



January 27th, 2024

Monthly IB Attributes: Principled & Open-Minded

“Reflecting God’s Kindness!”

“Always keep an open mind and a compassionate heart.” - Phil Jackson

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

This week in **Science**, we will continue 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 continue our new unit on “The Church, Our Community in the Spirit,” exploring how each of us is called to be part of God’s people and to serve his kingdom. Students will be reflecting on the idea that although each of us is called to serve in different ways, we all are united in the vocation of serving God, other people, and the Church. We expand our understanding of the sacramental vocations in matrimony and holy orders, the sacraments at the “service of community.” We encourage you to discuss with your student how your family shows love and service towards the community, and how your students might feel called to serve as they grow up!

This week in **Math** with Ms. Bakamnis & Mr. Scholz, assisted by Mr. Carson, we finish our Unit 8, “Divide Decimals.” In this unit, we have learned 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. Teaching a family member with the study guide is great way to prepare, with **Wednesday, January 28th scheduled the Unit 8 Math Test!** If time permits, we will also begin Unit 9 “Add and Subtract Fractions.” **We will also continue our usual weekly ALEKS assignment (45 minutes and 5 topics by Sunday evening).**

This week in **Reading & Spelling** with Ms. Bakamnis, will continue to work on their comprehension by taking AR tests on the books that they have finished. We will also continue working on our comprehension and vocabulary skills as we read the novel A Long Walk to Water. **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 complete our **January Book Reports that are due on Wednesday, January 31st.** 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!** In honor of Catholic Schools Week, we will NOT have new Spelling Words this week. **The students will be strongly encouraged to prepare for the Classroom Spelling Bee on February 6th!** 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!**

This week in **Writing** with Mr. Scholz, we are diving into our “Thirteen Colonies” research paper. Each student has received an assigned colony and will be working this week on taking notes on core facts. By the end of the week, we will write our first flash draft! As in our previous unit, these flash drafts are not intended to be complete in any way, but to help us see where we need to focus for our next draft. This unit stretches students to shift back and forth between research and writing, rather than the familiar “all research, then all writing” method. In upcoming weeks, we will refine our research further with the “lenses” of geography, timelines, and primary sources. This challenging unit develops the crucial writing and critical thinking skills needed for middle and high school. I’m excited to read the work of these student-historians as we build towards our end of year American Revolution unit!

Important Dates THIS week:

- Sunday - **Open House follows 9:00 am Mass**
- Monday – **Parent Appreciation Day, Science MAP Test**, PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5B)
- Tuesday – **Staff Appreciation Day**, Music (5A), Spanish (5B)
- Wednesday – **Grandparents Appreciation Day & Brunch, Unit 8 Math Test**, PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5A)
- Thursday – **St. Luke Parish Staff & Alumni Appreciation Day**, Music (5B) & Spanish (5A)
- Friday – **Student Appreciation Day**, Music (both classes), **Non-Uniform Day**, **International Fest at 6pm in the Auditorium**

Upcoming Dates:

- *Saturday, February 3rd – Partners in Gospel Families Announced & Play construction in auditorium*
- *Tuesday, February 6th - 5th Grade Classroom Spelling Bee*
- *Wednesday & Thursday, February 7th – 8th Graduation Photos*
- *Thursday, February 9th – Mid-Trimester & Teach Inservice Day (No school for students)*
- *Tuesday, February 13th – Valentine’s parties, Mardi Gras etc.*
- *Wednesday, February 14th – Ash Wednesday → Lent begins*
- *Monday, February 19th – Presidents’ holiday (NO SCHOOL)*
- *Wednesday, February 21st – All School Masses Begin during Lent, Lenten Virtue is Faith*
- *Thursday, February 22nd – School-wide Spelling Bee*
- *Friday, February 23rd – Non-Uniform Day*
- *Thursday, February 28th – Lenten Virtue for Mass is Reverence*