

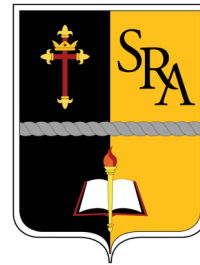
# Saint Raphael the Archangel

## The Guide

A monthly newsletter for the school community

Volume 6, Issue 6

January 25, 2018



From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Julie Hayes

Dear St. Raphael Families,

It is hard to believe the end of January is upon us and Catholic Schools Week begins on this Sunday, January 28. We want to invite all of our families to the 10:00 AM Mass to help us start the week-long celebration. After Mass, all are invited to the school for Open House from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Come share time as a community, meet our wonderful teachers, see how our students **LEARN, SERVE, LEAD, SUCCEED**. Help us welcome new families as they visit the school for the first time. Share your love for St. Raphael with our guests because your positive words about our school are extremely valuable to new families.

Registration packets for the 2018-2019 school year will be available at the Open House so be sure to stop by the table to pick up your registration packet. Carefully read the cover letter in the packet because it contains information concerning tuition, scholarships, and tuition payments. Returning the completed registration packet to the school in a timely manner would be appreciated.

The Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation's (TTEF) online application will be open to all families, new and reapplying, **January 29th, 2018**. Alive! In Christ is a first-come, first-served scholarship for any siblings that may be eligible, so we encourage you to apply as early as possible. The application deadline for Beyond Sunday, SOAR!, Catholic Families Tuition Assistance, and Parish Employees Endowment Fund is February 28th, 2018. Any family who would like to be considered for these programs, even if they are applying for requalification, must apply between January 29th and February 28th, 2018. TTEF would like to encourage families to use the Forgot Password tool on the Family Log-In page if they need to reset their password. We are here to assist you in any way through this process.

We have many exciting events happening this week at school which we hope will leave lasting memories for your child. On top of all the excitement this week, on Tuesday, January 30th, a photographer from TTEF will be here to photograph our students throughout the day. They will be taking photos of students during the service activities along with STREAM lessons in the afternoon. The photos will be used for their new brochures, video, and the annual Archbishop's Gala held in the spring. We are honored to be one of five schools chosen this year. Students are encouraged to look extra beautiful or handsome in their uniforms that day!

I would like to take this moment to personally thank you for choosing St. Raphael for your child's education. Together, I know we can make a positive impact on our children and their future.

See you on Sunday!

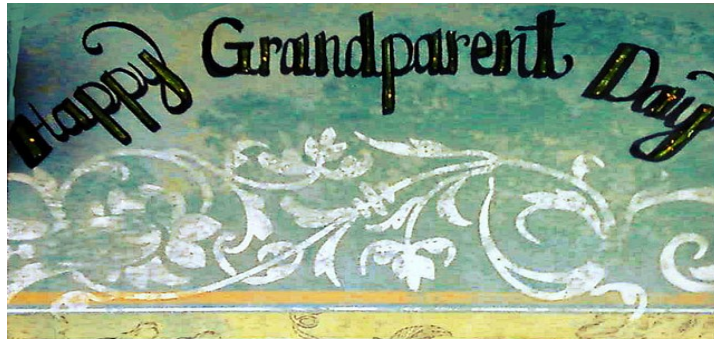
Mrs. Hayes



## **GRANDPARENT'S DAY**

**2018**

Join us for a fun-filled event beginning with Mass at 8:00am and continuing with coffee, donuts and BINGO!



**February 2, 2018**

**St. Raphael the Archangel School**

**8:00am-Noon**

Also look forward to our Photo Booth and  
Scholastic Book Fair in the Cafeteria!

**\*if you choose to leave before noon, it is required that  
students be signed out at one of the official check-out  
stations\***

# Announcements



Daily Mass Time:  
8:00am Grades K - 8  
Monday - Thursday

All School Mass 8:00am

## **February 2**

Mass Grandparent's Day

## **February 8**

St. Jerome  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning

## **February 9**

Ash Wednesday  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning

## **February 22**

The Chair of St. Peter the  
Apostle (Lent)  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Planning

Benediction 2:00pm  
First Friday of the  
month

Stations of the Cross  
on Fridays during  
Lent



## **February Birthdays**

Jacob Anstey-1  
Susan Irons-1  
Jacob Sawyer-3

## **Mrs. Ballicki-Smith 4**

Miles Mask-4  
Foster Mask-5  
Matthew Franz-6  
Amber Osborn-9  
Dylan Osborn-9  
Finnegan Dowd-13  
Madeline Shine-21

