



January 21st, 2024

IB Attribute for January: Principled

“Reflecting God’s Kindness!”

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.” - Maya Angelou

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

This week in **Writing** with Mr. Scholz, we return to our customary schedule with Grammar practice on “formal register.” This concept helps us choose vocabulary and sentence structure to match the tone of our writing to the serious content we are sharing! We are continuing our background work on the early colonial period of North American history as we work towards our research papers on one of the thirteen American colonies. All the note-taking practice will be incredibly helpful as we build up the skills of informational writing!

This week in **Science**, we will begin our new unit entitled “Water is essential to life and a limited resource for many.” In this unit, we will consider the profound importance of water as a natural resource. The students will investigate the distribution of water, how it cycles through Earth’s systems, and explore how it affects human societies. This is our exhibition unit and students will choose a water-related topic/issue that they would like to learn more about, research, present, and take action.

In **Religion**, we conclude our second unit, “Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.” These lessons helped students consider the importance of Baptism and Confirmation that connect us with the life of the Trinity and strengthen us for the work of love which extends Christ’s mission. Next we will move into our third unit, “The Church, Our Community in the Spirit.” Building on our discussions about the “sacraments of initiation,” this unit explores how God calls us to use our distinct gifts for a particular calling but always with uniting work of love and service towards God and neighbor. This is an excellent continuation of the themes highlighted by both Fr. Brad and Dr. Knight, for all students to use their talents to solve problems and “reflect God’s kindness!”

This week in **Math** with Ms. Bakanis & Mr. Scholz, assisted by Mr. Carson, we will continue Unit 8, "Divide Decimals." In this unit, we will learn about division patterns, how to estimate quotients of decimals, how to represent the division of decimals by a whole number, how to divide decimals by whole numbers by decimals and use representations, and how to divide decimals by decimals. These skills build on the conceptual understandings of division, multiplication, and place-value, so we strongly encourage students to solidify understanding by teaching another family member! **We will also continue our usual weekly ALEKS assignment (45 minutes and 5 topics by Sunday evening).**

This week in **Reading & Spelling** with Ms. Bakanis, 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 are working on completing our January Book Reports that are due at the end of the month. Students received paper copies of this in class, and there is also an electronic copy posted on Toddle. **The January Book Report is due on Wednesday, January 31st!** We will have new Spelling Words this week. **The students will be expected to complete at LEAST 3 practices of these words in their Spelling Notebooks PRIOR to their Spelling Test on Friday, January 26th!** We have posted the Spelling Bee Word Lists on Toddle Announcement for your students to begin practicing for the **Classroom Spelling Bee February 6th** and the **School Spelling Bee on February 22nd!**

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5B)
- **Tuesday** – Music (5A), Spanish (5B)
- **Wednesday** – PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5A)
- **Thursday** – Music (5B) & Spanish (5A)
- **Friday** – Music (both classes), **Non-Uniform Day**

Upcoming Dates:

- **Sunday, January 28th – Friday, February 2nd – Catholic Schools Week!**
 - *Sunday, January 28th – Open House follows 9:00 AM Mass*
 - *Monday, January 29th – Parent Appreciation Day*
 - *Tuesday, January 30th – Staff Appreciation Day*
 - *Wednesday, January 31st - Grandparents Appreciation Day & Brunch*
 - *Thursday, February 1st – St. Luke Parish Staff & St. Luke School Alumni Appreciation Day*
 - *Friday, February 2nd – Student Appreciation Day & International Fest!*