



**Charlottesville
Catholic School**
Christ Community Scholars

Charlottesville Catholic School

Friday Newsletter

Middle School

We hope you have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!!

Please make sure you sign up for the 5k and Children's Fun Run.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Charlottesville/CharlottesvilleCatholicSchool20thAnnual5k>

If you are interested in playing in the golf tournament or putting together a foursome, contact Colleen Smith at c.smith@cvillecatholic.org

<https://runsignup.com/TicketEvent/CharlottesvilleCatholicSchoolGolfTournament>

We are excited to be going on field trips this year and are looking forward to having parent chaperones help with that! To chaperone a field trip, you must be VIRTUS-trained. We will be offering a training session at CCS on Monday, September 19 from 5:00-8:00. To register for that training, please use the following link:

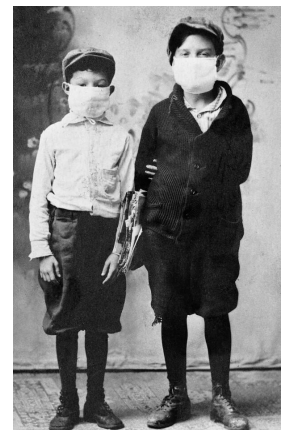
https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theme=0

The Middle School Council is made up of parent volunteers who coordinate FANS (Fun Activity Nights) events 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 either Kristin Albert (kristinalbert@comcast.net) or Monica Jordan (monicajordan@me.com)

Social Studies - r.hendrick@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week the 6th graders were introduced to the course and learned introductory vocabulary they will use to discuss historical topics. Next week they will begin exploring the causes of the Civil War.

7th: This week the 7th graders discussed the end of World War I and made comparisons between the experiences of people during the 1918 Flu Pandemic and today. Next week they will be interviewing family members about the world events that shaped their lives.



8th: This week the 8th graders learned about the Paleolithic Era and major geographic locations around the world. Next week they will learn about the impact of farming on the formation of the earliest civilizations. Their Paleolithic and Neolithic Era Test will be on Friday.

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

Math 6 (Garland): This past week, we got into our first unit, Exponents and Operations. We discussed how an exponent represents repeated multiplication for the base in which it is attached. We quizzed on the memorization of perfect squares. Next week, we will practice further with order of operations(GEMDAS) and Properties of Equality.

Pre-Algebra (Garland): This past week, we focused on fraction operations, with a focus on multiplication and division. Next week, we will quiz on these skills and then get into Square and Cube roots. I will test on quick recall of perfect squares 1 - 400 and perfect cubes 1 - 1000 on Friday, September 12th.

Geometry (Garland): This past week, we got into the principles of logic surrounding conditional statements. (If/then statements). I assigned a Logic Project on September 1st (due September 12th) and quizzed on Patterns on September 2nd. Next week, we will get into Coordinate Geometry, focusing on slope, midpoint, and distance formulas along with Geometric Transformations.

Math 7 (Reid): This week we started our first unit on Exponents and Integer Operations. We talked about the meaning of an exponent, expanded notation as well as exponential notation. We worked on memorizing perfect squares and perfect cubes. We were introduced to the opposite (inverse) operations of finding a square root and cube root. We took our first quiz and did an activity where the kids self reflected on the entire process to see what they can do in the future to be successful on frequent assessments. Next week we will start to talk about integers and signed numbers.

Algebra (Reid): This week we took our first quiz on order of operations. We did an activity where we reflected on our performance on the first assessment and what each individual needed to do to be successful on assessments in the future. We also evaluated and started to translate verbal expressions to algebraic expressions. We are truly learning to communicate in the language of math! Next week we will continue to work with algebraic expressions by simplifying them completely as we move towards our first test on Algebraic Expressions.

Composition, Literature, and Language

Arts—e.kerrigan@cvillecatholic.org & l.lowdon@cvillecatholic.org

6th Grade Composition (Kerrigan): This past week, we started our grammar instruction with an overview of the eight parts of speech. Students took notes, learned a catchy song and played games to prepare for the parts of speech quiz, which will be next Thursday, Sept. 8.

We also started our *Vocabulary Power Plus* textbook with Lesson 1. New vocabulary lessons will be introduced each week, with the lesson's activities due on Thursday and a lesson quiz on Friday. Next week, with Monday being a holiday, students will receive some extra time during our block day to work on Lesson 2 activities. The Lesson 2 vocabulary quiz will be next Friday, Sept. 9.

6th Grade Literature (Kerrigan): This past week, we visited the school library for the first time as middle schoolers and checked out books for our Q1 IRAs (independent reading assignments). The first IRA is due Sept. 20 and the second IRA is due Oct. 18. We also started discussing literary elements by reading the short story "Eleven" by Sandra Cisnos and using a Salvador Dali painting as an example of how careful close attention to text can reveal deeper meaning. There will be a literary elements quiz next Friday, Sept. 9.

