

Junior High Team: October Newsletter



Greetings,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. The information listed below provides a brief overview of what our junior high classes studied, and what lies ahead for this month. If you have any questions, our contact information is listed at the end of this newsletter.

God Bless,
F.M.C.S. Junior High Team

Course Topics - Grade 7

Bible 7 (Mrs. Emberley) - Students are studying the book of Esther in relation to two essential questions: *How do I live a faithful life in an unfaithful culture?* and *What makes a good leader?*

Science 7 (Mrs. Emberley) - Students will continue exploring the interactions and relationships within ecosystems. We are using the lense of a Justice Seeker to discover how the gifts given to us by God in creation have been misused and influenced by humans.

Math 7 (Ms. Polegato) - Well, we made it through our first unit on *Patterns and Relations*. We looked at how number patterns are the basis for divisibility rules - these rules make the division of large numbers much easier. Our lessons on algebraic expressions meant learning a lot of new vocabulary! We now know how algebraic expressions can be used to solve problems when relationships exist between numbers. We also learned how algebraic expressions can be used to graph the relationship between two quantities, making the relationship much easier to understand. Next month, we will be learning about integers - this means working with positive and negative numbers! Yeeks!

Social Studies 7 (Mr. Baseley) - We began the year by examining three of Canada's First Nations: the Mi'kmaq, Anishinabe, and Haudenosaunee. All three were among the first Indigenous peoples to encounter Europeans. In October, we will shift our focus to European exploration, and later colonization of North America.

Language Arts 7 (Mr. Baseley) - Academic writing has been our main focus in September, and this will continue into October. In the process, we looked at differences between Expository, Opinion, and Argumentative writing - as well as key grammar points (based on common mistakes students make in writing), and all fourteen marks of English punctuation.

Course Topics - Grade 8

Bible 8/9 (Mr. Baseley) - After briefly looking at the currently fractured state of Christendom, we focused on key beliefs associated with our faith - as expressed in the Apostles' Creed. We also examined why the Holy Land was a frequent target for invading empires, and their subsequent influence upon the region's local inhabitants. Our first unit, whose themes are associated with the life and times of Christ, will continue into October.

Science 8 (Mrs. Gillies) - Students are continuing with the first unit on the properties of matter. We have done a few labs, too - to demonstrate the particle model of matter, to determine the

solubility of several compounds, and to discuss separating mixtures. Next we'll focus on viscosity, density, and fluid pressure.

Math 8 (Mrs. Gillies) - We have finished the first unit on square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem. We are moving on to integers next!

Social Studies 8 (Mr. Baseley) - Our year began with a brief overview of Western Civilization - specifically its worldview, which exhibits both Greco-Roman and Christian influences. From there, we looked at the late Middle Ages and key developments which contributed to the beginning of the Renaissance - the main focus of our first unit.

Language Arts 8/9 - We will continue with our study of Short Stories, the elements of short stories as well as drafting and editing our own story.

Course Topics - Grade 9

Bible 8/9 (Mr. Baseley) - Please read the description listed under the Grade 8 heading above.

Science 9 (Mrs. Gillies) - We are still working our way through the Biological Diversity unit. Last week we wrapped up the section on reproduction, and we were able to use the school's new-to-us microscopes and prepare our own slides of flower parts and yeast! In October, we will finish up our unit with the topics of genetics, natural and artificial selection, and conservation. We will start the chemistry unit in mid-October.

Math 9 (Mrs. Gillies) - We are finishing up our unit on powers and exponent laws. Next up: rational numbers.

Social Studies 9 (Mr. Baseley) - We have spent most of September examining Canada's parliamentary democracy - i.e. how it functions. In October, we will shift our focus to a related topic: our country's justice system.

Language Arts 8/9 - We will continue with our study of Short Stories, the elements of short stories as well as drafting and editing our own story.

Missing Class Time

Please be reminded that students are responsible for their own learning, and this also applies to cases where they cannot attend school. Google Classroom is the main vehicle by which students can keep track of what their classes are studying, dates when assessments are scheduled, etc.

Contact Information

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REMIND (for parents, specifically)

Grade 7 Bible/Homeroom/Science: [@c76de9f](#)

Grade 7 Language Arts/Social Studies: [@mrbasele](#)

Grade 8/9 Language Arts: [@aa93adk](#)

Grade 8/9 Bible/Homeroom/Social Studies: [@grade89bi](#)

Grade 8 Math: [@mrsg888](#)

Grade 8 Science: [@mrsg88](#)

Grade 9 Science: [@sci99](#)

Grade 9 Math: [@mrsg999](#)