



SJV MIDDLE SCHOOL QUARTERLY

The Down Low with Mr. D

The middle school students completed a number of assignments in the first quarter in Language Arts class. Each of the grades has finished, or will finish a class book. 6th grade read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, 7th grade read *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpargo, and 8th grade read *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane. Each of the classes did extensive work and was involved in class discussions with the book.

Each of the classes also completed their first, longer, written assignment. The 6th graders wrote a narrative in which they included characters, setting, a plot, dialogue, climax, and resolution. The 7th graders wrote a per-

sonal essay that detailed an important and memorable experience in their life. The 8th graders wrote a persuasive essay on a topic that was meaningful and relevant to their interests.

In addition, all of the middle school students have worked hard on grammar, vocabulary, spelling and writing skills in their day-to-day work. I have seen the improvements in their writing just by stressing the importance of those skills.

The first quarter went very quickly and the students did a fantastic job. I hope and expect to see similar results in the second quarter and beyond. The students in 6th grade will be completing a group research project that is centered around a topic in Re-

ligion. They will also be writing their DARE essays that reflect on their experiences in the DARE program this year. The 7th graders will be working on informative essays and the importance of organization and factual information in their essays. The 8th graders will be working on a social studies based research project as well as the writing of their Catholic Schools Week essays.

I would also like to thank all of you for making my transition into the SJV Middle School a very smooth one. I look for-



CHAMPS of the First Quarter!

I would like to thank all of the first quarter CHAMPS members who worked so hard to make it a complete success! I would also like to thank Mr. Ziegler and Mrs. Kovars for helping CHAMPS run smoothly.

The first quarter represen-

tatives worked hard to prepare a skit for Vianney Varieties that was centered around school spirit. They also planned a fantastic pep rally for the FIVE eighth grade teams that made it into the Seton Volleyball Tournament. Thanks again

to all first quarter members!

The second quarter members will be working on activities such as writing a new school song, fun and exciting holiday ideas and ideas for Catholic Schools Week!

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Demeter's Details

- *Mr. D has begun his 10th year of coaching middle school basketball. This year he has an 8th grade girls team.*
- *This will be his second year coaching at SJV.*
- *Mr. D will also be helping out with the forensics team this year.*

Religion with Mrs. Fischer

Inside the Curriculum

The first quarter has been one of tremendous learning for all of us! As we work our way through the curriculum provided by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, there have been many opportunities to expand and broaden the concepts through discussion and inquiry. There are many things about our faith that intrigue the students and I try to capture that in my lessons.

So much of their previous instruction as been on the basic facts of our faith, so to focus strictly on the Old Testament has posed a bit of a challenge to the sixth graders. They love Jesus so much that they struggle to keep him out of their heads while we learn of the Patriarchs. They need frequent reminding that we are learning the same material that He learned when He was a little boy! We have nearly completed the study of the Patriarchs of the Old Testament; those people whom God revealed Himself in order to begin the faith in the one true God. We have read through the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and witnessed how each one struggled to establish their faithfulness in God. We observed how the covenant made with each of them is the covenant that we are fulfilling to this time. We will proceed to study one more patriarch, Joseph, before moving into the Exodus.

Seventh grade has been getting acquainted with Jesus as a human as they watch Him come into himself as the Messiah. We have spent many days discussing His Baptism, temptation, and entry into ministry in order to bring the Jews back to life of faithfulness to God. We've been analyzing how Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy as opposed to John the Baptist whom many thought was the Messiah. Isaiah especially makes it clear that Jesus is the Christ.

The eighth graders have been learning much about how to be true disciples of Jesus as it is expressed in our daily lives. They are learning the significance of building a strong relationship with Christ through prayer, sacraments, and Eucharist so as to lead a moral life. In this learning they have become aware of the Cardinal and Theological virtues and the vices that they seek to destroy. These concepts have inspired some very deep and thought provoking discussions.

I encourage all parents to talk to their children about what they are learning. Help them to evangelize. They just might convert you!



Service Abounds!

Did you know that the middle school students completed nearly 1,300 hours of service during the first quarter?

It's true. These kids are crazy about serving others!

Service opportunities continue to come my way. After I present them to the students, they are posted on my TeacherWeb page on the "Service Opportunities" tab. Take a look, there might be something there that will inspire you to get active in serving others.

Here are some valuable quotes for the middle school students about service:

"I have learned that it is not hard to help. I have learned that whoever I have helped was very thankful and happy." - sixth grader

"I have learned that it is better to help others than for them to help you. The best part of participating is the warm feeling that I helped someone who really needed it." - seventh grader

*"Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another."
-George Eliot*

"I learned that you get a better feeling inside when you give rather than receive. I think the best part is knowing that we are setting a good example and that you are doing good in the world and helping others even if its just a little thing."
- eighth grader

During the season of Advent, the middle school students will be involved in a unit wide service learning activity that will benefit our twin school Prince of Peace. Keep an eye on my TeacherWeb page for further details as that project gets started. It will be another way for parents to get involved in the lives of the

middle school students.

