



What We Are Learning in Eighth Grade • May/June 2010

RELIGION

The Mitch Albom books seem to have created some compassion for the characters, so I anticipate solid, thoughtful, and well-written reports. Soon we will nominate two young ladies to be Mary and her attendant for May Crowning on May 7. The students will create a list of characteristics of Mary to help make their selections. Our retreat is scheduled for May 6; I am sure it will be a challenging and emotional day. The class will be finishing up in our religion reader and adding Family Life to our daily lessons. We will do our best to answer questions in class, but be aware of inquiries from your children.

MATHEMATICS

The students will begin the month finishing Chapter 9 and take a test on the concepts learned in April. They will then begin Chapter 10, which emphasizes rational expressions. The concepts include simplifying, multiplying, dividing, adding, and subtracting a variety of rational expressions. The word problems will focus on rate, work and mixture situations. This will probably be the last chapter we will study this year.

LANGUAGE ARTS (LITERATURE, ENGLISH, SPELLING/VOCABULARY)

Rounding out our year of literature study, eighth graders will be introduced to the works of Shakespeare with an overview of the tragic love story, *Romeo and Juliet*. As part of our study, students will be focusing on the lyric language and use of myriad literary techniques Shakespeare employs so masterfully. We'll continue to use **Daily Oral Language** editing activities to keep grammar skills sharp, and stay focused on writing as students prepare a response to literature essay based on our just-completed novel study of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Rehearsals for *Beauty and the Beast* go into full gear preparing for performances on May 13, 14, and 15. At the beginning of this month the students will work on spelling lesson 27 (prefixes) and then move on to lesson 29. They will also have units 14 and 15 in their vocabulary books.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH

This month: Chemistry! We also will begin our NASA project by building water rockets and launchers in class. We will launch our rockets at the end of the month. We are also looking at kinetic and potential energy and how these ideas will help us to develop and build the best rocket possible.

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE

Students have wrapped up Chapter 5, which looked at America as engaged in the War of 1812 with Britain. Next, they will delve into the Industrial Revolution for which they will produce an in-depth look at the causes and effects of this era in the form of a scrapbook. If time permits, students will end the year looking at the causes and early stages of the Civil War.

COMPUTER EDUCATION

Eighth grade will be completing the online safety program, *Kid Safety*, for the first two weeks in May; they then will be working on their memory book pages.