



St. Martin of Tours Academy
Eighth Grade Newsletter
June 2016

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." - Edith Wharton

Hello! I chose the above quote for two reasons, for this last newsletter of the year. Firstly, this statement expresses what the eighth grade students have learned in their years at SMA - that we live lives of mutual support, and are often dependent on each other to get things done. We can be both leaders and followers, to great effect, at different times, and in varying circumstances. Secondly, the students will light candles next Friday, June 17th at graduation, as a symbol of the light they each carry out into the world. These students have so many gifts and talents, so evident in their amazing SLE Exit presentations, that I know they will all shine brightly in their future endeavors. It's been a pleasure working with these students this year. I will miss them, and wish them well in high school.

I'd also like to express my gratitude for all of the kindness and support you have shown me over the course of this year. In particular, I am most grateful to our eighth grade room parents- Shanta Munoz and Kelly Wood - and to our head room parent/ coordinator Anna Kennedy. I appreciate all of their assistance with various field trips, our bake sale, Walkathon, class e-mails, and much more. Well done, ladies!

Tomorrow is the last school Mass of the year, and the Graduation Reception/Brunch for 2016 graduates and immediate family (parents, grandparents, siblings only). Students need to be in full dress uniform (clean blue sweatshirts for all students, skirts for girls, pants for boys). Students participating in the "One Bread, One Body" Communion processional need to have clean white socks that cover their ankles.

Have a wonderful summer! Peace to you. Take care.

Fondly,



Mrs. Pippin

English Language Arts:

We are continuing our CCSS close reading projects for prose, poetry, and informational texts - including the transcript of a radio broadcast on WWII Veterans affairs. The students did a wonderful job on their final, science-themed research papers, submitted on Tuesday, June 7th. We have now completed reading and follow-up activities for *Fahrenheit 451*, including vocabulary and character and theme worksheets, as well as discussions of what it means to be a hero/anti-hero. On Wednesday, the students completed their 35th and last spelling test of the year! Journal writing and summer reading are encouraged to help students prepare for high school English classes.

Religion:

For the past few weeks, the students have been practicing for our two graduation/class Masses – Gospel readings and petitions, songs, chimes practice, etc. We have also completed chapter readings and activities on Matrimony and Holy Orders, Confirmation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and community service opportunities. This week, students are sharing their Medieval art projects, including calligraphy, mini stained glass window designs, and cathedral architecture drawings. This past Wednesday the seventh and eighth graders enjoyed a visit from our Pastor, Father Jim Poulsen. He came to answer any questions the students had regarding church history, dogma, and protocol, as well as sharing stories of his own faith journey and priesthood. We were most grateful for this opportunity to spend time with Father Jim.

Algebra (Mr. Woltz):

I am very proud of the class this year for their work and perseverance. They have been pushed hard and each time they rise to the challenge. We finished the Algebra book, so we moved on to geometry and problem solving for the remainder of the year. Please help them remember the year is not over yet and to maintain their strong work ethic until the end. Also, encourage your child to spend some time on Khan Academy this summer to keep their skills sharp for high school.

SLE 2e, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4d

Algebra 8 (Mr. Woltz):

The class is doing such a great job. They are ready to take on the challenges of high school mathematics. We are currently studying quadratic equations. They are learning to graph quadratic equations using many different methods. We will expand this to cover quadratic inequalities and over the next few days, graphing quadratics as parabolas. Please encourage your child to spend some time on Khan Academy this summer to keep their skills sharp for high school.

Science 8 (Mr. Woltz):

As we end this school year we be studying stars and galaxies. We will be learning about the formation of galaxies and how stars form. This will lead us to understand stellar evolution and how our sun works. We will take a brief survey of the many exciting phenomena in the universe. *SLE 2d, 3a, 4a*

Spanish(Mrs. Mosel):

The students have been reinforcing their understanding of the difference between ESTAR and SER with various conjugation exercises, quizzes, and a Prezi presentation. They have learned possessive pronouns and have continued to build their vocabulary through familiar terms describing relatives and family members. They have also been studying their ER and IR verbs in order to build their conversational skills and sentence variety. They will continue to build their fluency by learning the past tense of these particular verbs.

The students have worked quite diligently this year in order to build a basic foundation in Spanish. This introductory-level proficiency and familiarity with the language will help them feel more comfortable in embracing the language in their local community and more importantly, more confident and capable if they pursue Spanish for their foreign language requirement as freshmen next year. Wishing them continued success in all their academic endeavors! - Señora Mosel

History (Mr. Mains):

The students have examined the events and battles of the Civil War. We have given special attention to the human condition in terms of the harsh environment in which these soldiers fought. The students have also gained knowledge of the implementation and impact of the Emancipation Proclamation and how it led to the formation of the 13th Amendment. On June 9th, the students will be participating in the much anticipated Ellis Island Simulation. The students will gain an appreciation of the struggles and obstacles many of their ancestors experienced as they tried to make their way through Ellis Island. Lastly, the students did a fantastic job on their family tree projects. I was very impressed with the amount of in-depth information that the students were able to put together. Good luck to all of the graduates! *SLE: 4a, 5a*

Useful sites: • <http://www.civilwar.org/> • <http://www.history.com/civil-war-150>
• <http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/>

Reminders/Coming Events ~

- Tuesday 6/14 - eighth grade volleyball game
- Wednesday 6/15 - Farewell Assembly - Dressy Free Dress!! (No jeans, t-shirts, shorts, etc.)
- Thursday 6/16 - Class Free Day
- Friday 6/17 - Graduation Mass @ 3pm * *Important!!* Arrive by 2:20 for class photo.

