



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

# Charlottesville Catholic School

## Friday Newsletter

### 8/25/23 Middle School Newsletter

Welcome back. We are so excited to see/work with your children. This past week, we reminded kiddos about school and class policies. We had an amazing Advisory Challenge which displayed leadership and team building within each of our groups. We are so fortunate that we get to work with your kids on a daily basis!!

#### **Key Dates:**

MAP testing: The Reading Test is on August 31st and the Math Test is September 6th. **Please be on time for those tests and have your students come in well rested. Thank you!!**

First Blue and Gold Day: September 1st

**School Syllabi** – Please have your student(s) read the syllabus for only the classes for which they are enrolled. **Once read, please submit one Google Form, per student, found [HERE](#)**

[Pre-Algebra Syllabus\(Garland\)](#)

[Math 6 Syllabus\(Garland\)](#)

[Geometry Syllabus\(Garland\)](#)

[6th Grade Lit and Vocab Syllabus\(Hernandez\)](#)

[7th Grade Lit and Vocab Syllabus\(Hernandez\)](#)

[8th Grade Lit and Vocab Syllabus\(Hernandez\)](#)

[8th Grade Theology Syllabus\(Fallica/Bryan\)](#)

[8th Grade Earth Science Syllabus\(Bruscia\)](#)

[7th Grade Physical Science\(Bruscia\)](#)

[6th Grade Life Science\(Bruscia\)](#)

[6th Grade English Composition Syllabus\(Kerrigan\)](#)

[6th Grade History Syllabus\(Hendrick\)](#)

[7th Grade History Syllabus\(Hendrick\)](#)

[8th Grade History Syllabus\(Hendrick\)](#)

[Algebra 1 Syllabus\(Reid\)](#)

[Math 7 Syllabus\(Reid\)](#)

[Art Syllabus\(Devlin\)](#)

[Health and PE Syllabus\(Frazier\)](#)

[6th Grade Theology Syllabus\(Mehl\)](#)

[7th Grade Theology Syllabus\(Mehl\)](#)

[8th Grade Spanish Syllabus\(Mehl\)](#)

[7th Grade Spanish 1\(DeMaio\)](#)

**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](#)

The Middle School Council is made up of parent volunteers who coordinate FANS events (Fun Activities Not at School) throughout the year and 2 Middle School dances (Halloween and Spring). If you are interested in helping to organize these events, please reach out to Kristin Albert (kristinalbert@comcast.net). We will be having our first meeting next Friday, September 1st at 2:00 in the Conference Room.

Thank you!

**Service Opportunity:** Looking for a great way to jump on Church Service? First Presbyterian is in need of bakers for their Soup Kitchen! Monica Jordan could use 3-4 middle schoolers per week to EACH make 24 servings (24 cookies, brownies, 2-3 cakes/pies of any type, etc) On average they serve 75-115 people per week! Please drop off at CCS front desk Monday or Tuesday mornings. Softer items are preferred (sheet cake, cookies, brownies etc) FYI - no allergy restrictions i.e. nuts/peanut butter items are fine. Items do NOT need to be individually wrapped nor cakes need to be pre-cut. For every 2 dozen/2 cakes = 1 hour service. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

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

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6th: This week the 6th graders began the year learning about basic terms and concepts of social studies. Next week we begin applying those ideas to a brief recap of American history from the colonial era to 1850.



7th: This week the 7th graders reviewed key ideas and concepts of World War I. Next week we will begin exploring post World War I America.

8th: This week the 8th graders began learning about the Paleolithic era. Next week they will begin exploring the transition to the Neolithic Era while learning about various stone age tools.

## 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. I plan on quizzing, focusing on perfect squares that are present

from 1 - 400 and perfect cubes that are present from 1 - 1000, on this coming Tuesday. For a list to help your child study, please click [HERE](#) . (Your student was given this list). We will then focus the remainder of the week on GEMDAS, which lays the foundation of computations based on a specific order of operations.

Pre-Algebra (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. I pre assessed your students' computation skills, focusing on their pre-existing knowledge of decimal, fraction, and integer work. Next week, we will get into solidifying this knowledge, starting with positive/negative number calculations and fraction work.

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 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 how our classroom functions best and what practice (a.k.a. "homework"), quizzes and tests will look like. What a great group of young people and I love their enthusiasm and drive as we approach the new school year! We started taking our first set of notes on Integers and the Number Line. Introducing/revisiting the idea of positive and negative numbers, comparing (using  $<$ ,  $>$ ,  $=$ ) and ordering them. We will have our first daily quiz on Monday, August 28th. Next week, we will continue to look at integers and start to add/subtract/multiply/divide them. I am super excited to work with this group of young people. They are smart, fun and hardworking!

