

THE FAITHFUL READER

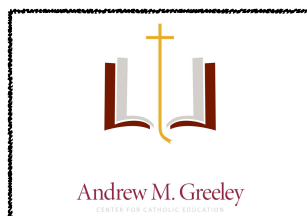
Welcome Back!

Welcome back! Praying that your first days of school have been gentle and smooth.

One really powerful tool to maximize instructional time is to write a year-long plan or curriculum map. This is a document that is a calendar for the topics you will teach and the order in which you will teach them for the whole school year. This is not a regurgitation of the textbook; the textbook is not your curriculum. But rather it is the most important learning planned out for the whole school year. [See page 3 of this newsletter for examples.]

Steps to Creating a Year-Long Plan

1. Open your **standards**. You should have the most up-to-date standards. For religion, reading/ELA, and math these can be found on the Archdiocese of Chicago's OCS portal. (For other dioceses, go to your diocesan website.). For reading and math, be sure to use the Archdiocese's Priority Standards - groups of teachers identified the 15-18 most important standards for each. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) can be found at nextgen.org. Social studies standards can be found at isbe.net/ **Review the standards**. What's the most important "stuff" that students need to Know, Understand, and Do (KUD)? These topics should be organized in a logical way. In other words, don't study vocations in September when USCCB has a Vocations Week in November. Study saints in November. Study Mary in October and/or May. Talk with others who teach your students. Don't read *The Devil's Arithmetic* in November when the social studies teacher is teaching World War II in March. When you teach connected topics at the same time and in a connected way, students' understanding is deeper. And frankly your job is made easier because you don't have to be history teacher AND religion teacher.
2. **Write the topics in order**. Use any form you want. See page 4 of this newsletter for blank year-long plan forms, but you can copy and paste this into a Google doc so it is easy to revise as well as collaborate. BE REASONABLE. Do you know that the week before Christmas Break is all about the Christmas Show and service projects? Then don't plan a week's worth of intensive math instruction. Last week of May a little hairy? Then be thoughtful about what is planned for that time. Also consider Holy Days, holidays, school assemblies, universal screening, standardized testing - anything that will interfere with instruction.
3. **Write the timeline for each topic**. Approximately how many teaching days or weeks will it take for students to learn this content (not for you to teach it, but for them to learn it)? Be sure to be realistic - see #2.
4. **Write up to five essential questions for each topic**. Essential questions are big and broad, encouraging students to think and ask questions. (See page 2 of this newsletter for examples.)



Michelle P. Lia, EdD
Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education
Loyola University Chicago

Essential Questions

What shapes our beliefs and values?

What makes a community?

Why do we need laws?

What impact can citizens have on their government?

What makes a good citizen?

How are Earth's systems connected?

How does Earth change?

How do living things survive?

Why do people write poetry?

What does it mean to face a challenge?

What does it take to be a hero?

What does it take to be a good friend?

What does it mean to show courage?

What does it mean to have faith?

How do families share their history?

How can math help us make sense of the world?

Why is it useful to compare numbers?

How can patterns help us solve problems?

Book Recommendations

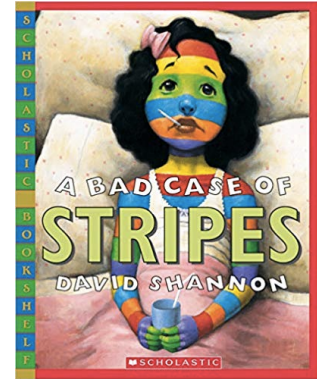
***A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon**

This book is a classic first-day-of-school read aloud. Camilla loves lima beans. But she is embarrassed to admit this because she doesn't want anyone to make fun of her love of lima beans. Her skin changes all different colors. Doctors are called. Diagnoses are made. But only when Camilla Cream is herself does she go back to being herself.

Independent Reading Level grades 3-4

Most appropriate for age 6 and up

Genre realistic fiction picture book



***Me and Marvin Gardens* by Amy Sarig King**

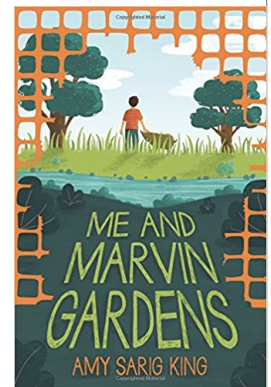
Sixth grader Obe Devlin lives on the Devlin land. It has been owned by his family for over one hundred years. But now the land is being developed into homes and he misses the farm and his land as it was. He walks each day to pick up trash left from the construction workers and others who walk around. While walking, he sees the footprints of a creature - it's not a dog, it's not a pig. What is it? This book takes you on Obe's journey to discover this creature, losing one friendship and gaining another, and learning to appreciate his family.

A great book for those who love science!

