



# SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Middle School Newsletter | Sept. 11, 2026**

## Saint Thomas Youth Group

We're excited to kick off another year of Youth Ministry, and we would love to have your middle schooler join us! Youth Group is for students in grades 6-8 and will be a chance for them to spend time with friends, enjoy dinner and fun games, and most importantly, grow in their personal relationship with the Lord. We want Youth Group to be a place where students feel welcomed, have fun, build friendships, and have the opportunity to encounter Christ in their everyday lives.

**Middle School Youth Group** will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month from 6-7:30pm in the Church Lower Level, following Mass.

Each evening will include:

- Dinner
- Fun games and activities
- Time to grow in faith and relationship with the Lord
- Time to hang out and build friendships

Our first Youth Group night is Saturday, September 12, at 6pm in the Church Lower Level. Please [RSVP for Youth Group](#).

**Youth Ministry Registration & Email Opt-In:** We also want to make sure your student doesn't miss out on all the fun opportunities happening throughout the school year! In addition to our regular Youth Group nights, we'll have other events and activities that students can participate in throughout the year.

To receive future Youth Ministry emails and information about upcoming events, parents will need to complete the [Youth Ministry registration form](#) and opt in to receive Youth Ministry communications.

Going forward, Youth Ministry emails will only be sent to families who have opted in, so we encourage you to register even if your student isn't able to attend every Youth Group meeting. That way, you'll be able to hear about upcoming events and opportunities throughout the year.

We're really looking forward to a wonderful year with our middle school students! Thank you for allowing us to walk alongside your family and support your students as they grow in faith.

We hope to see your middle schooler on September 12! ~Megan Alfaro, Youth Ministry Director

# MIDDLE SCHOOL MAP Testing Schedule

Our Middle School students will be taking MAP tests on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 15 – Math, 9:27 - 11:45am
- Tuesday, September 22 – Reading, 9:27 - 11:45am
- Thursday, September 24 – Science, 9:27 - 10:58am
- Tuesday, September 29 – Language Usage, 9:27 - 10:58am

Please make every effort to have your student at school on these days/times.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Language Arts:** We started reading *The Giver*. While reading, we learned about the elements of fictions and the different parts of a book. We also learned the differences between a short story and a novel. We will continue reading *The Giver* this quarter. We will look at the character development of our main character and what we can learn from him.

**Social Studies:** We discussed the five themes of Geography and the students started a project. We also discussed the events of 9/11. Next week, the students will work on their projects on Monday and Tuesday, and present on Wednesday. Then, we will discuss the Constitution due to it being Constitution Day! Finally, we will finish the week discussing globes and modern mapping. Students will receive a Geography Basics study guide, and their test will be the following Friday.

- 5 Themes of Geography Project - Due Wednesday, September 16
- Geography Basics Test - Friday, September 25

**Science:** We have continued to focus on what it means to be a scientist by looking at the parts of a controlled experiment. We will finish up our introductory material by looking at the standard units of measurement used in science before moving into 1.1

**Theology:** The students are starting to learn about the different genres and books of the Bible. We will continue to delve into them next week. We learn about the History and Wisdom books next week.

**Math 6G1:** Students learned about the order of operations and the properties associated with the operations of addition and multiplication. They worked on a study guide for an upcoming quiz. Next week, students will take a quiz and learn about prime factorization and finding the greatest common factor between numbers.

- Tuesday, September 15 - Chapter 1 Quiz 1 (1.1 - 1.3)

**Math 6G2:** Students prepared for and took their first quiz. They also learned about prime factorization. Next week, students will learn about finding the greatest common factor and the least common multiple between numbers.

Monday, September 21 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.6)

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Language Arts:** We started reading *The Outsiders*. While reading the book, we looked at the people that can be found in the Ponyboy's group, and what kind of people they are. We also talked about the difference between a Greaser and a Soc, and why they act the way they do. We will continue reading *The Outsider* for the rest of this quarter, looking at what kind of people in the group are, and how they can be considered a family. We will also be looking at the elements of fiction next week.