Thank you for all of your support.

As a reminder the sixth and seventh graders are expected to have a minimum of 10 hours for the year while the eighth graders are expected to have 15.



Mrs. Kaminski's Awesome Mathematicians

8K and 8S Algebra and Geometry

The eighth grade students have been working on the geometric concepts of surface area and volume involving 3-dimensional figures. They continue to do well in solving challenging algebraic equations. We are currently working on strategic methods for solving word problems that include consecutives, diagrams, ratio, proportion, and percent. During the next month, we will tackle the concepts of solving inequalities involving absolute value of open sentences. After Christmas the eighth grade students will be introduced to monomials and polynomials.



We are thankful for all God has given us.

The eighth grade students are a joy to teach. They are outwardly enthusiastic about learning the concepts in Algebra and Geometry. These students take outstanding notes and this will be a tremendous benefit to them when they go to high school. I am also extremely proud of the academic accomplishments of the students that attended the Marquette contest. Their dedication to SJV is remarkable.

7K and 7S Pre-Algebra

The seventh grade students have been diligently working on the concepts of integers, graphing, and solving basic equations and inequalities. They also did a superb job on coordinate geometry. I am very proud of all of their efforts. After Christmas the students will begin a unit on the stock market. Start talking with your child on choosing a stock to track on Microsoft Excel. They will each design a poster for their stock.



We are thankful for all of our students.

The seventh grade students are marvelous to work with. Their class participation is noteworthy. They enjoy working at the blackboard and the SMART Board. I am impressed by their sense of responsibility and hard work in pre-algebra. Always work up to your highest potential and you will be successful.

6D and 6F Mathematics

The sixth grade students have been conscientiously working on the number system involving the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They also covered order of operations and number theory. We are currently covering the concepts involving fractions, decimals, and basic percents.



We are thankful for the support of our parents and faculty.

The extremely positive attitudes of the sixth grade students are breathtaking. They bring fun and laughter to the classroom. I am so very proud of this group of students and their efforts at the interactive SMART Board.

KOLB'S KORNER

Eighth Grade Is In Motion During the Second Quarter!



We've had a wonderful first quarter and everyone seems to have adjusted beautifully to our new Middle School. The Eighth grade has just completed a quarter of Chemistry. They learned about basic principles of matter and how matter is changed. We'll visit Chemistry again during the third quarter.



Second quarter we will cover a unit of Physics. In this chapter, students will learn about motion and the forces that cause it, how gravity affects the motion of objects and how the laws of motion apply to life.

If you have Internet service at home, encourage your child to access information related to the "Forces and Motion" chapters. At www.scilinks.org they will find links to Web sites that have been selected by the staff at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). The staff at NSTA regularly scans the Internet to find sites that are current, engaging, and appropriate for middle school students. Check out the latest links by typing in the scLINKS numbers listed at the end of each section in the science text. Every child was given information on how to use this site as well as their text book site. Additional login information is located on my teacher webpage.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SCIENCE FAIR

In early December, 8th grade students will be receiving an information packet regarding the Science Fair held during Catholic Schools Week. Each student will be asked to choose a science fair project relating to any Physical Science topic. Their selections are due before Christmas break. I encourage them to do some preliminary research regarding a topic selection and select one that is both interesting and workable. All project selections must be approved by me and no topic will be duplicated in the fair.

Seventh Grade Isolates DNA!



Life Science began with an introduction to the tools of a scientist. The seventh graders enthusiastically participated in labs where they learned how to use microscopes, balances and various other laboratory equipment. We ended the quarter by investigating, in great detail, the cell and its' organelles.

Second quarter, students will learn about the passing of traits from parents to offspring. Don't worry their quirky behavior traits may or may not be your fault! Students will also study "Genes, DNA and Genetic Engineering" and will learn how everyone is unique.

You can help your child explore these topics by identifying current news stories applicable to our studies as you browse through a newspaper or watch the evening news.

Engage your child in conversations about these relevant science issues.

Later on in the quarter we will isolate strawberry DNA and view it under the microscope.



Sixth Grade Explores the Restless EARTH!



First quarter went very well! Everyone was excited as we mapped and modeled our planet earth.

We then explored the world of rocks and minerals with hands on investigations of their colors, textures and crystalline shapes.

Your son's or daughter's class will soon begin exploring the unit entitled "Plate

Tectonics." In this chapter, students will learn about the structure of the Earth and the forces that continually re-shape the crust of our planet. Later this quarter students will also discover what causes earthquakes and how they affect us.

Don't be shaken if they mention collapsing buildings!

The last chapter covered this quarter will feature "Volcanoes." In this unit, students will learn about the causes and effects of volcanic eruptions.



Mrs. Schmitt's Social Studies Scoop!

KING TUT—WILLIAM PENN—CRAZY HORSE and SJV MIDDLE SCHOOL!