Reading Level Lexile 670

***Appropriate for** ages 8-10

Genre hybrid of realistic fiction and fantasy



Greeley Center Mission

We are Catholic educators who challenge Catholic schools to be excellent because they are essential in preparing students for the future.

Seventh Grade Year-Long Plan
Religion

August	September	October	November	December
<p>Bullying Unit <i>1 week (8 school days)</i></p> <p>"How can we end bullying?"</p> <p>August 22-30</p>	<p>Unit 1: The World of Jesus <i>five weeks (22 school days)</i></p> <p>"How can we identify with the world Jesus knew?"</p> <p>September 1-October 2</p>	<p>Unit 2: The Kingdom of Heaven <i>five weeks (23 school days)</i></p> <p>"How can we build heaven on earth?"</p> <p>October 3- November 2</p>	<p>Unit 3: No Man is an Island <i>three weeks (16 school days)</i></p> <p>"Why do we need each other?"</p> <p>November 5- November 30 *Thanksgiving Break</p>	<p>Unit 4: Advent and Christmas <i>three weeks (12 school days)</i></p> <p>"What are the differences between religious and secular Christmas?"</p> <p>November 30- December 22 *Christmas Break</p>
January	February	March	April	May/ June
<p>Unit 5: The Common Priesthood of Baptized Persons <i>four weeks (19 school days)</i></p> <p>"What are the qualities of role models?"</p> <p>January 7 – February 1</p>	<p>Unit 6: Lent and Evangelization <i>six weeks (30 school days)</i></p> <p>"How can we evangelize in today's society?"</p> <p>February 4 – March 22 *Terra Nova Testing March 11-15</p>	<p>Unit 7: The Gospel of Matthew – Build Your Heart House <i>six weeks (25 school days)</i></p> <p>"How does reading the Bible strengthen our faith?"</p> <p>April 8- May 3 *Easter Break March 29- April 5</p>	<p>Unit 8: The Way of the Cross <i>four weeks (20 school days)</i></p> <p>"How can we grow our relationships in love like Christ?"</p> <p>May – May 31 *Finals Week June 3-7</p>	

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS for Prayer Quizzes- integrated into each unit
 Why do we pray both together and individually as Catholics?
 Why is it important to know and understand Catholic prayers?

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Grade 1 Religion Year-Long Plan

August/September	September	October	November	December
<p>Unit 1: Creed "Who is the Creator?" "What is faith?"</p> <p>4 weeks</p>	<p>Unit 2: Liturgy "What is mass?" "How should you behave at mass?"</p> <p>Identify objects, priest, prayers, and responses.</p> <p>3 Weeks</p> <p>AimsWeb Week(Sept14-18) Progress Report(Sept21-25)</p>	<p>Unit 3: Christian Living "Why should we be good to others?" "What is free will?" "What are the 10 commandments?"</p> <p>4 weeks</p>	<p>Unit 4: Sacraments "What are the sacraments? Why do we celebrate sacraments, especially Baptism?"</p> <p>4 Weeks</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break (Nov 25-27) Conferences Nov 13 Progress Reports (Nov 23-24)</p>	<p>Unit 5: Scripture "Can you name the Gospels?" "Who are Mary, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus?" "Why are Bible stories important, can you explain the birth of Jesus?"</p> <p>Concerts (Dec 14-18) Christmas Break (Dec 21-3)</p>
January	February	March	April	May
<p>Unit 6: Christian Prayer and Spirituality "How were Saints a reflection of God?" "How can prayer help us?"</p> <p>4 Weeks</p> <p>AimsWeb (Jan 11-15)</p>	<p>Unit 7: Catholic Church & Parish Life "What is the Catholic Church?" "How does our parish life differ from others?"</p> <p>4 Weeks</p> <p>Progress Report (Feb 16-19)</p>	<p>Unit 8: Vocation "How might God call people to serve him?" "How does a priest serve God?"</p> <p>3 Weeks</p> <p>Spring Break (Mar 24-4)</p>	<p>Unit 9: Dialogue and Ecumenism "How might my neighbors show their love for God."</p> <p>3 Weeks</p>	<p>Unit 10: Discovering my own Faith "Can you name the Gospel?" "What does being Catholic mean to me?"</p> <p>4 Weeks</p> <p>Concert May 9-12) AimsWeb (May 16-20)</p>

Year-Long Plan: Grade _____ School _____ Teacher: _____ Subject _____

August	September	October	November	December
January	February	March	April	May/June

Note: Instructional time in a school year is approximately 33 weeks.

Year Long Plan	School: St. Scholastica Catholic School	Junior High Team	School Year: 2016-2017
<i>August/September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	
Religion/Faith Formation: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	
<i>December</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	
Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	
<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May/June</i>	
Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	Religion/FF: ELA: Science: Social Studies: Math: Art: Music: P.E.:	