## **Miss Molly-22**

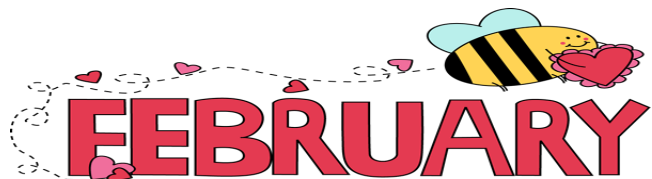
Addison Berta-23  
Madalene Cierpiot-23  
Ardian Hoxhaj-23  
Lilly Bick - 25  
Sean Meier-26  
Elizabeth Guenther-27



My name is Grace Goeddel.

Last year, with the help of our school and parish, I collected 22 pounds of tab tops for the Ronald McDonald House. This school year I want to beat that number. Please collect tab tops from aluminum cans and bring them to Mass or send them to school. I will have containers at the entrances of church and at school. If you have a business that would like to collect tab tops, let me know and I will provide you with a special container.

Thank you for all of your support. I will collect tab tops until spring of 2018.



# FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1 - 2:00-4:00pm Dance
- Feb. 1 - 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Feb. 2 - 8:00am Mass Grandparent's Day**  
**Noon Dismissal K - 8 PRE-K IS OPEN UNTIL 3:00pm**
- Feb. 3 - 6:30pm Marcia Matrecl Trivia Night SRA Gym
- Feb. 5-9 - Canned Food Drive
- Feb. 5 - 10:00-12:00 6th Grade Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic School
- Feb. 6 - 3:15-4:15pm Church DeAngelis Children's Choir Practice
- Feb. 8 - 8:00am Mass St. Jerome 6<sup>th</sup> Grade planning
- Feb. 8 - 2:00-4:00pm Dance
- Feb. 8 - 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Feb. 13 - 2:00pm Mission Carnival K - 8
- Feb. 13 - 3:15-4:15pm Church DeAngelis Children's Choir Practice
- Feb. 14 - 8:00am Mass Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Grade planning
- Feb. 15 - 2:00-4:00pm Dance
- Feb. 15 - 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Feb. 15 - 7:00pm Church First Communion Parent Meeting
- Feb. 16 - Professional Development Day for Teachers No School K - 8 Pre-K is open
- Feb. 16-18 - Luke 18
- Feb. 19 - President's Day No School K-8 Pre-K is open
- Feb. 20 - 9:00-10:15am SRA Little Angels Play Date
- Feb. 20 - 3:15-4:15pm Church DeAngelis Children's Choir Practice
- Feb. 22 - 8:00am Mass The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle (Lent) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade planning
- Feb. 22 - 2:00-4:00pm Dance
- Feb. 22 - 3:15-4:15pm Chess Club in Art Room
- Feb. 23 - 2:00pm Stations of the Cross
- Feb. 24 - History Day at UMSL
- Feb. 25 - 11:00am Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast in school cafeteria
- Feb. 27 - 3:15-4:15pm Church DeAngelis Children's Choir Practice



# LENT



**ERIC SCHMITT**  
MISSOURI STATE TREASURER

January 2, 2018

To my fellow Missourians:

For over 20 years, the MOST 529 tuition savings program has empowered families in Missouri to save for higher education costs. As a father, I use the program to invest in my children's future. As Missouri State Treasurer, I manage the MOST program and work to encourage parents to open MOST accounts.

A MOST 529 tuition savings plan is an investment account sponsored by the State of Missouri. Up to \$16,000 (\$8,000 for single filers) in contributions are deductible from Missouri taxes every year and investments in the plan grow tax-free. When you use MOST funds for eligible expenses, you pay no taxes on the disbursement.

Starting in January 2018, the MOST 529 program is expanding to allow families to save and use funds in their accounts for elementary and secondary expenses. In addition to tuition, room and board, and other expenses at colleges and vocational schools, up to \$10,000 in private K-12 tuition now qualifies as an eligible expense. This means a family paying tuition at your school could save hundreds in Missouri taxes every year.

