



**Charlottesville
Catholic School**
Christ Community Scholars

Charlottesville Catholic School

Friday Newsletter

09/01/23 Middle School Newsletter

Happy Friday and here's to a long weekend with family and friends. **Please do not forget that school will be closed on Monday, September 4th. We will resume school on Tuesday, September 5th, which is a Mass day, so students are expected to be in their Mass attire.**

Key Dates:

Back to School Night: Tuesday, September 5th is our Middle School Back to School Night, where the team will discuss with you what Middle School looks like for your students.

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

Important notice...the end of the interim period brings about middle school conferences for 6th grade and new middle school students. This will be held on Friday, September 22nd. Middle School will be closed that day because of this. Be on the lookout for a separate email, which will be forthcoming for conference sign-ups for new students. Another email will be sent out for parents of returning 6th graders to schedule a time.

School Pictures: 6th Grade will have their pictures taken on Friday, September 29th. 7th and 8th graders will have their pictures taken on Tuesday, October 3rd. Students will be expected to be in their formal dress for picture day.

School Syllabi – If you haven't done so, 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\(Bruscia\)](#)

[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 Physical Science\(Bruscia\)](#)

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

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

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

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

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

[Music Syllabus\(Wisbey\)](#)

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](#)

Archangel Clubs: We are excited to announce our fall Archangel Clubs offerings for our students. We hope to see our students engage in these opportunities so that Charlottesville Catholic School can continue to grow its after-school programming. [Click here for more information on current offerings.](#)

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.

Another Service Opportunity: Good morning parents and students. Charlottesville Catholic School has set up dates for Middle School students/families to set up and volunteer, by serving coffee and donuts, at both Church of the Incarnation and St. Thomas Aquinas for church service. We have a date coming up in September at Incarnation. On these volunteer days we ask that our students wear their formal dress. You do not have to attend either church to volunteer your time to represent CCS. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration!!

[Church of the Incarnation Coffee and Donut Sign Up Form](#)

[St. Thomas Aquinas Coffee and Donut Sign Up Form](#)

Social Studies - r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week the 6th graders began learning about the causes of the Civil War. Next week they will explore the attempts by the US government to avert conflict with various ill fated compromises.

7th: This week the 7th graders began learning about the 1920s. Next week we will look at 1920s culture including the rise of Babe Ruth and the impact of the radio on American culture. Ask them if they know how to do the Charleston!



8th: This week the 8th graders began learning about the early hominids and the transition from the Paelolithic Era to the Neolithic Era. Next week they will explore making stone age tools and the rise of the first cities.

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

Math 6 (Garland): Last week, we discussed the importance of computing using a specific order of operations. (GEMDAS). We will revisit this skill and then get into Properties of Equality. Please remember, your students will have their MATH MAP test on Wednesday, September 6th.

Pre-Algebra (Garland): This past week, we got into working with rational numbers and towards the end of the week, we really got into fraction computation. Next week, we will continue with fraction computation by focusing on Multiplication and Division. I plan on quizzing on integers and fractions and then start getting into exponents. Please remember, your students will have their MATH MAP test on Wednesday, September 6th.

Geometry (Garland): This past week, we will direct our focus to logic, specifically conditional statements(IF/Then Statements) to help us solidify our understanding of the analytical side of drawing conclusions. When we return on Tuesday, I will assign a Logic Project, which will be due on September 11th. The students will either create a poster or children's book that dives into the application of the Law of Syllogism and/or Law of Detachment. I also plan on quizzing on Logic towards the end of the week. Please remember that your student will take their MATH MAP test on Wednesday, September 6th.

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we worked on adding & subtracting integers (to include "double negatives") using an integer mat. I am really proud of how hard the kids have started working this year! They are enthusiastic and excited about learning :) This coming week we will learn how to multiply & divide integers and will take a day or two to practice all four operations at the same time. We will eventually be heading towards using our skills with integers in Order of Operations.

Algebra (Reid): This past week we have simplified and evaluated expressions using the Order of Operations. These skills will not only help the kids in their future math classes, but also in future science classes as well. One of the important pieces of this process is the ability to show steps and communicate mathematically how to arrive at an answer. I am so impressed with the kids' hard work and attention to detail as they are focusing on the language of math: algebra! Next week, we will be working on translating expressions from words to symbols as well as simplifying expressions completely using the distributive property and combining like terms.