**Social Studies:** We discussed the Roman government, and the Roman army. We also discussed the events of 9/11. Next week, we will discuss who influenced the Romans, what life was like in Roman society for men and women, the rich and the poor, and slaves. Then, we will finish the week discussing religion in the Roman Republic. We will also discuss the Constitution due to it being Constitution Day! Students will receive a Roman Republic study guide, and their test will be the following Wednesday.

- Roman Republic Test - Wednesday, September 23

**Theology:** The students are starting to learn about the structure and style of the New Testament. Next week, we will explore the different Gospels, who they were written for, when they were written and why?

**Science:** We started our physical science material by learning how to identify motion and represent it on a graph. Next week, we will start learning about force and acceleration.

- Thursday, October 1- Module 1 Test

**Math 7G1:** Students prepared for and took their first quiz. They also learned about subtracting integers. Next week, students will learn about subtracting rational numbers. They will take a quiz and begin to prepare for the Chapter 1 Test.

- Thursday, September 17 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.4 - 1.5)
- Monday, September 21 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, September 22 - Chapter 1 Test

**Math 7G2:** Students prepared for and took their first quiz. They also learned about solving equations with variables on both sides as well as rewriting equations and formulas. Next week, students will take a quiz and begin to prepare for the Chapter 1 Test.

- Thursday, September 17 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)
- Monday, September 21 - Chapter 1 Vocabulary Quiz
- Tuesday, September 22 - Chapter 1 Test

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Leadership Retreat

This year's retreat will take place September 17-18. We will depart from and return to Saint Thomas.

**Parent Affirmation Letter:** One important part of the retreat is a parent affirmation letter for your child. This letter should highlight your child's strengths, your love and care for them, and your encouragement for them as they continue growing in their faith and developing as leaders. You may choose to write one joint letter or separate letters from each parent.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Place your letter in a sealed envelope with your child's name clearly written on the front.
- Letters must be turned in to the front office no later than Thursday morning, September 17, at 8:15am.
- These letters are a meaningful part of the retreat and are an opportunity to speak encouragement and affirmation into the lives of our students during this important year.

For your child to participate, please complete the [STA Retreat Participation Form](#) by Monday, September 14.

**Language Arts:** We continue looking at short stories, focusing more on literary devices used in "The Chaser" and how author's word choice can impact the story and cause the story to feel a set way. Next week, we will continue looking at literary devices in short stories and start a new story called "The Checkout," where we look at different literary devices. At the end of the units, students will start to create their own short stories using the literary devices that they learned.

**History:** We discussed Valley Forge, and students had to decide if they were a soldier, would they have stayed or quit? Students began writing a five paragraph essay, using documents we discussed in class. This is due on Monday. Next week, we will continue discussing the Revolutionary War. We will talk about the turning point, foreign aid, and the impact that women and African Americans had on the Revolutionary War.

- Valley Forge Essays - Due Monday, September 14

**Science:** We started by looking at how energy enters ecosystems and becomes usable through photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Then we moved into how energy moves through ecosystems in food webs and the different trophic roles organisms have within those systems. Next week, we will look at specific cycles that move matter throughout ecosystems.

- Monday, September 28 - Module 1 Test

**Math 8G1:** Students prepared for and took their first quiz. They also learned about solving equations with variables on both sides as well as rewriting equations and formulas. Next week, students will take a quiz. They will be gone Thursday and Friday to attend their 8th grade retreat.

- Wednesday, September 16 - Chapter 1 Quiz 2 (1.3 - 1.4)

**Math 8G2:** Students prepared for and took their first quiz. They also learned about solving equations with variables on both sides. Next week, students will learn about solving absolute value equations and rewriting equations and formulas. They will be gone Thursday and Friday to attend their 8th grade retreat.

**Theology:** We began to review the Four Marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. Next week, we will dig deeper into what each one means. Up first will be One.