate projects. They invested over 3 hours investigating invertebrates. This weekend they will put their finishing touches on their projects and bring them in on Monday. Next week we will start to research vertebrates and ecology.

7th: This week students built and shared their energy transfer machines intended to apply toothpaste to a toothbrush. This engineering fear was challenging but they persevered. Next week we will assess motion and move into energy.

8th: This week we started to investigate the atmosphere and specifically discussed terms used to measure and describe weather. We also researched and debated cloud seeding. Next week we continue weather.

## 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): The sixth grade students learned about the verb “estar”= to be. One of the most common verb in Spanish, and how to conjugate it according to the rules. Next week they will

continue learning more about the verb "estar" and then "ser" They can access the information and topics learned during the electives class in the Google Classroom.

7th(DeMaio): The students continue learning about topic Y tú, ¿cómo eres? (What are you like?). Upon completion of this chapter, they will be able to: talk about personality traits , ask and tell what people are like, use adjectives to describe people. They also have done quite a few activities with their Auténtico practice books to improve reading, writing, hearing and speaking skills. This Friday they worked on writing an email in Spanish which they had to introduce themselves and describe their personality and what they like or don't like to do. Remember that they can all access the information and topics learned in class in the Google Classroom.

Next week: To be verb=estar/ser

8th(Mehl): This week we did workbook and SpanishDictionary exercises on the direct object pronouns. We started studying our new vocabulary list on Spanish body parts. We also did listening exercises. Next week we will complete direct object pronouns and start looking at irregular forms of the preterite tense.

**Music - Kate Wisbey** [k.wisbey@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:k.wisbey@cvillecatholic.org)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: From January through May, 3rd Grade through middle school students start learning different instruments in music. I have created a google drive folder with all the books used to learn the instruments from ukulele, recorder to melodica and piano, so students can practice at home. Please take a look at it when you get a chance and if you have an instrument at home, it is a great way to practice! Enjoy!

[CCS MUSIC RESOURCES](#)