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

6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan): The 6th graders are doing a great job adapting to middle school! This week, we completed our first *Vocabulary Power Plus (VPP)* lesson and reviewed the basic principles of the eight parts of speech. Since next week is a short week, we will not be doing lesson 2 of VPP. Instead, we will be focusing exclusively on grammar, with a Parts of Speech quiz next Friday, Sept. 8. [Quizlet](#) is a free digital flashcard site that students can use to study terms. Please help your student sign up if they are interested in using my study Quizlets or making some of their own!

6th Grade Literature (Hernandez): This week we began our work on story elements and started to analyze "Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros. Next week, we will continue our short story unit and do a quiz on story elements. Please help your 6th grader to select an appropriate book and get started on our first Independent Reading Assignment (IRA) due September 19th.

7th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, we talked about science fiction, fantasy, and horror genres as part of our speculative fiction short story unit. We began analyzing "All Summer in a Day" by Ray Bradbury. Next week, we will discuss how Bradbury uses theme and mood in his work. I will also check that all students have a copy of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry on Tuesday. Please encourage your 7th grader to work on our first Independent Reading Assignment (IRA) due September 19th.

8th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week, we began our personal narratives unit. We discussed the story and literary elements that authors use to convey a meaningful and vivid personal narrative, including concrete and figurative language. We analyzed a narrative by Langston Hughes. Next week, we will complete an analysis for a quiz grade. Please encourage your 8th grader to work on our first Independent Reading Assignment (IRA) due September 19th.

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

6th (Mehl): This week we began our exploration into revelation, sacred scripture, and sacred tradition. As an introduction to these topics, the students thought about what friendship means and what causes people to become friends. We then read about the

topics as the students filled in a worksheet containing key definitions and concepts. We will continue with this exploration next week, with a quiz on the definitions coming soon. As we will do every week, we read and discussed the Sunday readings carefully. Throughout all these exercises, the students are looking up passages in the Bible in order to learn the structure and the order of the books.

7th (Mehl): This week we began our study of the Gospels and the life of Jesus. As an introduction to the topic, the students were asked to think about their own self-perception, their perception of others and others' perception of them, and how these perceptions formed one's overall image of one's self. We began reading in our textbook about the Gospels and came to define key terms, such as Gospels, synoptic, and New Testament. The students started filling in a worksheet with these terms and will soon have a quiz on them. Next week we will continue with this exploration. The weekly readings that we prepared for Sunday tied in very nicely with these themes as well.

8th (Fallica and Bryan): We are focusing on prayer for the first few weeks of school. The Catechism defines prayer as a "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God" (CCC, no 2558). Prayer comes in many forms, all of which are necessary. This week we reviewed and then recited our daily school prayers for a quiz grade. Additionally, we began an in class project on the Apostle's Creed, and we took a look at prayer role models from the bible. On September 5, 8th grade will be leading mass as it is the 8th grade leadership mass. We hope you can join us.

Science— m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org

6th: What a great week to start investigating the scientific method. One of the classes completed the owl pellet dissection to demonstrate inference. The other class will complete this lab next week. Next week we will continue to introduce safety and techniques found in the lab.

7th: This week we tested the claim that Gorilla tape is 3 times stronger than a second brand. We are revisiting the scientific method and practicing how to conduct science. Next week we will continue to introduce safety and techniques found in the lab.

8th: This week we tested the claim that Reynolds Wrap tin foil is "tough" as a way to review how scientists conduct experiments. Next week we will start with discussions about the universe and our solar system.

Spanish—d.demaio@cvillecatholic.org & d.mehl@cvillecatholic.org

7th (DeMaio): This week we continue reviewing and learning the alphabet in Spanish, naming, distinguishing the spelling, writing and identifying the sounds of each letter. The students had to work in groups of two to practice basic introductions in Spanish. Daily we check the calendar, the weather and the numbers. During September we are going to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. The students are going to work on their first group project in which they have to make a presentation about a Spanish-speaking country.

8th (Mehl): This week the students completed preparing their dialogues and then presented them to the class. Overall they did well and learned quite a bit from the exercise. We also continued to review verb forms that they learned last year, while talking about forms that they will need to learn this year. Next week we will have the opportunity to get into our digital textbook. We will continue to review things such as describing people, but the review will also lead us quickly into new material.