



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

# Charlottesville Catholic School

## Friday, 8/23/24, Newsletter

### Middle School

...and we are back!! It is our hope that middle school students have had an awesome first week. We loved having your children back in the building and bringing them together with an Advisory Challenge.

**If you have not done so, please fill out the previously emailed Google form that will guide you through the syllabuses for each of your child's classes, as well as provide an overview of our merit system, which rewards academic and behavioral excellence. Please follow these steps:**

**1. Access the Google Form together, with your student: Click [here](#) for access to the form.**

**2. Review the embedded Documents: Please read the class syllabuses (only for the ones in which your child is enrolled) AND the Middle School Merit System Document.**

**3. Acknowledge Completion of this task: Confirm that you have reviewed the documents by submitting the form with your responses.**

Please click on the following [link](#) to find about our After School Club Offerings

Here are some dates that you will find useful:

- 8/28(Wed.) and 8/29(Thurs.): Math MAP testing in your student's math block class
- 9/3: Back to School Night for Middle School from 6pm - 7:10pm
- 9/4(Wed.) and 9/5(Thurs.): Reading MAP testing in your student's language arts block class
- 9/6(Fri.): First Blue Gold Day

- Church and/or community service opportunities:

One of our middle school parents has organized two wonderful opportunities for students to receive church and/or community service. Please note that middle school students have a service hour commitment for church and community each quarter of the school year and this is a great way to take care of this. You may use the following links to find out information/sign up for time slots:

[Baking for First Presbyterian Church](#)

## [Baking for Holy Comforter Church](#)

- **Dress Code:** We want to take a moment and clarify infractions because when one is given, it is easy to feel like your child is in trouble. **Remember, an infraction is simply a reminder that is sent home so your child is more aware of uniform expectations that haven't been followed.**

When multiple infractions occur, they accumulate to a demerit. The most common cause for an infraction is due to not adhering to the uniform policy. Because we love your kids, we want to emphasize some key points that have commonly led to infractions in years past. Here are some things that are easy to observe/follow:

For our boys:

- Hair must be cut above the eyebrows, above the tops of the ears, and above the collar of the uniform shirts. It should be clean and combed away from the face.
- Belts must be worn with pants/shorts

For our girls:

- No make-up or hair dye
- Nail polish may be clear or nude (barely there)

For both boys and girls, not being in proper formal MASS attire

To view the entire uniform policy, please click [HERE](#)

A great way for us to help our students become collaborators and leaders is to encourage them to participate in the mass choir. This year, we are inviting students in grades 3 through 8 to sign up. Click this [link](#) to sign your student up:

A few items to note:

- Students may sign up for as many masses as they would like.
- Mass choir is open to students in grades 3 through 8.
- Middle school students can earn school or church service for their active participation.
- Students should be dropped off at 7:40 so that there is time to practice. If you are running late and arriving after 7:45, you must go through carline.
- Siblings may be dropped off as well. They will need to sit quietly up front until the bell rings at 7:45.
- Students will also be practicing mass music in class.
- While you should receive a reminder email from signupgenius, please make note of the dates you sign up for.
- If you must cancel at the last minute, please email [Ms. Wisbey](#)

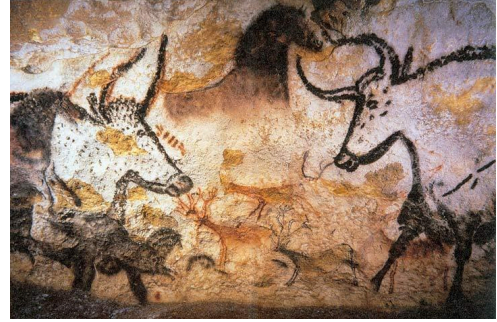
## Social Studies - [r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th Grade US History: This week the 6th graders were introduced to the world of US History as a middle school student. We discussed what they can expect in class and what they need to do to succeed. We also discussed some broad history related vocabulary such as culture, politics and economics. Next week we will move into the meat of the course, beginning with the causes of the Civil War.

7th Grade Civics and Economics: This week the 7th graders began their school year reviewing where we left off last year, World War I. Next week they will move into the Roaring 20s.

8th Grade World History: This week the 8th graders kicked off the year with some basic terminology that will be used to discuss human history, including psychology, anthropology, and archaeology. Next week they will be making some stone age tools as we begin our unit on the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras.