Algebra (Reid): This past week we talked about how our classroom functions best and what practice (a.k.a. "homework"), quizzes and tests will look like. This group of Algebra students is very, very intelligent and I love how they attacked their first couple of activities in Algebra 1 this week! We did a couple of activities around order of operations and how we maneuver between various expressions as well as show our work with steps that justify each operation. It was really cool to watch the kids as they approached these activities and worked through the solutions. I learned bits of how each of them learn and I think they understand better the kind of work I am expecting :) We will start with our first set of notes on Monday beginning to work on manipulating various expressions. I'm incredibly excited to work with the kids in Algebra this year! They are incredibly smart, enthusiastic and hardworking!

## 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 practiced being middle schoolers. As I told the students, we learn all the procedures now so we have time for the fun and learning throughout the rest of the year! Both the syllabus and the class policies and procedures are posted on Google Classroom. They might have a pop quiz on them next week!

Next week, we are also starting our first vocabulary unit and our introductory overview of the eight parts of speech. There will be a quiz on lesson 1 of *Vocabulary Power Plus* next Friday, Sept. 1.

6th Grade Literature (Hernandez): This week, we went over the syllabus, rules and procedures. We discussed expectations for the Independent Reading Assignments (IRAs). Students submitted their summer reading paper for Book #1 and completed an in-class project for Book #2. Next week, we will discuss story elements and begin our short story unit.

7th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, we went over the syllabus, rules and procedures. We discussed expectations for the Independent Reading Assignments (IRAs). Students submitted their summer reading paper for Book #1 and completed an in-class book review assignment for Book #2. Next week, we will do a grammar check (ungraded!) and begin our speculative fiction short story unit.

8th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, we went over the syllabus, rules and procedures. We discussed expectations for the Independent Reading Assignments (IRAs). Students submitted their summer reading paper for Book #1 and completed an in-class book review assignment for Book #2. Next week, we will do a grammar check (ungraded!) and begin our personal narrative/creative nonfiction unit. If time allows, we will also introduce our first writing workshop on memoir poems.

**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 went over general procedures and classroom expectations. We started each class with the St. Michael prayer, which is one of the prayers that we will be learning this year. We discussed the basic structure of the Bible, and began listing the books of the Old Testament in order. We went carefully through the Sunday readings, including the Psalm, which also led into a discussion of different parts of the Mass. The students found each reading in the Gospels and reached a better understanding of where the readings come from and why. This is something we will do every week. Next week we will begin to explore revelation, sacred scripture, and sacred tradition.

7th (Mehl): This week, we went over general procedures and classroom expectations. We started each class with the St. Michael prayer, which is one of the prayers that we will be learning this year. We reviewed the basic structure of the Bible and began working to expand this foundational knowledge. We went carefully through the Sunday readings, including the Psalm, which also led into a discussion of different parts of the Mass. The students found each reading in the Gospels and reached a better understanding of where the readings come from and why. This is something that we will do every week. Next week we will begin to look at the Gospels.

8th (Fallica and Bryan): This week, our classes reviewed the syllabus, procedures and expectations and played team building activities to lay a foundation of teamwork and

collaboration with one another. We are looking forward to meeting with your children to learn more about God's plan for them and help them navigate through challenges. Classes will begin with daily readings, and next week we plan to introduce and review common prayers and begin a class project on *The Apostles Creed*.

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

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6th: This week we reviewed the syllabi and discussed what is science and how to answer scientific questions. Next week we will discuss and experiment with the word inference.

7th: This week we reviewed lab safety and practiced mixing liquids in glassware. We started a discussion on properties of matter and experimented with mixing cornstarch and water. Next week we will continue the intro to scientific method and start the foundations of chemistry.

8th: This week we reviewed the syllabi and spent time discussing current events found in the space industry. We discussed lab expectations and will start to engineer solutions to real world problems experienced in space travel.

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

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7th (DeMaio): This week we begin by reviewing the syllabus, rules and procedures. The Topics that we will learn about in the first quarter. We also did activities to get to know each other better and review and practice basic vocabulary related to the classroom, the weather, parts of the body, among others. For the next week we will continue reviewing the topic of greetings, introductions and farewells.

8th (Mehl): This week we went over general procedures and classroom expectations. We talked about what the students covered in Spanish I and what we can look forward to this year. We prayed the Our Father in Spanish and looked carefully at the vocabulary and grammar of the prayer, while making comparisons to the English version of it. The students worked in groups of two and three to create basic dialogues of greeting. Next week they will present these dialogues in front of the class. We will also start a review of essential first-year grammar, focusing particularly on the present tense.