For the families at your school, this is a game changer. This means hardworking families will get a little bit more relief. Already my office has heard from parents who struggle to pay tuition now wanting to use the MOST 529 program for elementary and secondary education costs. The MOST Board recently affirmed our commitment to helping families save for their children's education at every level by passing a resolution recognizing the need to implement the aforementioned changes. If you would like to find out more about the MOST program and create an account, visit [missourimost.org](http://missourimost.org). If you would like our field representatives to talk to your parents about these changes, please reach out at 888-414-MOST or email me at [info@treasurer.mo.gov](mailto:info@treasurer.mo.gov).

Sincerely,

Eric Schmitt  
Missouri State Treasurer

STATE CAPITOL – JEFFERSON CITY  
P.O. BOX 210  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102  
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### NEW TAX BENEFIT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

Catholic school parents may benefit from the recent changes to the federal tax code. The recently passed federal tax law allows parents to make contributions to a child's Missouri 529 MOST account for K-12 tuition, in addition to expenses for higher education that are already permitted.

The Missouri 529 MOST account is an investment program sponsored by the Missouri State Treasurer's office. Anyone can open a MOST account, including parents, grandparents, or friends of K-12 or college-aged students. In this way, if parents lack financial resources, others can contribute to the family's MOST account.

Interest earnings on contributions made by parents to MOST accounts are not subject to state or federal taxes. Furthermore, qualified distributions from the account (those for higher education expenses, and now K-12 tuition) are also not taxed. Parents can withdraw up to \$10,000 annually for private K-12 tuition per student as an eligible distribution from a MOST account. Parents can elect to make contributions to the MOST account according to their own timetable, such as monthly.

Funds contributed to a MOST account are deducted from the parent's taxable income. For example, if a Catholic school parent contributes \$5,000 during the year to their child's MOST account, \$5,000 will be deducted from their taxable income for state tax purposes. Larger contributions to MOST accounts will further reduce taxable income.

Reducing taxable income, in turn, will reduce the state tax bill parents pay. (Other factors may affect the tax benefit realized, but this change in federal law will provide a real state tax benefit to Catholic school parents.) See following table:

Amount Contributed Account	Reduction in Taxable Income	Reduction in Tax Bill*
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$300
\$7,000	\$7,000	\$420
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$600

\*Based on Missouri's highest tax rate of 6%; \$5,000 x 6% = \$300

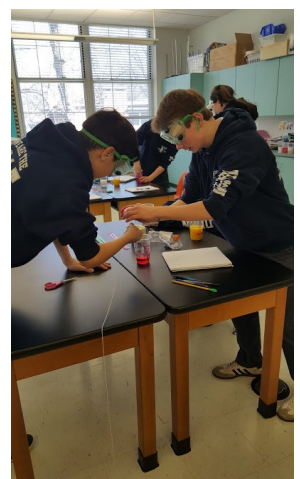
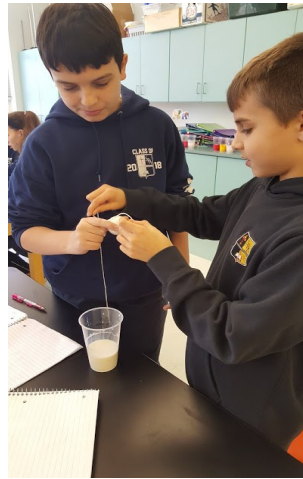
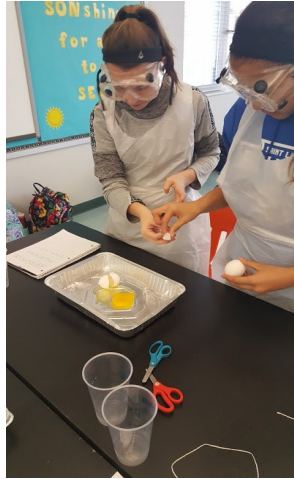
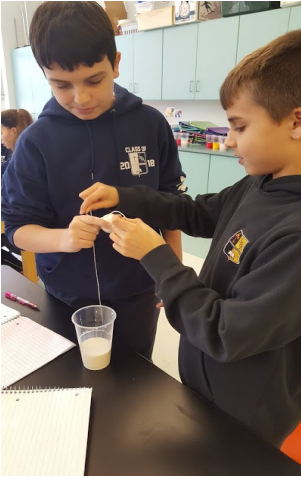
Parents may want to consult with their local bank or financial advisor regarding the advisability of setting up a 529 MOST account.

