

St. Mary's School

Morning Memo – Week of May 7, 2018



1. Follow us on Twitter: @stmarys_mh, Instagram , and Facebook
2. Open registration is on now. Students have brought home “prepopulated” registration forms. Please check these to ensure they are current and complete, and return them by as soon as possible. Space in the Fine Arts Academy is limited, so please return your registration forms promptly to avoid disappointment. If you know anyone who is looking for a school for their child for next year, encourage them to call the school and arrange to meet with administration. We accept both Catholic and non-Catholic students.
3. Upcoming Events
 - Monday – Assembly Presentation – Guest Speaker - Evangeline Zak
 - Golf team first practice – 4:00 at MHGC
 - Tuesday- English Language Arts Part A final exam (all grades) – all morning
 - Administration at DLT meeting in pm
 - Thursday- French Language Arts PAT
 - Friday – Students walk to MHC for Monsignor McCoy Musical “Back to the 80s”
 - Dress for 80s theme
 - Pizza \$3.00
 - Yogurt \$2.00
4. Congratulations to all students and staff who participated in our “Word of the Week” program last week. We will continue this week. Staff and students are encouraged to be “caught” using the word of the week. If this happens they will be given an entry form for a draw to be completed on Friday mornings during announcements (Staff draw will occur monthly).
 - Student word –intermediary – noun – mediator; go between person
 - Staff word – taciturn - silent; not in the mood to talk
5. This week’s article seems very appropriate as our staff sees that teaching vocabulary is an important part of literacy development in all subject areas.

Building Middle-School Students’ Math Vocabulary

In this article in *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*, former middle-school teacher Katherine Ariemma Marin (now at Stonehill College) remembers how flummoxed her sixth graders were by a word problem that asked them to write an *expression*. “How can we write an expression?” asked one student. “You make expressions with your face.” Marin realized that for many of her students, mathematics was at times like learning a foreign language, especially with math terms that had other meanings in everyday discourse. “But at this moment,” she says, “I had an aha! moment about how to attack the vocabulary problem through instruction. We needed a routine that acknowledged the complexity of learning the language of mathematics and supported students in developing fluency in that language.”

Marin created a grid with six columns, and as new words came up (including *variable*, *product*, *quotient*, *edge*, *face*, *factor*, *base*, *cone*, *difference*, and *mean*), she talked through each new term with the whole class and had students fill in all the columns in their math notebooks. The first column indicated how familiar they were with the word: (1) I know this word and can define it; (2) I have seen or heard this word before; or (3) I have never seen or heard this word before. “The simple act of rating a list of words led to rich discussions and enhanced students’ fluency in the language of mathematics,” says Marin. “As students grew more fluent in the language of mathematics, they were better able to approach problems as ‘problem solvers’ rather than ‘problem performers.’” Here’s a sample of one row of the grid with all six columns filled in:

- Rating: 2
- Word: Expression
- Definition: A mathematical phrase combining operations, numbers, and/or variables
- Synonym(s): Phrase, algebraic expression
- Examples: 6 $6n$ $6+n$ (no equal sign)
- Sample problem: Lucia earns \$8 per hour for babysitting and gets a \$5 tip. Write an expression to represent the amount she would earn if she worked for x hours.

Students gradually added more words to this section of their notebooks, and Marin regularly quizzed them on the words and asked students to apply them in new situations.

“Routinizing Mathematics Vocabulary: The Vocab Grid” by Katherine Ariemma Marin in *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*, May 2018 (Vol. 23, #7, p. 395-398), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5951/mathteacmiddscho.23.issue-7>; Marin can be reached at kmarin@stonehill.edu.

Important Dates 2017-2018

May

7	Assembly (extra) – Headstrong Guest Speaker to kick off Mental Health Week
8	Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Part A Exam
9	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
10	Grade 9 French Language Arts Achievement Part A Exam
10	World Catholic Education Day
11	Attending McCoy “Back to the 80’s” at MHC Theatre 12:30
11	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
13	Mother’s Day
14	Assembly – Marian Celebration
15	Gr. 9 Immunizations
16	Friday’s Schedule
16	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
17	PARTY Program- 9 Rus
18	PD Day

21	No School
22	Grade 7 Reg. Field trip to Elkwater
23	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
25	Disney Day
25	Grade 9 Practice Math PAT- period 1-3
25	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
28	Assembly
31	World No Tobacco Day

June

1	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
4	Parent Council Meeting 6:30 PM in the Library
5	Social 9 Field test 9:00 to 11:18
6	English Language Arts Part B Field Test 9:00 11:18
6	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
7	Friday's Schedule
7	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
7	St. Mary's Dance 6:00-9:30 PM
8	PD Day
11	Assembly
11	Rehearsal for the Spring Show
12	Spring Show at the College
13	School Mass 10:00 AM – Holy Family Parish
15	Neon/80's Day
15	Pizza \$3/slice, Kernels Popcorn \$2 and Frozen Yogurt \$2
17	Father's Day
20	Grade 9 French Language Arts Achievement Part B Exam
20	Art Club 3:18-4:30PM
21	Year End Picnic (tentative)
22	Grade 9 Farewell
25	Grade 9 Social Achievement Exam
26	Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Part B Exam
26	Grade 6 Orientation 1:00 pm
27	Grade 9 Math Achievement Exam
28	Grade 9 Science Achievement Exam
29	Last Day for Teachers