7th Language Arts (Lowdon): We are reading and analyzing short stories for our first unit. What thoughtful conversations we are having in class! The first IRA assignment is posted in Google classroom and is due on Tuesday, September 20. Please ensure that your student has a copy of *The Giver* (Lois Lowry) by next Tuesday. All students should have an independent reading book with them in class. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday at our Back to School night!

8th Language Arts (Lowdon): We are reading and analyzing short stories for our first unit. What thoughtful conversations we are having in class! The first IRA assignment is posted in Google classroom and is due on Tuesday, September 20. Please ensure that your student has a copy of *Brown Girl Dreaming* (Jacqueline Woodson) by next Tuesday. All students should have an independent reading book with them in class. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday at our Back to School night!

Religion—a.sisman@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week, we celebrated our first mass of the year! We also studied the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and talked about some ideas for their service requirements. Students should all have their service now. They are encouraged to serve their families at home, so please be sure to give them some opportunities! In order to prepare for mass, we also read through the testimony of Catalina Rivas, a Bolivian woman who received visions of some of the spiritual dimensions of the Holy Mass. If you want to be inspired to seek deeper meaning in mass, I encourage you to [read it here](#). Next week, we will touch on the virtues (which we learn about throughout the year) and begin delving into the lessons of the Catholic Handbook for Middle Schoolers.

7th: This week, we celebrated our first mass of the year! We also studied the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and talked about some ideas for their service requirements. Students should all have their service now. They are encouraged to serve their families at home, so please be sure to give them some opportunities! In order to prepare for mass, we also read through the testimony of Catalina Rivas, a Bolivian woman who received visions of some of the spiritual dimensions of the Holy Mass. If you want to be inspired to seek deeper meaning in mass, I encourage you to [read it here](#). Next week, we will touch on the

virtues (which we learn about throughout the year) and begin delving into the lessons of the Catholic Handbook for Middle Schoolers.

8th: This week, we celebrated our first mass of the year! We also studied the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and talked about some ideas for their service requirements. Students should all have their service now. They are encouraged to serve their families at home, so please be sure to give them some opportunities! In order to prepare for mass, we also read through the testimony of Catalina Rivas, a Bolivian woman who received visions of some of the spiritual dimensions of the Holy Mass. If you want to be inspired to seek deeper meaning in mass, I encourage you to [read it here](#). Next week, we will touch on the virtues (which we learn about throughout the year) and begin delving into early Church History.

Science—m.bruscia@cvillecatholic.org

6th: This week we discussed how scientists make inferences by dissecting owl pellets. We were able to infer the diet of these owls. We also started to practice how to use spreadsheets such as google sheets to create a data table and data charts. Next week we will continue discussing measurements used in science and the importance of the metric system.

7th: This week we discussed how scientists make measurements and practiced with the metric system. We discussed the difference between precision and accuracy. Next week we will practice in the lab measuring both solids and liquids as we start to discuss the basics of matter.

8th: This week we discussed Mars and the rover, Perseverance. We engineered a prototype of a landing system for a manned mission to Mars. We also discussed and researched space vocab such as universe, rotation, revolution, solar system and more. Next week we will continue investigating space.

Spanish—j.osteen@cvillecatholic.org

This week students worked on cognates. These are words that look and sound alike in two or more languages, for example English and Spanish. Cognates are great because it helps a student realize they already know more than they thought and their confidence will grow. It was amazing to see students who had never studied Spanish before read and understand a whole passage!

Music—k.wisbey@cvillecatholic.org

Hello! I am Kate Wisbey, the new music teacher. A little background about me- I have been a private music teacher for the past 7 years and in schools for 4 years. I run

my own private business teaching private music lessons and graduated from Christopher Newport University with my degree in music in 2012 and have taught ever since then! It is such a pleasure to get to know your students and to help them find their musical self! This week, our middle school students learned about duple and triple meter, as well as an introduction to micro and macro beats within a piece of music. Students created their own rhythms with their own internal rhythm and we played a few drum games to introduce types of meters within a piece of music. We began to decipher the different parts of a song and how to identify the parts of a song when listening or creating music.

Music Electives:

CHOIR:

This week, we began our middle school electives. For students who chose choir, we had a great first rehearsal this week! We did a fun choir scavenger hunt game, and then worked on physical warm-ups, breathing techniques, vocal warmups and learned a birthday canon song for fun, as well as songs that we are learning to hopefully prepare for the Veteran's day ceremony. Next week, we will be working on voice matching in our chorus and figuring out the right balance for our group.

MUSIC IMPROV:

This week in music improvisation class, we learned about what MIMA music is and how it has been used in schools all over the world. We also wrote down our favorite artists, songs, types of music, etc and put our musical interests to a steady beat. We then introduced ourselves and how we are going to create our own song. Today, we worked on a fun name game and talked about adding not just rhythm, but melody and motions within each phrase. We then talked about the parts of the song and how we created it to create a song. This was a great start to the foundation of how we will be creating a song in the weeks to come.