To calculate a Missouri school family's tax benefit go to this website <https://vanguard.wealthmsi.com/stdc.php>

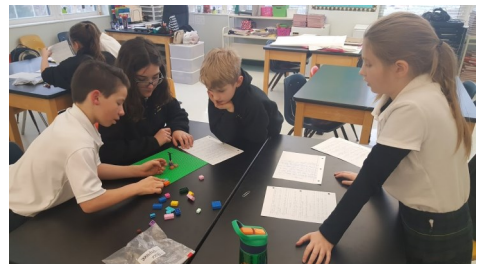
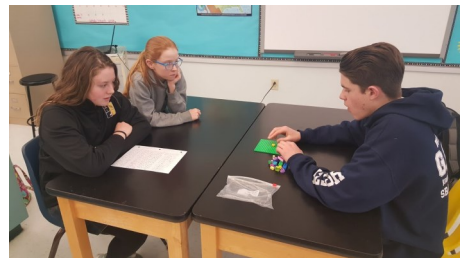
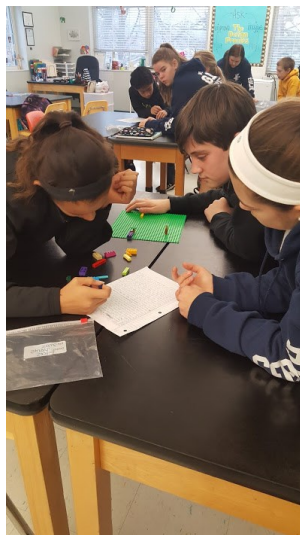
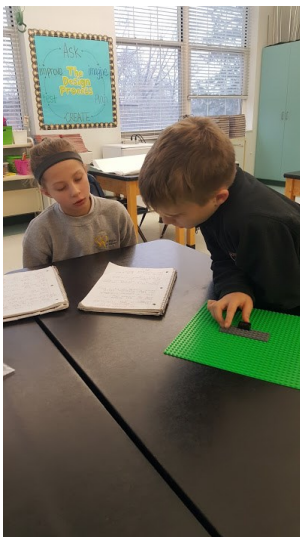
To set up a Missouri 529 MOST account, visit the Missouri MOST website: <https://www.missourimost.org/home/open-a-most-529-account.html>



## 6th, 7th, and 8th grade egg-speriment!



## 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Coding Unplugged- Lego Activity

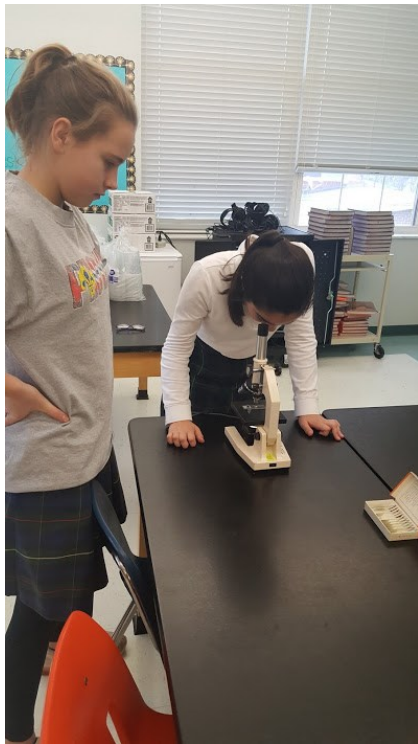


4th grade is studying rocks and minerals. We are digging up facts about different kinds of minerals and types of rocks. We are just scraping the surface of how rocks are formed.

5th grade is studying matter. We are examining the three states of matter and what causes it to change from a solid, to a liquid, to a gas, and back. Soon we will go beyond a microscope to learn about what matter is made of... atoms!

6th, 7th, and 8th grade are studying cells. We began our unit by learning about the scientists who contributed to our understanding of cells, as well as the different types of microscopes that help us view cells today. We did an experiment with eggs to understand how a cell wall and cell membrane function. We are currently moving past the cell membrane and discovering what other organelles make up plant and animal cells.

(These are pictures of 6, 7, and 8 using compound light microscopes.)