## 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 discussed expectations for math class. While I do have a strong digital presence, all work/steps must be shown in an organized manner on paper. We started our new unit, entitled "Whole Numbers and Operations", focusing on Powers and Exponents. We will have our first round of Math MAP Testing this coming Thursday. We will finish the week out looking at perfect squares and perfect cubes. My desire for your child is to develop a quick recall for these values. I plan on quizzing this ability, focusing on perfect squares that are present from 1 - 400 and perfect cubes that are present from 1 - 1000, on Tuesday, September 3rd. For a list to help your child study, please click [HERE](#). (Your student will be given a physical copy of this list).

Pre-Algebra (Garland): This past week, we discussed expectations for math class and had our first set of notes and assignment on Integer Operations and Absolute Value. While I do have a strong digital presence, all work/steps must be shown in an organized manner on paper. I am going to pre-assess your students' computation skills, focusing on their pre-existing knowledge of decimal, fraction, and integer work this coming Monday. Next week, we will get into solidifying this knowledge, by getting into fraction computation. Please note that your student will have their first round of Math Map Testing this coming Wednesday.

Geometry (Garland): This past week, I laid the foundation of the class by emphasizing to your students the importance of justifying that something is true, not relying on a truth based on its obvious appearance. We focused this past week on pattern recognition. On Monday, I am going to Pre-Assess your student's retention of key Algebra 1 concepts that we use in Geometry to guide my instruction. We will have our first round of Math MAP Testing this coming Thursday. We will spend the remainder of the week focusing on inductive/deductive reasoning and logic (with emphasis on conditional statements).

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we talked about the expectations and day to day routines in Math 7. I emphasized how learning is social and working together is important. Personal accountability is on the daily quizzes where the problems come straight off the practice from the night before. The first topic we tackled this week was learning about what integers are and how they are represented on the number line. Next week, we will continue to work with integers and their operations. We will also have our 1st round of

MAP testing next Wednesday (8/28) and Thursday (8/29) during your child's regularly scheduled block math class. Please encourage your child to get a good night's sleep the night before, have something for breakfast that morning and have their computers fully charged so they are ready to go! Thank you so much for sharing your child with me/us here at CCS! I am really enjoying getting to know them and their brains 😊

Algebra (Reid): This past week we talked about the expectations and day to day routines in Algebra. I emphasized how learning is social and working together is important. Personal accountability is on the daily quizzes where the problems come straight off the practice from the night before. The first topic we tackled this week was looking at order of operations and how to simplify expressions.. Next week, we will continue to work with expressions both by simplifying and evaluating. We will also have our 1st round of MAP testing next Wednesday (8/28) and Thursday (8/29) during your child's regularly scheduled block math class. Please encourage your child to get a good night's sleep the night before, have something for breakfast that morning and have their computers fully charged so they are ready to go! Thank you so much for sharing your child with me/us here at CCS! I am really enjoying getting to know them and their brains 😊

## Composition, Literature, and Language Arts -

[hernandez@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:hernandez@cvillecatholic.org) & [e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th Grade English Composition (Kerrigan): This week, students learned basic definitions for the eight parts of speech and took home a practice packet. The assignment is graded for completion, not accuracy. We will delve into each of the parts of speech in greater detail throughout the year. **There will be a quiz on the parts of speech notes next Thursday, Aug. 28.**

On Monday, we will also be beginning our first vocabulary lesson in our *Vocabulary Power Plus (VPP)* book. We receive a new VPP lesson each week. VPP homework is usually due on Thursdays, with the quiz on Fridays. **The VPP lesson 1 quiz is next Friday, Aug. 29.** Students will have access to studying with my digital flashcards through Quizlet online using this [link](#). Please assist them at home in signing in!

6th Grade Literature Vocabulary (Kerrigan): This week, we did a choice assignment on the students' second summer reading book. **The writing assignment for the first summer reading book is due today via Google Classroom. The choice assignment is due Monday for those students who have not already handed theirs in.**

Your students have worked so hard this week, and I am so excited to have them in my classes!

7th Literature/Vocab (Hernandez): Welcome back! We discussed rules and expectations, including our summer reading essay due this Friday the 23rd. Students wrote six-word stories about their summer as a warmup before jumping into our first unit on speculative fiction. We talked about various speculative fiction genres and subgenres (science fiction, fantasy, horror, etc.) and tropes that authors use in those genres. Next week, we dive into our first unit with short stories by Ray Bradbury.

