



**Charlottesville
Catholic School**
Christ Community Scholars

Charlottesville Catholic School

Friday Newsletter

09/15/23 Middle School Newsletter

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. An email was sent out to new parents earlier this past week for an advance sign-up and an email came out today for parents of 6th grade families. (7th and 8th grade conferences will be November 9th and 10th)

FANS event drivers needed!!...On Friday, September 29th, we plan on going to the Putt Putt Fun Center in Lynchburg. We need parent volunteers for drivers to make this event happen. Prayerfully consider doing so. Drivers need to be VIRTUS trained and you must fill out a driver form from the front office.

Nurse's Notes

If you have a child who is a new middle school student at CCS or in the 7th grade, you should have received an email about upcoming Hearing and Vision Screenings. If you would like your child to be screened, the permission form **must** be completed (link attached below). Screenings will begin toward the end of the month. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to clinic@cvillecatholic.org
[Hearing and Vision Permission Form](#)

On your mark. Get set - [REGISTER!](#) Registration for our annual 5K and Fun Run is OPEN! Grab your tickets today. You won't want to miss out on this fantastic family event! Register early to ensure your Fun Run t-shirt arrives in time for the big day! There are lots of ways that you can help at the 5K and Fun Run on Saturday, October 7. Please see the Sign Up Genius below for all of the different opportunities. We need many volunteers to make sure this event is a success! [5K & Fun Run Volunteer Sign Up](#)

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. (It will be a MASS day on both instances)

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.](#)

Church Service: St. Thomas is looking for regular adorers at the following times. Middle Schoolers can group together to go and pray together!
<https://stauva.flocknote.com/note/22822369>

They are also preparing for the anniversary of the dedication of the church on September 20th. There are some times for adoration the evening of the 19th.
<https://stauva.flocknote.com/signup/132489>

EDGE Middle School Youth Group at Saint Thomas needs snacks! Please consider signing up!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48ADAE2FA6FA7-staedge#/>

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 finished their unit on the Causes of the Civil War. Next week we will start discussing the start of the Civil War.

7th: This week the 7th graders finished their post World War 1 unit. Next week we will be making silent movies in the style of the 1920s!



8th: This week the 8th graders learned about Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. Ask your 8th grader about mummifying an orange! Next week we will move onto our unit on Ancient India and China.

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

Math 6 (Garland): This past week we tested on our first unit, entitled "Whole Numbers and Operations". This coming week, we will get into exploring Unit 2, "Integer Operations", by first discovering adding with a combination of positive and negative numbers. We will develop rules of addition by using Counters and the number line.

Pre-Algebra (Garland): This past Friday, we quizzed on Exponents. This week, we get into the order of evaluating multi-step expressions by discussing GEMDAS. This is laying the true foundation for Algebraic thought, which actually applies GEMDAS in reverse to solve equations.

Geometry (Garland): On Thursday and Friday, we started our journey working with Geometric Transformations. The students created Superman posters for me using Geometric dilations. This week, we will quiz on these rules on Thursday, the 21st of September. I will also assign a mini-project involving advertising slogans as a way to apply Geometric Transformations in business. It is due on Monday, September 25th.

Math 7 (Reid): This past week we prepared and took our 1st test of the year on Integers. The kids also have worked hard and learned about coming in and taking care of any missing assignments. I've tried to talk to the kids about the importance of communication and advocating for themselves and the time they may need to understand some concepts. We have also talked a lot about the process of having our notes right next to our practice assignments when we are doing them so that we know what the work should look like :) We are making great strides with this! If you could please talk with your child at home and reinforce that I am here to help them and will give up any time I have to help them I would really appreciate it :) I think sometimes the kids think that asking for help or clarification is a sign of weakness, but in reality it truly is a great strength to me :) Our next unit will deal with order of operations and its use in algebraic expressions. This will help us continue to show our work in an organized manner and reinforce our integer rules.

Algebra (Reid): This past week we finished up our unit on Algebraic Expressions. The kids got their test review on their block day and it was due Friday. Friday in class we went over the test review to make sure the kids had the opportunity to ask any questions they had before they take their **1st test on Monday, September 18th**. This week the kids also got their 1st printout of missing work. We talked about what this means and times when kids can come see me to talk about processes they may need to fix or when they just may need some extra help. We talked about communication with me and asking/emailing about anything they need help with. I feel like we are in a good place with this and that the kids know they can talk to me and ask for help if they need it :) Our next unit will be on solving equations and word problems.

