



Bethlehem ACADEMY

INSPIRING TRUTH SINCE 1868

Middle School News, May 2021

Dear Families,

Students are deep into learning as we enter the final month of school. Despite all of this year's challenges, students have grown in their minds, hearts, and spirits.

We want our students to have a strong finish to the school year. Continue to check in with your child regarding their daily work. Ask them to show you their grades on PowerSchool.

Homework Club is offered Tuesdays through Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Mrs. Kohl's classroom. Students are encouraged to drop in if they need extra help or a quiet place to work after school.

As a reminder, the advisory teachers for each grade are listed below:

6th grade: Mrs. Cina - acina@bacards.org

7th grade: Ms. Coller - ccoller@bacards.org

8th grade: Mrs. Smisek - jsmisek@bacards.org

Thank you for partnering with us at BA,

Middle School Teachers

Middle School Staff

Mrs. Angela Cina-MS 6th grade math and English,
8th grade English, 6th grade advisor

Ms. Caryn Coller-MS social studies, 7th grade
English, 7th grade advisor

Mr. Scot Gardner-MS band

Mr. Jason Hillesheim-MS art

Mrs. Kris Kohl-MS resource teacher, 7th grade
religion

Mr. Matt Knutson-MS physical education

Mrs. Cassie Kratt-MS choir, 6th grade religion

Sr. Melissa Schreifels-7th and 8th grade math

Ms. Casi Story- MS ag/shop

Mrs. Julie Smisek-MS science, 8th grade religion,
8th grade advisor

Mrs. Melinda Reeder-President/Principal

Ms. Tori Rogers-Guidance Counselor

Mr. John Wollersheim-Assistant Principal



6th Grade

English: Students have recently wrapped up their writing unit on word choice and voice. They will finish the year by reading a novel in small literature groups. Be on the lookout for details about the upcoming 7th grade summer read, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park.

Math: Students will wrap up their chapter on numerical and algebraic expressions. Then they will solve simple algebraic equations.

Science: Students have been studying energy and will finish the year with closer looks at such energy forms as thermal, electrical, and sound.

Social Studies: Students have just finished the study of Minnesota's early flour, lumber, and iron ore industries. Our final two topics will be a look at immigrants, labor, and early cities of Minnesota and planning a road trip through Minnesota.

Religion: 6th grade religion students are learning about the Kingdom of God - The Communion of Saints, Christian Unity, and A New Creation. Students will choose, create, and present a Catholic Social Teaching project before the year concludes. Please email Mrs. Kratt with questions or concerns. Here's to the end of a great year!

7th Grade

English: Students continue with the reading of the novel *Chains*. Be on the lookout for details about the upcoming 8th grade summer read, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park.

7th Grade

Math: I am excited to report that the 7th grade students are doing very well. They worked very hard on their NWEA tests and I am very pleased with all of their hard work. The 7th grade students finished learning about slopes and graphing lines and had an introduction to the "standard form" and "slope-intercept form" of linear functions. Currently they are simplifying radical expressions and using these skills to solve right triangle Pythagorean Theorem problems. All of my students have worked hard all year and I pray that we all finish strong. Go Cardinals!

Science: Students been studying various animal phyla and have begun a look at different chordate classes. We will end the year with a focus on ecology.

Social Studies: Students will conclude the year by examining several topics of U.S. History including immigration.

Religion: Seventh grade religion students are learning about listening to God's call, acting with justice and living based on the hope offered to us by Jesus. Students will also be studying Catholic Social Teaching. We will continue to offer daily prayers for our families, friends, BA, personal concerns and global issues.

Ag/Shop: Students have been focusing on Fish and Wildlife all semester long and have begun to develop their shop skills. With the remainder of the year they will be completing a bird house and a cutting board. Please look for further information soon on this year's \$5 shop fee.

8th Grade

English: Students will lead a vocabulary study on Greek and Latin roots. They will finish the year with a poetry and writing unit. Be on the lookout for details about the upcoming 9th grade summer read, *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

Math: I am excited to report that the 8th grade students are doing very well. They worked very hard on their NWEA tests and I am very pleased with all of their hard work. The eighth grade finished a unit on factoring and graphing quadratics and will soon start solving these quadratic equations. I can hardly wait to teach them the Quadratic Formula! All of my students have worked hard all year and I pray that we all finish strong. Go Cardinals!

Science: Students have been studying weather related topics and continue to collect daily weather data. We will end the year with a brief look at space.

Social Studies: Students have completed our units exploring Europe. Our final region of the world we will be examining is Southwest Asia.

Religion: Students have been studying liturgical seasons and Holy Days of Obligation. We will finish the year by looking at various role models, including Mary and the saints. In our Positivity Project lessons, students have been focusing on the science of well-being. We will finish the year with community engagement and being our best selves.



Art: From Realism to Abstract Expressionism, the 6th Grade Art students just completed their watercolor studies and color theory lessons to apply their learned skills to create a still life painting of four pears. Watercolor is a medium that teaches us patience as the artist must be aware of which areas are workable and the effects they wish to create if mixing wet medium to a wet surface. The outcome in the end was a huge success for all, and I am very proud of their use of time, materials, and creativity.

Our next project is in progress. We've built the armatures for our abstract sculptural forms and will be applying acrylic and latex paint to them in hopes of creating some far out and thought provoking pieces.



Art: The 8th Grade Art students have been doing a very nice job with working through the lessons, following the processes, and using patience as a tool to observe the work that they are doing and capitalize on creating wonderful pieces. Earlier this semester we started off with self portraits and continued learning how the grid method can aid us keeping proportions and details in check when drawing. The graphite on paper finished pieces were outstanding. We've also covered color theory while building our skills in using watercolors, creating color spectrum swatches, learning how to mix various hues of brown, and understanding a little more how colors work together in our paintings to create harmonies with each other. Our final watercolor piece was a personal choice landscape painting, finished off with black ink to give a more abstract look to the work.

Our next unit takes us into 2 point perspective drawing and learning how to use vanishing points, orthogonal lines, and the horizon line to draw realistic objects in space.

