

JUNIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT

MAY 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>5/5</u>	8 th Grade Finals (SS & Science)
<u>5/8</u>	8 th Grade Finals (Math & LA)
<u>5/9-12</u>	8 th Grade Trip; 7 th Grade have special schedules & activities
<u>5/12</u>	All library books due!!!
<u>5/17</u>	Baccalaureate Mass; Graduation (all to attend)
<u>5/18</u>	7 th Grade late start (10 a.m.)
<u>5/19</u>	7 th Grade Finals (Math & LA)
<u>5/22</u>	7 th Grade Finals (SS & Science)
<u>5/25</u>	School Mass (instead of 5/24)
<u>5/26</u>	Last Day of School

RELIGION

Blessings continue to abound in our St. Cyril Junior High Religion classes! The eighth graders of late have been concentrating on Catholic Social Justice teaching. Based on the Beatitudes, it enjoins us every day to change the world: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall see mercy. Moral decision-making depends on these duties: as Jesus says, however, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Seventh graders focus on Church History: we're moving into the post-Vatican II era. Both grades have also learned new ways to pray. Finally, we're exploring a different version of the Greatest Story Ever Told: *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Please review the multiple letters that have been sent home over the past couple months. It's important to follow guidelines for graduation attire and timeliness. All 7th grade students are expected to partake in the 8th grade graduation. There are big events happening in the next couple weeks; those letters are the best way to stay informed.

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

Literature - As we move toward the end of the year, our work in Literature has taken a new turn: a concentration on poetry. Spinning off of our studies of the Civil Rights Movement, seventh graders are beginning their study of the craft with the work of Langston Hughes and other luminaries of the Harlem Renaissance. Eighth graders are taking a more eclectic approach, but one that will also ground them in the fundamentals of rhyme and rhythm, style and theme. We've just finished writing essays on Human Rights Heroes, and we're now reading work that's almost as inspiring as they are.

7th Grade - We continued to "plug" along in Language Arts. We have wrapped up our "How To" presentations and are heading into our final project—a research essay. Students will be researching a topic of interest to them and creating a strong essay sharing their research. While they work on the research essay, we continue to work on parts of speech that will lead us into the final weeks set aside for diagramming sentences. I am so excited to diagram sentences, but the students seem to groan every time I talk about it! While we may only have a few weeks left, the students will continue to work hard in Language Arts.



8th Grade – April and May have been consumed with the proper steps of writing a research report. Students began the process the beginning of April by selecting sources for their personally chosen topic. All students were required to complete a minimum of forty notecards that would support their thesis statement. By the end of April students were creating the outline which would finally lead to the completed research report of a minimum of 600 words. All students also created Cited Works pages that included the sources used to create their reports. Grades will be posted as soon as all reports have been evaluated.

With the year coming to a close, students are preparing for the final test which will be on May 8th. This test will review terminology discussed during the research process, diagramming of sentences and a review of well qualified compound and complex sentences. I have enjoyed working with your children during their final year at St. Cyril School, and I wish them all the best in their continued educational journey.

MATH – MRS. LANSEY

7th Grade - 7th Grade students are shifting to geometry in math. This language intense unit has students identifying special angle pair relationships that occur between parallel lines and transversals. The relationships led students in finding missing dimensions and ultimately the proof that a triangle has three angles whose sum is 180 degrees. Transitioning to triangles, students use equations with the Triangle Sum Theorem to find values for an unknown number and then reason and construct Triangles using the Triangle Inequality Theorem and protractor.

Students will be utilizing their spatial reasoning with 2D and 3D figures. 3-Dimensional figures, solids, were broken down into their 2-dimensional nets to reason the parts of the solid. Students then connected these models to formulas used to calculate the measurements of surface area and volume. Household items such as a box of cereal or a can of soup help make these solids come to life. In the same way that solids were reasoned through nets, composite figures such as a silo are reasoned through multiple solids. Students carefully considered how to use formulas for solids when calculating surface area or volume of these composite figures.

8th Grade - Students studied 1st degree polynomials, a.k.a. linear equations in great detail. They extended their knowledge to polynomials of a higher degree such as quadratic (second degree) and cubic (third degree) polynomials. Students classified polynomials by name and interpreted the parts of the expression to understand their context/value. Connections and extensions of their understanding of properties of real numbers and exponential expressions were applied to polynomial expressions. Students considered how two expressions that appear to be different are actually equivalent. The polynomial expressions will lead to polynomial functions that can be used to model dimensions of geometric figures such as area and volume.

Students are exploring statistics, learning about surveys, data organization, and analysis. They have studied sampling techniques to gather a representative sample of a population. Using sample data, students will draw inferences about population using measures such as mean, median, mode, and percentiles and displays such as frequency tables and histograms or box and whisker plots to support inferences.

SCIENCE – MRS. COLEMAN

Jr. High students engaged in many different types of awesome, science learning this month.

Our department enjoyed a wonderful field trip to the U of A campus in late April. We visited the Mirror Lab, Tree Ring Lab, KUAT studios and the Civil Engineering department's Aqualibrium project. Students took away from this experience perspectives on possible career opportunities, an appreciation of the great things happening right here in Tucson, and how cool the Student Union is for lunch!

7th graders completed a study of systems and applied the concept to systems on Earth and systems in space (Earth, Moon and Sun). While 8th graders explored the universe along with

theories and most recent ideas related to stars and galaxies. All students created models showing the scale of these remarkable systems.

Currently... Students hosted activities for our St. Cyril STEM Expo last Friday. They guided the younger students through learning related to science, technology, engineering and math. This was a memorable and fun event!

Trimester exams are scheduled for 8th grade Friday, May 5th and 7th grade is Monday, May 22nd. Student should look for study guides on the Jr. High website.

SOCIAL STUDIES - MR. SCHMIT

7th grade - 7th graders are in their final school-year grind toward the finish line. This week we continue our discussion of American manifest destiny, the Texas war for independence and the Mexican-American War. By next week students will be presenting their Civil War battles to the class. After 8th grade graduation comes the end of the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Then, the school year ends and summer vacation begins.

8th grade - 8th grade social studies. These last few weeks go by fast, really fast. In eighth grade we have just completed our examination of the New Deal and the impact of the New Deal on the relationship between our government and its people. We begin our unit on World War II with a discussion of fascism and reasons why many found it appealing during the Depression era. This week students also begin presenting their World War II battles. The fight against Nazi fascism and Japanese imperialism will occupy the minds of eighth graders until their final exam on Friday, May 5. Then it's the 8th grade retreat. And then it's graduation!