



May 19th, 2024

Monthly IB Attribute: Thinkers

“Reflecting God’s Kindness!”

“Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.” - Malala Yousafzai

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

In **Science** this week we are continuing with our astronomy unit, “Spaceship Earth.” Students will be exploring the Earth’s rotation, the phenomenon of gravity throughout the solar system, and the conditions necessary for life on other planets. As we move into the end of the year we will conclude with an overview of chemical reactions.

In **Religion** this week, we continue Unit 4 on “Sacraments, Our Way of Life.” We began by considering the importance of the Eucharist and the Mass, particularly in their connections with the Jewish Passover and the Easter season. Next, we will inquire into the Church’s understanding of the sacraments of healing and restoration: Reconciliation/Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. These sacraments remind us that the Lord desires us to live in the fullness of life, using the physical and spiritual signs to demonstrate his care for us and inspire us to care for the spiritual and physical well-being of others as well.

This week in **Reading** with Ms. Bakamis, we will continue our historical fiction novels where students will be reading the following books: My Brother Sam is Dead, Johnny Tremain, and The Notorious Benedict Arnold. Each of these stories highlights the struggle for independence and the founding of our nation. While we read these books, we will be focussing on vocabulary, questions that arise, and sharing our favorite scenes. As a nightly practice, students are also expected to read for 30 minutes a book of their own choice in their current Lexile Level. **Our second trimester AR goal is 15 points! We will have new Spelling words this week (on Tuesday), but the students will have their Spelling Tests on Tuesday after we return from Memorial Day Weekend!**

A brief note on our Spelling assignments, normally we have Spelling every week, with the week number corresponding directly to the week of the school year. Moving forward, these assignments will be titled “Weekly Spelling Practice & Test Week #Z” (where Z represents the week of the school year). These assignments will be posted in Toddle, with grades updated by the following Friday. Each student is expected to practice their

Spelling words at least 3 times in their Spelling Notebooks BEFORE their Spelling Test on Fridays (or the day of the test if adjusted). Please reach out to Ms. Bakamis directly for additional questions and clarifications.

In **Writing** with Mr. Scholz this week, we leave behind our chocolate milk debate. Having reflected on the experience of this debate, students ranked their preference of topic and side (affirmative/negative) from a short list of topics. Students will be assigned to a debate side of the topic and will now begin research for the **final debate and the final paper (due Wednesday, June 5th)**. This project requires students to bring together many of their skills from the year, as they research reliable facts, track their sources in MyBib for their Works Cited, and build a clear, logical structure for their claim. Now that students have experienced the thrill of formal debating, I'm excited to see them rise to this challenge! In **Grammar**, we are using the skills-based adaptive features of MobyMax, with students working on 15 minutes of differentiated practice per week. This will be our expectation (similar to ALEKS) for the remainder of the year.

This week in **Math** with Ms. Bakamis & Mr. Scholz, assisted by Mr. Carson, we will continue Unit 13 on Geometry. These concluding lessons shift from the coordinate plane to understanding the properties of triangles and quadrilaterals, key skills that form the foundation for geometry in middle and high schools. Bakamis and Scholz groups will have the Unit 13 test after the Memorial Day weekend. **Regardless of the math group, we expect each student to review their homework with an adult nightly and be prepared to check their answers the following day with their math groups. We continue our weekly ALEKS assignment (45 minutes and 5 topics by Sunday evening).**

Important Dates THIS week:

- Monday – PE & Library (both classes), Design (5A), Spanish (5B)
- Tuesday – Music (5A), Spanish (5B)
- Wednesday – **Mass @ 8:45 am**, PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5A), **Spring Concert for grades K-5 (doors open @ 6 pm)**
- Thursday – Music (5B), Spanish (5A)
- Friday – **Fundraising Day Off (No School)**

Important Dates NEXT week:

- **Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day Holiday (No School)**
- **Monday, June 10th - 8th-grade graduation at 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday, June 13th – Field Day & Moving Up Assembly – dismissal at 12:00 pm**
- **Friday, June 14th – Last Mass of the year followed by 10:30 am dismissal**