6th Grade

Upon entering SJV Middle School, the 6th graders spent several weeks working on techniques to help them improve their study skills. Using their Social Studies text World History: Journey Across Time, the students learned how to outline. Attention was given to using text headings, sub-headings, and bolded words to help them recognize what's important as they read and take notes. By graduation taking GOOD NOTES should be automatic!

The 6th graders recently finished drawing their own version of cave drawings. Each student had his or her own section of the mural where they depicted something from this time period that interests them. The students hope to have both murals put in a time capsule and bury it for posterity to uncover!

Currently the 6th graders are exploring the wonders of Ancient Egypt. Watch out, they may even start to "walk like an Egyptian!"

8th Grade

The 8th graders recently completed a unit on the Civil War and Social Reform in America. The students gained insights into the challenges women, the mentally ill, and particularly the African-American faced during the 19th century.

Currently the 8th graders are studying what life was like for four distinct groups during western expansion of the United States as it continued to fulfill Manifest Destiny. These groups were the ranchers, miners, farmers and Native Americans.

The Lewis and Clack videos were a highlight of the 1st quarter. Both classes recently enjoyed viewing many of their videos; which were terrific! There may be a budding Steven Spielberg in the group!

*"From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever".
Chief Joseph, Chief of the Nez Perce,
1877*

By the end of the 2nd quarter, the 8th graders should be closing in on the 20th century with the Spanish-American War and studying the concepts of expansionism and imperialism.

7th Grade

During the 1st quarter the 7th graders' eyes were opened to the causes and effects of exploration of the Americas. From the Crusades to the adventures of Marco Polo, Europeans' eyes were also opened to the many things, some good and some bad, that the world had to offer. With Britain's colonization of the New World, American history really begins. To give the children an up close and personal feeling of what the colonists went through during the 1800's, the 7th grades visited Old World Wisconsin on October 23. Most thought the tour of the blacksmith shop and the Raspberry School House were the most interesting. The gift shop offered quite a few treats that the kids enjoyed as well.

Looking to the 2nd quarter, the students will be doing several fun activities. They will dye cloth from only natural dyes as the colonists did. In small groups, the students will also be making world geography maps where they will draw and label important geographic features from all over the world. Look for these tri-fold masterpieces which will be on display during Catholic Schools Week.

After learning about the *who, what, where, when, why, and how* of the 13 colonies, the 7h graders will turn their attention to the French and Indian War. A culminating activity of this unit is a board game which should include the causes and events of this war.



Here's the Scoop!

- All three grades will have opportunities to participate in the current events online quiz game, called "The News-game". Always a fun time for the students! I encourage the students to watch the world, national, and local news with their parents and together discuss what in the world is going on!
- The Geography Bee will take place on Wednesday, December 9 at 1:15 pm in the gym. All are invited. Do you know what the capital of Ethiopia is? The major export of Ecuador?
- The Middle School students have chances at least once a month to mingle with fellow classmates from all three grades. Making skits, playing "Courtesy Bingo", and discussing ways to make SJV the best place it can be. To find out more, ask your child about his/her color group!



7S helped their 2nd grade buddies from 2CB make the famous and much anticipated monsters! A good time was had by all!

Mrs. Schuenke's Pen and Quill

Arguing and Challenging – the Eighth Graders Will Debate

A debate is a discussion in which participants articulate, justify, and clarify their positions on an issue. In 8S language arts, students will have the opportunity during the second quarter to participate in an informal debate. Their unit will consist of learning debate vocabulary, researching the pro or con in computer class, practicing debate protocol, and creating a reflection. Scoring will be based on a rubric and will include the previous points. Students who volunteer to be a moderator and give opening or closing statements will earn extra credit on the rubric.

“Inside the pencil crouch words that have never been written.” – W. S. Merwin, “The Unwritten”



The Music of Our Language – 6F Studies Poetry

Fog
Carl Sandburg
*The fog comes
On little cat feet.*

*It sits looking
Over the harbor and the city
On silent haunches
And then moves on.*

My sixth grade class is in the midst of a poetry unit that continues in the second quarter. Besides learning poetry vocabulary and the difference between narrative and lyric poetry, the purpose of the unit is to increase their awareness and enjoyment of this genre. They have experienced poems by Carl Sandburg such as “Arithmetic”; Emily Dickinson’s “a narrow fellow in the grass”; and the poem “Ghost House” by Robert Frost. Visualizing the language of poetry helped students to comprehend what they have read. The unit also includes how to read poetry with a controlled rate and phrasing. Lastly, students using the basic elements of poetry will write and publish their own poetry. Let’s all snap!

Seventh Grade Delves into the Science of Research

In the second quarter, 7S will begin group research projects to achieve the research and inquiry benchmarks. They will gather relevant information, organize, and present their findings logically. It will also be necessary to differentiate between main ideas and details. This project will be done in conjunction with computer class. Media and technology will provide them with the opportunity to be creative in publishing their findings. Research will also be expanded to include the library. Each small group will be given a science career to explore. These will range from a

neuroscientist to a diagnostic medical sonographer to a canopy scientist and more. Students will use a Research Guide to collect information and record sources.

