



December 31st, 2023

IB Attribute for January: Principled

“Reflecting God’s Kindness!”

“To all men and women of goodwill, I express my prayerful trust that, as artisans of peace, they may work, day by day, to make this a good year!” - Pope Francis

Here’s where we’re headed in the classroom:

In **Religion**, we continue our second unit, entitled “Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.” After introducing the importance of the seven sacraments, we now look at what it means to be “Baptized into Christ” and “Growing in the Spirit” (Session 7 and 8, respectively). We will also reflect on the feast of the *Epiphany (this coming Sunday January 7th)*, and the acts of kindness we did during the break and how we can give our own Epiphany gifts that “reflect God’s kindness” to conclude this festive season! This is also a great time to brainstorm service hour ideas as we look ahead to the second part of the school year. **Our yearly goal for each student is to complete at least 10 hours of community service.** The form has been posted in Toddle. During the 3rd Trimester, each student will be reflecting upon their service and the impact it has made.

This week in **Math** with Ms. Bakannis & Mr. Scholz, assisted by Mr. Carson, we continue Unit 7, “Dividing Whole Numbers,” stretching ourselves to recognize and apply the conceptual link between multiplication and division! We will be practicing our division strategies and their application to real-world scenarios as we look ahead to the unit conclusion and test next week. Unit 7 Test will be on Friday, January 12th. **We will also resume our usual weekly ALEKS assignment (45 minutes and 5 topics by Sunday evening).**

This week in **Reading & Spelling** with Ms. Bakannis, will continue to work on their comprehension by taking AR tests on the books that they have finished. **Our second trimester AR goal is 15 points!** As a nightly practice, students are expected to read for 30 minutes of a book of their own choice in their current Lexile Level. We will have our new Spelling words to practice for the next two weeks! **Each student is expected to have practiced their spelling words at LEAST five times and will turn in their Spelling Notebook before their Weekly Spelling test on Friday, January 12th.** We have posted the

Spelling Bee Word Lists on Toddle Announcement for your students to begin practicing for the Classroom Spelling Bee in late January and the School Spelling Bee on February 22nd!

This week in **Writing** with Mr. Scholz, we shift gears from our practice with informational paragraphs to our new writing unit, "The Lens of History." This is a research unit that challenges students to write as historians, building on their 4th grade understanding of the native peoples in Washington State history. This unit links thematically to our current Social Studies unit, "Where we are in place and time." Finally we will take some time for reflection on the Fall narrative unit, by noticing the improvement from the very first story to the final versions. There are many challenges to come in these months but so much awesome accomplishment to celebrate and build on as well as we launch into the new calendar year!

This week in **Social Studies**, students will get a hands-on experience of our first Line of Inquiry, "Every decision has costs and benefits," as they pack and launch their colonial ships in our "Discovery" simulation. Whether their identity is a religious freedom colony, a government colony, or a private business colony, all the colonies now must consider the compromises necessary to survive the Atlantic crossing while preparing for the hardships of the "new" world. There are many tensions in both the tasks and the group collaboration, but all will need to come together to succeed in their colony groups! This is a great opportunity for each student to work on their communication and problem solving skills.

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday – New Years Day (No School)**
- **Tuesday – Welcome back!**, Music (5A), Spanish (5B)
- **Wednesday – PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5A)**
- **Thursday – Music (5B) & Spanish (5A)**
- **Friday – Music (both classes)**

Upcoming Dates:

- *Sunday, January 7th - Epiphany of the Lord*
- *Monday, January 8th – Friday, Feb. 2nd – MAP testing window*
- *Tuesday, January 9th – Student assembly: Dr. Knight's presentation on Cultural Humility through the lens of our Catholic Faith*
- **Friday, January 26th – Non-uniform day**
- **Sunday, January 29th – Friday, February 2nd – Catholic Schools Week!**
- **Wednesday, January 31st - Grandparents Brunch**
- *Friday, February 2nd – International Fest!*