8th Literature/Vocab (Hernandez): Welcome back! We discussed rules and expectations, including our summer reading essay due this Friday the 23rd. Students wrote six-word stories about their summer as a warmup before jumping into our first unit on narrative nonfiction. We did our first journal reflection on food and community/identity and tackled our first readings, food narratives by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. We will do a short (practice) quiz on the readings on Monday and then zoom back out to understand some of the theory behind literary nonfiction writing.

## Theology– [d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org)

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6th(Mehl): This was an introductory week as the 6th graders adjusted to life in middle school. In Theology, we went over classroom expectations and topics that we are going to study this year. Students were invited to share their knowledge about some of these topics, and this led into some fruitful conversations. We discussed in some detail the quarterly service requirement. It's important to note that service opportunities will come available frequently. There are some posted above in this newsletter, and I post others in our Google classroom. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities and to start completing their hours sooner rather than later. We started each class this week by praying the *Memorare* together, a prayer the students will be required to memorize. Reading the prayer gave us the chance to talk about prayer in general, which will be our first topic of the year. We will start to study it in detail next week.

7th(Mehl): In class this week, we went over classroom expectations and looked with some detail at the topics that we will cover this year. We started each class by praying the *Anima Christi*, a prayer the students will be memorizing this quarter. With this prayer as a basis, we began to talk about prayer in general. Prayer will be our first topic of the year, and we will start to study in detail next week. The students should think about taking advantage of service opportunities that are already being offered. Several are listed above in this newsletter, and I have posted another in our Google classroom.

8th(Mehl): This week we went over classroom expectations and looked with some detail at the topics we will cover this year. We started each class by reciting the *Apostles' Creed* together, which the 8th grade students will be required to memorize as part of their learning to lead the rosary. It also served as an introduction to the topic of prayer, which will be our first topic of the year. We will start to study it in detail next week. The students should think about taking advantage of service opportunities that are already being offered. Several are listed above in this newsletter, and I have posted another in our Google classroom.

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

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6th Grade Life Science:

This week we kicked off discussions about our syllabi and how to conduct ourselves in the science lab. Next week we will discuss the metric system and practice using microscopes.

7th Grade Physical Science:

This week we kicked off discussions about our syllabi and how to conduct ourselves in the science lab. Next week we will discuss the metric system and practice using the glassware by making mixtures.

8th Grade Earth Science:

This week we kicked off discussions about our syllabi and how to conduct ourselves in the science lab. Next week we will discuss the metric system and space exploration.

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

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Spanish Elective 6th grade

Spanish 1 [Part 1–7th grade] (DeMaio)

Spanish 1 [Part 2–8th grade](DeMaio)

During these first days of returning to school, the students participated in activities and games to share, meet and connect with the new students. They also reviewed the syllabus, procedures, rules, classroom behavior, expectations and goals that are required during this school year. During the first quarter they will review what they learned last year. Students will generally receive their assignments, homework information and others via email and Google class. I would like to let you know that for Spanish classes we use the Program called "Auténtico" by Savvas which is a great tool to help with written, oral, reading and cultural teaching. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me at [d.demaio@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:d.demaio@cvillecatholic.org).

## Art—[v.devlin@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:v.devlin@cvillecatholic.org)

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Until the renovated Art Room is ready for students, Middle School Art and Music are joining together for a collaborative unit. We are excited to examine the connections between the two disciplines through a study of artist Wassily Kandinsky and his visual interpretation of sound.

Once the construction is complete, we will need help setting up the Art Room. If you are interested in assisting Mrs. Devlin with this task, please keep your eyes open for a call for volunteers in the near future. It is going to be a fabulous space and we look forward to move-in day.

I am always happy to offer service hours to students who help after school. I have created a Google Calendar appointment system to help students and parents sign up. There are two available appointments posted each day that I am able to offer service hours. This allows for two people to sign up for the same date. Please disregard the posted length of appointment (15 minutes) - the expectation is that students will stay until 4:30 unless otherwise communicated. Here is the link to the booking page:

<https://calendar.app.google/tcXqY2q5wwwTAu267>

Lastly, I will be offering a Clay Club for students in grades 4-8 this semester on Friday afternoons. If your student is interested in ceramics or sculpture, this is a great opportunity

for them to get an in-depth understanding of my favorite medium - clay. Please see the recent email from Mrs. DeVane for more information.  
Please email me if you have any questions.