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

6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan): This week we completed lesson 2 in *Vocabulary Power Plus* and began working on subjects and predicates in grammar. Breaking down a sentence into its component parts helps readers with their comprehension and writers with their clarity, so this concept will be carried throughout the year's lessons. We will continue working on sentence structures next week, in addition to *VPP* Lesson 3.

6th Grade Literature (Hernandez): This week we finished up our discussion of "Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros and "The Jacket" by Gary Soto. The students did a comparison quiz of the two stories, focussing on story elements and figurative language. Next week, we finish up our short story unit with "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell. Our first IRA essay is due on Tuesday! Please help your student to follow the rubric and submit the assignment on Google Classroom.

7th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week we talked about the dangers of excessive reliance on technology and moral decay in relation to Bradbury's "The Veldt." We did a quiz comparing "The Veldt" and "All Summer in a Day" and discussed mood and word choice (connotation) in short stories. Next week, we finish up our short story unit with "The Cone" by H.G. Wells. Our first IRA essay is due on Tuesday! Please help your student to follow the rubric and submit the assignment on Google Classroom.

8th Language Arts (Hernandez): This week we analyzed Phillip Lopate's personal essay, "Tea at the Plaza." The students did a great job learning advanced vocabulary and drawing inferences from the text. We also read Robert Hayden's memoir poem, "Those Winter Sundays." Next week, we will finish up our personal narratives unit with "Only Daughter" by Sandra Cisneros. Our first IRA essay is due on Tuesday! Please help your student to follow the rubric and submit the assignment on Google Classroom.

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

6th (Mehl): This week we started reading carefully the creation stories contained in Genesis 1 and 2. The students first read the chapters in small groups and noted what happened on each day. Then we began reading it together as a class, noting all of the details contained in these accounts. This is leading into a project, in which the students will write down and draw the various moments of creation, comparing the similarities and differences between the two chapters. This has created some very good discussions on the truths that are contained in these accounts.

As an added note, Mr. Garland's homeroom will be doing Mass on Tuesday. The students have been notified of their roles, and we have begun our practice.

7th (Mehl): This week we started to read the four different Gospel accounts of the discovery of Christ's empty tomb. Reading them side by side has led to the discovery of similarities and differences. The students have been given the task of writing their own version of the story, with the need to choose details from the four accounts. They will present these accounts with pictures to accompany them for a project. The Sunday readings, which we read in the Chapel, allowed for reflection on our need to forgive the sins of our neighbors.

8th (Fallica and Bryan): What is Lectio Divina? This week we learned about contemplative prayer and took time to practice. We reflected on the different forms of prayer in the Church and used scripture to deepen our understanding of God's will. We will be finishing up our unit on prayer next week and are planning a test for the week of the 25th. Students need to be practicing the Hail Holy Queen and the Confiteor. This recitation is on Monday, September 25.

Science— m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week we are investigating how we can use science to answer questions. We also conducted a lab which trained us on how and when to use a microscope. We prepared wet mount slides and explored prepared slides. We introduced a Learning Management System called Mosa Mack which we will use as a tool occasionally throughout the year. Next week we will discover a few techniques that crime scene investigators use science to determine who stole the popcorn.

7th: This week we continued with the introduction of chemistry. We discussed the properties of matter and experimented with viscosity. Students created experiments to measure different brands of ketchup and their viscosity. Next we will discover the states of matter.

8th: This week we started to discuss telescopes used to conduct astronomy as well as an engineering design lab on creating a Mars lander. Students were tasked with keeping their astronauts (gummy bears) alive. Next week we will discuss the life cycle of stars.

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

7th (DeMaio): This week the seventh grade students have presented their projects about the Hispanic countries of: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Chile, Colombia, España, México, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. They did a great job and are still learning to locate them on the map according to continent or region in class. They are also learning the capitals of each of the 21 countries and what the citizens of these countries are called. They continue to learn the alphabet, letter names and sounds. For the next few weeks we will focus on: Greet people at different times of the day. Introduce yourself to others, Respond to classroom directions, begin using numbers, tell time and identify parts of the body.

Important note: Quiz Tuesday, September 19, 2023 (The 21 Spanish-speaking countries in the world. Name and location) The instructions and what is expected can be found in the Google Classroom.

8th (Mehl): This week we began to focus on stem-changing verbs. After seeing many forms on the board, of both regular and stem-changing verbs, the students wrote out the conjugation of ten stem-changing verbs. After my review of them, they made corrections. They then did a fill-in exercise, where they had to select the correct verbs from context and put them in their correct forms. We will continue to focus on these forms next week.