



September 27th, 2021

### Building a world of JOY!

*"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." - George Bernard Shaw*

This week is packed with exciting learning activities! Here's where we're headed this week in the classroom:

In **Science** we will continue our first unit on how organic matter cycles through our living world in systems of interdependent parts. Many of our lessons will focus on ecology and will help the students develop the idea that plants, animals, and fungi form a system of connected parts, with each part dependent on the other parts for its material nourishment.

In **Religion** this week we will continue our unit that focuses on God, Our Creator, and Father. In this unit the students will learn that God Creates Us, God Saves Us, God's Revelation, how God Directs Our Lives, & Celebrating Ordinary Time. We will also reflect on God's presence in the world around us by writing their own prayers for the planet. In our first **Second Step** lesson we will learn about Listening with Attention. **Each student will be responsible for completing a Homelink connected to the lesson with an adult every week.**

In **Math** with Ms. Bakamis, we begin our next unit entitled Place Value & Number Relationships. In this unit the students will learn to generalize place value, extend place value through decimals, read & write decimals, compare decimals, & use place value to round decimals. After each lesson, the students will work on a page of related questions. They will also have a page of questions to work on at home. This practice will help them make meaning of the new skills and transfer them to their own lives. In **Math** with Mr. Carson, we'll continue to work with Ratios & Rates. The process for work is the same, we discuss in class each chapter and work problems in class and take some problems home. I've been pairing students up and working specifically on the "Apply" questions in their books. We're working on verbally (or in writing) explaining our process as well as defending our solutions. Being able to explain how we do math helps us better understand math and how

we can apply it to our everyday lives. **In addition to daily classwork, each student will be expected to complete at LEAST 5 topics in ALEKS every week by Monday morning @ 8:00 am.**

In **Reading & Spelling** with Ms. Bakamis, we will continue working on our reading comprehension skills at our own levels and will continue completing AR tests (our 1st Trimester Goal is 15 points). **Our Summer Book Reports are due on Thursday, September 30th.** The students can either turn in an electronic copy on Google Classroom OR a hand-written copy to me in class. **As a nightly practice, our expectation is to complete at LEAST 30 minutes of reading.** Students will continue working on Spelling lists at their own level. Our expectation is that they practice their 15 words three different ways in their Spelling composition notebooks. **These will be collected on Friday and we will have our first Spelling Assessment on Friday, October 1st!**

In **Writing** with Mrs. Smith, students will have Writing on Friday this week due to MAP Testing. I'm reviewing journal entries and will return Writing Journals on Friday. We'll review the 3 strategies students learned for writing personal narratives: small moment story, important place, and putting readers in the story. No grammar this week.

#### Important Dates THIS week:

- Monday – Morning prayer led by 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students, **MAP Testing**, Music in the classroom, **Hot Lunch Starts!**
- Tuesday – **MAP Testing**, Music in the classroom, **2:00 pm dismissal**
- Wednesday – Music in the classroom
- Thursday – **MAP Testing**, Music in the classroom, Library
- Friday – **Mass @ 8:50 am, Spelling Assessment**, Music in the classroom, Library, Design/Robotics

#### Upcoming Important Dates:

- **Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** - No school for Teacher Inservice Day
- **Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** - FEAST OF ST. LUKE & St. Luke-A-Thon! Students and staff can wear running gear related to St. Luke. He is the Patron Saint of Artists and Physicians. He also is one of the authors of the gospels.
- **Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** - Great Washington ShakeOut! Earthquake drill will happen at 10:21AM
- **Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Mid tri-reports
- **Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** - 5th Grade Attends Camp Seymour