April 7, 2019

Dear 8th Grade Parents:

Happy April! We're so excited for the warm weather. Hard to believe that Easter Break is a week-and-a-half away!

Keep reading for an update of what has been going on!

ELA
Students have finished their study of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. They spent the last week studying and analyzing a character and their role in the novel by completing their final project. They will also have their final exam on Tuesday. Students were incredibly engaged in the novel and about why George did what he did to Lennie and about the final interactions between Lennie and Curley's Wife. Students also loved watching the film of the movie and comparing and contrasting the film to the novel. While it is a great adaption, a few things differ and students really analyzed and discussed why those changes could have been made (i.e. Curley's Wife portrayed as bitter and mean in the novel was the film portrays her more of an innocent victim.)

Next up they will be reading *The Most Dangerous Game* in preparation of reading *Lord of the Flies*.

Science
Students finished map skills by working with Chrome books playing a game to beat the clock in delivering pizzas around the world locating places by longitude and latitude. Healthy competition was built up between students by earning flags of countries that pizzas were delivered.   To enhance this unit, in STEM, students worked with a solar calendar to learn about the rising and setting of sun in different months based on latitude position.

Eighth grades have now moved on to learning about the properties of air and air pressure.   This led to learning the properties of the various layers of the atmosphere such as density and air pressure and phenomenon existing in each layer. Students completed a virtual lab and graphed some of their results. We are now moving into how atmosphere affects weather and climate. Included in this, is the goal to create an awareness of environmental factors that are of today's concern. Students are becoming familiar with acid rain, the diminishing ozone layer, greenhouse effect and global warming having effects and impacting on our planet Earth.

Religion
Students have continued with their analysis of the Psalms during the Lenten season via Google Classroom with chromebook usage. Reading the different Psalms assigned to them, analyzing them, and applying the Psalms to their lives depending on the message of the passage. On top

of this, the students have been working hard learning about aspects of heaven as defined in the Catholic Catechism. More specifically, the nine choir of angels that organize and structure heaven as the Church defines it. After working on their essays and learning about the different types of angels, students continued learning about different virtues they can use in their lives as they start high school, the virtues being meekness, abstinence, and zeal.

Social Studies
In social studies we have been completing our look on the Roaring Twenties and The Great Depression. Students will be having their exam on Monday, and extra help will be Thursday. Students looked at the economic and social changes in the Roaring Twenties from jazz to the growth of African American culture in the Harlem Renaissance. Students looked at the complicated issues that led to the Great Depression, from stock market collapse to the decrease in demand following the boom of the Twenties.

We will next be starting our look at World War II, and look at the war being a direct result of both World War I and the Depression affecting the world. Students will evaluate the initial causes of the war, and we will be looking at the events which occured one Germany went on the offensive to start the conflict.

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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