### STUCO News

Catholic Schools Week Open House: Sunday, January 28th 11-3  
Parent Appreciation Day: Monday, January 29th Black and Gold SRA Spirit Accessories  
Service Day: Tuesday, January 30th  
Faculty Appreciation Day: Wednesday, January 31st  
Student Appreciation Day: Thursday, February 1st - Out of Uniform for students  
Grandparent's Day: Friday, February 2nd - Mass at 8:00  
Canned Food Drive: February 5th - 9th  
Mission Carnival: Tuesday, February 13th

*Upcoming Student Council  
Events*



### **Mr. John Bruno: Physical Education**

I hope all the students enjoyed their holiday break and wish everyone a Happy New Year. The students, over the last few weeks, were working on basketball skills. Skills included dribbling, shooting, passing, and small group basketball activities. I have introduced games the students seemed to enjoy and made basketball a fun filled activity, even for those that do not regularly play this sport.

On the whole, I have been very impressed with the primary grades' basketball skills. They have quickly picked up the skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting. I want to encourage them to keep on working to further develop these skills.

Let's keep up the good work!



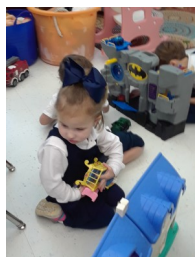
### **Miss Molly Preschool Room A**

I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday and enjoyed time with your family. Preschool A is back to school and working hard. The class has been busy working on letters and numbers. We have worked on the letter L and F. We have also worked on the numbers three and four.

For other activities, we have learned some Nursery Rhymes and this week we are learning about living on a farm. Soon the kids will be learning about the weather and where snowflakes come from. That will be fun and we will be doing some science to go along with it.

I would like to welcome four new students to our classroom; Eleanore Kane, Lucy Mattingly, and Nora and Julia Seidel. The girls joined us after the holiday and are a great addition the room.

Have a great month and hope to see you during Catholic Schools Week. Thank You and God Bless



### Miss Chris Preschool Room B

Happy New Year from the Bears! We came back from our Christmas break and picked up right where we left off. The Bears are excellent students and they love learning. We have worked on our letters M and N. Our letter M theme included books by Laura Numeroff, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, If You Take a Mouse to School, and If You Take a Mouse to the Movies. We completed several art projects related to these books and used our imaginations to illustrate what a mouse would do if we brought it to SRA. Our letter N theme was Numbers. We had a great time learning to write our numbers, playing number games, and putting together number puzzles. We were most excited to realize we were doing Math when we count or add objects together.



### Kindergarten News: Miss Abby Morris & Mrs. Charis Doyle

Hello SRA Community,

Kindergarten is off to a good start in 2018! We have been practicing our reading, building words, and learning about shapes. We are studying penguins during this winter and continuing to learn our sight words. We began the year remembering the Three Wise Men who followed the star to Jesus. We have been focusing on being follower of Jesus. We continue to study our Promise Magazine, which talks about the Gospel each Sunday. The students are very excited for Catholic Schools Week. Stay warm.



### First Grade News: Mrs. Theresa Schmidt

This year is flying by. The first grade had a wonderful 100th day celebration and they did a fabulous job dressing up like a one hundred year old person. We are busy studying about animal classifications in science. In math we just finished up learning about fact families and now we are learning about time. Next week we are really looking forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week.



### Second Grade News: Mark Messmer

It is hard to believe we are halfway through the school year already. Second grade jumped right back into where we left off before break, and our class has been busy since. In reading and writing, we are learning about analyzing nonfiction books for important facts and details. In science, we have begun our life science study on animals - with this week being about Siberian Huskies (we even got to design and create small sleds adapted to their needs!). Finally, we have begun preparing for First Communion - this week we learned about the different people involved in the Mass and we were able to lead Thursday's Mass.



### **Third Grade News: Ms. Susan Polson**

Third Quarter has begun for Third Grade. We are ready for the challenges 2018 will bring. In English we have begun Chapter Four on Adjectives and Adverbs. We are enjoying some writing opportunities to use what we have learned. Each of us have been assigned a president to read and research. A report will be due on February 21. Ms. Polson is teaching us about time lines.

In Math class we are relating multiplication to division and trying to see patterns. We are working with fractions as well.

All of us enjoyed a story called Penguin Chick and some of us got to watch March of the Penguins (during the week many students were out with the flu). We look forward to Catholic School's Week.



### **Miss Patti Woods: English (4 - 8)**

This month in English grades four through seven have been working hard on adjectives (modifiers) and will soon be taking the end of unit tests. The eighth graders have already completed this unit and have moved on to the next unit; *Capitalization and Punctuation*. Grades four through seven will soon follow along with the same unit.

