

JUNIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER

RELIGION

2/20-3/3 No absences, tardies, or appointments (students really, really need to be at school)

2/22 12:15 p.m. dismissal (No After School) [If students are using their white button-down Mass shirt for a costume, green or white St. Cyril shirts are acceptable for Mass.]

2/23-24 No School (Rodeo Break)

2/28 Jr. High Show (6:30 p.m.) Please look for a detailed letter in the next few days)

3/1 Ash Wednesday

3/2 Jr. High Show (6:30 p.m.) See letter

3/10-17 No School (Diocesan In-service & Spring Break)

3/25 The Event (formerly known as the auction)

Our seventh graders continue their study of Church history with a concentration on the Protestant Reformation. We take an ecumenical approach, concentrating on mutual understanding. As the class continues, we continue to make connections with historical events and present-day concerns. Our eighth graders have moved on from a study of the life and doctrine of Jesus to seeing how those doctrines play out in a study of morality today. Our focus of late has been grappling with ethical dilemmas that affect our spiritual lives in very real ways.

JR. HIGH SHOW

Junior high students have been working really hard to prepare their songs and dances for the Junior High Show. Practices have been occurring during both core and enrichment classes. We want to remind students and parents that when students miss part of a class for practice, they must touch base with teachers after school to find out what work they missed that day. The teacher and student may also discuss due dates for the missing work at that time. If students need additional support, they are to make arrangements with the teacher for help.

LANGUAGE ARTS – MR. EVANS, DR. ZECHES & MRS. UNGER

Literature - Having journeyed through the fascinating realms of science fiction, with our seventh graders reading Daniel Keyes' Flowers for Algernon and our eighth graders enjoying the short stories of Ray Bradbury, we're onto something completely different. Commencing in Black History month, we're studying adolescent memoirs of the Civil Rights movement. The seventh grade will follow in the footsteps of a teenage marcher in the historic Selma march; the seventh grade will encounter the exciting story of the integration of Little Rock High School. It should be a fascinating series of upcoming weeks.

7th Grade - We ended the second trimester with a look back at nouns, pronouns and adjectives. It took some doing to get our brains wrapped around the basics of grammar, but we "gritted it out" and prevailed. Now we look forward to doing more writing, more grammar and yes, diagramming

sentences. We are revisiting and revising our buddy books and hoping to be able to deliver them again before spring break. When we return from spring break we will begin our long research report bringing together all the skills we have learned this year. Your children bring smiles to my face and joy to my heart. I am honored to work with them.

8th Grade - The eighth graders have completed their study of simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. We also worked on the proper use of commas, identifying direct and indirect objects, and identifying prepositions and prepositional phrases. Test grades will be posted on RenWeb during this week. Our next area of study will be diagramming sentences that are simple, compound, and complex. With only a few meetings between now and the JH Show, we will do our best practicing during class and on take-home practice worksheets. While Ms. Unger is in town, we will be using one of my class periods to have the students receive their first lesson on northern Arizona and Grand Canyon.

MATH - MRS. LANSEY

7th Grade has worked with ratios, rates, and proportions. They explored the challenging task of how rates can be converted, such as how much soda the average American consumes in a year versus a week or an Olympian's speed in meters per second to miles per hour. Converting rates allows for people to better relate to measurements. Additionally, students learned about comparing figures through proportions. The unit project will involve working with a scaled image of a house and determining the supplies and cost related to renovating the house.

In March students will further extend proportional reasoning and problem solving in real world situations. Percent concepts of sales tax, commission, markups, discounts, commission, and probability are just a few of the applications they will be exploring. While out eating at your favorite restaurant, have your student calculate the server's commission which is more commonly referred to as the tip. Get out those sales ads and let them determine the best discount.

8th grade - In February students have studied two linear equations simultaneously, otherwise known as a system of linear equations. Students approximated a solution from a graph and more accurately solved the system algebraically using the substitution and elimination methods. Real-life applications such as comparing cell phone plans brings relativity to an abstract idea.

Students will be transitioning to exponential functions in March. To better understand the characteristics of an exponential function, they will be comparing them to linear functions. In this comparison they will look at tables of values, graphs, equations, and verbal models. The main take away is that linear functions have a constant rate of change that creates the straight line versus exponential functions that have a varying rate of change that curves the line. Exponential models like decay of radioisotopes and population growth of bacteria will be provided to further their understanding of exponential models.

SCIENCE - MRS. COLEMAN

8th graders are beginning a study of astronomy and the space program. This project unit will ask questions about space travel, living in space, manufacturing materials and 3-D printing, robotics, space instruments and high tech computing. Students will investigate current NASA missions and their ties to learning about the universe. Students will make claims, provide evidence to support conclusions and use models to demonstrate their learning. We will have a guest speaker from the U of A's Department of Astronomy and Steward Observatory to conclude this unit. Far out!

7th graders will be engaged in asking questions like, "What is Earth's place in the Universe, What makes up our solar system and how can the motion of Earth explain seasons and eclipses?" We will examine the Earth's place in relation to the solar system, Milky Way galaxy, and universe. Students will be using models of the solar system to explain astronomical and other observations of the cyclic patterns of eclipses, tides, and seasons. We will make connections to engineering through the instruments and technologies that have allowed us to explore the objects in our solar

system and obtain the data that support the theories that explain the formation and evolution of the universe. Way cool!

Optional: Optimist Essay contest entries due this Friday 2/17.

Optional: Science Fair projects due March 6, 2017

SOCIAL STUDIES – MR. SCHMIT

7th grade - Students are learning about how life was for young women in the Lowell textile factories in the early 1800s. Students will then compare 19th century textile production to the modern international manufacture of today's t-shirts. After this unit we look at the rise of the rugged, self-made man of the western frontier as an image of America. The election of Andrew Jackson typifies this new America as we examine the ascension of the common man under Jacksonian democracy.

8th grade - World War I tears apart Europe, and Woodrow Wilson defends U.S. neutrality. This month 8th graders are tracing events that lead to America's entry into the conflict. Students will then examine the terms and consequences of the Treaty of Versailles as Wilson tries to sell the League of Nations to U.S. citizens who want nothing to do with international entanglements. The 1920s bring conflicts of ideas as women's equality, communism and evolution clash with traditional American values. Then comes the stock market crash of 1929 and the Depression.

