

Miss de la Torre's April Newsletter!

A look back at March:

What a busy month! Thank you all for helping make our Dinner Auction a success. We finished up 3rd quarter and are nearing the end of the year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and I am looking forward to 4th quarter.

What We're Learning...

Literature

We finished our poetry unit and are moving on to new tradebooks & working on our Informational Essays.

7th & 8th are beginning *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Their essay is about the Civil Rights Movement as an introduction to the setting and culture of our book.

5th & 6th are beginning *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. They are writing about Ancient Rome, our Topic we are studying in Social Studies.

English

5th-8th grade are still finding success with Simple Solutions. The book is getting progressively more challenging for the students as they build on their grammar skills and incorporate them into their other subjects. Please encourage your students to read and follow all the directions. Oftentimes missed points are due to not completing the entire problem. I also encourage the students to ask questions as we go over each lesson if they don't fully understand or are confused so I can help them before we grade. The students have plenty of time to complete their work in class, so they often do not bring it home for homework. However, if you would like to have your child bring their book home so you can see what kind of work they are doing, please ask your child to do so. I have also started offering extra credit points for study guides in order to incentivize students to study and review before each quiz. Two points for each lesson (4 lessons per unit) that has quality and relevant information will be added to that unit's test grade.

We are beginning to study and practice sentence diagramming in addition to our Simple Solutions. We will be using our skills and knowledge from throughout the year to begin focusing on sentence structure and diagramming.

Social Studies

World History 5&6- We are flying through our Ancient Rome Topic. As it is a short Topic, we are finishing up our last Lesson and will be taking another test soon. Our tests come straight from the text book. In preparation, the students are allowed class time to complete the test as an assignment with classmates so they can find the answers in the Topic. We then discuss our answers as a class and together we create a study guide with the answers to the test. While the students are not told which questions will be long or short answer or multiple choice, they are given the exact question and answer to the test. We discuss key details that are required from each answer to get full points (meaning they do not have to answer word-for-word the correct answer as long as they have the key details). I am hopeful that this helps relieve test anxiety and give students the opportunity to study information that will be on the test rather than studying details that will not help them come test time.

American History 7&8- We have begun our Revolutionary Era Topic and the students are excited about it. This will most likely be our final Topic to be covered this school year. As a heads up, the students have been asking to watch Hamilton (available on Disney+) as it is relevant and informative on the events during and after the Revolutionary War. I will be sending out a consent form closer to the time that we will try to watch the movie, but I wanted to give you time to review it beforehand so you can make an informed decision about signing the form.

Religion

Religion 5 & 6- We will begin Unit 3 “The Eucharist”. We have just finished up our Lent Books completed during the Lenten Season and are beginning Chapter 10 “The Eucharist” where we will dive deeper into the mystery and miracle that occurs during Mass.

Religion 7 & 8- The time has finally come for our students to receive the Holy Spirit as they make their Confirmation. Mrs. Marcia and I are very excited and proud of how hard they have worked to make it at last to this point in their faith journey. Any questions regarding Confirmation should be directed to Mrs. Marcia.

Anything Else?

PARENTS OF 8th GRADERS- Graduation is coming up fast! We need pictures of your child for their end of the year SlideShow that will be shown at graduation. The pictures must be emailed to your child’s email so they can easily transfer them to their

SlideShow. Your child is also in charge of deciding on their song, please review it and make sure it is school appropriate.

Wednesdays for the rest of the school year will be able to pay \$1 to Student Council for a dress down day. Please make sure your child(ren) comes prepared with their money and is abiding by the dress code.

As we continue into our second semester of this school year, classes will continue to get more challenging and we will be moving a bit faster through our lessons. Checking in with your child to make sure they are keeping up with assignments will be very helpful in raising and improving their grades.

Please see Ms. Little's Newsletter with important information on dress code and behavior. These issues have been increasing lately and we would like you to be aware of our expectations.

Dates to remember:

- April 8- Solar Eclipse- wear Red or Green for \$1
- April 9- Final date for 8th grade Formal Dance tickets to be purchased.
- April 12- Stan Musial Assembly @ 1pm
- April 15- 8th grade SlideShow Pictures MUST be turned in
- April 19- No School!
- April 21- Confirmation @ 2:30pm (contact Marcia for more details)
- April 22- No School!
- April 23- Safety Patrol Cardinal's Baseball Game @ 6:30pm
- April 26- Walk-a-Thon
- April 26- Progress Reports are Issued
- April 29- 5-8 Field Trip to the Missouri State Capitol Building and the Penitentiary