Sixth and seventh graders will begin their next essay, a personal narrative. The eighth graders have already begun this essay and will be submitting their final copy the week of January 22nd when they return from their pilgrimage to DC.

Grades four and five will be learning how to write a formal letter as their main writing assignment.

### **Miss Amanda Imo: Religion, Math, Reading, Vocabulary/Spelling (4-5)**

**Fifth Grade:** In Religion the students have been studying the parts of the Mass. We finished our unit by making posters summarizing all the information learned. During Math, the students worked on solving problems that included decimals. Now the students are focusing on multiples, divisibility rules, exponents, and factors all to help prepare for the upcoming chapters on fractions. The students are excited about their book club books. Many predictions and comments about the books continue to fill classroom discussions.

**Fourth Grade:** The fourth graders have been studying the Ten Commandments in Religion. This month we have been focusing on the fourth-sixth commandments. The students have been working hard on learning how to estimate and divide larger numbers. I have loved seeing "the light bulb come on" for several students. In Reading, the students read a short story about a fictional baseball game. We focused on technical words and how to summarize an event. They also read "The Turtle Who Wanted to Fly." With this story, the students worked on cause and effect.

**Mrs. Christy Connor: Religion (6) Social Studies (4 - 8)**

**Religion:** Students in grade six have learned about how the Israelites escaped from Egypt and eventually returned to Canaan. They also learned about the Ten Commandments. The students are currently working on the Beatitudes and will be learning about what happened to the Israelites once they finally entered Canaan.

**Social Studies 4:** Students are learning about the fifty states. They have also worked on some economics terms such as supply and demand, interest, and investment.

**Social Studies 5:** Students are learning about the regions of the United States. They are working on American History and will be completing sections about the colonies.

**Social Studies 6:** Grade Six students have completed work on ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, and ancient Rome. They are currently learning about life in the Middle Ages.

**Social Studies 7:** Seventh grade students have completed their study of the American Revolution as well as the writing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. They are currently learning about the administrations of George Washington and John Adams.

**Social Studies 8:** Students in grade eight have completed work on World War I, the Roaring Twenties, and the Great Depression. Later this week, they will begin to learn about the causes and effects of World War II.

History Day students should be staying after school more frequently now. History Day is February 24 at UMSL. History Day work on Saturdays is strongly encouraged.

**Miss Ashley Schaaf: Standard Math & Challenge Math (6-7-8) Pre-Algebra, Algebra (7-8)**

**In Standard Math,** we have finished up examining proportional relationships between quantities. Now we are just starting an introduction to basic geometry. This includes identifying points, lines, and angles.

**In Challenge Math,** we are wrapping up our chapter on percents. Next, we will be exploring different means of collecting and displaying data, as well introducing geometric figures.

**In Pre-Algebra,** we are delving into one of the most prevalent chapters - simplifying expressions and solving multi-step equations. These are concepts that form the basis of Algebra, which students will continue to see in high school.

**In Algebra,** we just took a chapter test over systems of equations. Up next is exponential functions and simplifying expressions using exponential properties.

**Mrs. Jennifer Runiewicz: Literature (6-8) Religion (7-8)**

Thank you for your prayers and support for the 8th grade students, chaperones, and me while on the Pro-life Pilgrimage to Washington, DC. As always, our trip was truly an inspirational journey where we learned more about the love of God for each of us, the value in each other, and the need for more support in the Pro-life movement.

Literature classes have been reading *Night*(8th), *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (7th), and *Daniel's Story* (6th). All three are stories about the horrible events of the Holocaust of WWII. All classes will read a 2nd Holocaust book to end the quarter; *Between Shades of Gray*(8th), *The Book Thief* (7th), and *Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl* (6th). Please encourage students to read every night and discuss the events that they've read. Many of the topics are quite troubling.

During this last month, 8th grade religion has focused on exploring the history of the Church starting with the builders of the early Church. We also learned about Mary being the perfect example of what holiness looks like. Our next unit will begin responding with love, being agents of grace, and being holy men and women in our changing world,

7th grade religion has been learning about the spiritual journey, a personal faith journey that is developed through a growing friendship with Jesus and that will be completed in the fullness of eternal life. We will begin our Confirmation preparation this month.

Vocabulary Workshop schedule should be taped/stapled to your student's vocabulary book cover or in their assignment notebooks. I have also shared the schedule with each of them on Google Drive. Unit 9 test is Thursday, February 1st.