SALINE COUNTY SCHOOLS SPOTLIGHT PAGE

THE CANNEY OLIC SCHOOL



RESPECT

History in the Making at St. James

Hieroglyphics, maps of upper and lower Egypt, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Abraham, Moses, the Code of Hammurabi, Plato, Aristotle, Hannibal, Julius Caesar, Emperor Constantine and the Edict of Milan, Erik the Red, the Renaissance, St. Joan of Arc, King Henry VIII and St. Thomas Moore, Queen Isabella, Thomas Paine, the Declaration of Independence, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman...

Does this sound like high school advanced placement courses to you? Not at all. This is what the kindergarten through sixth grade students at St. James Catholic School will be learning in history class this year. St. James is making a big change from teaching social studies to teaching history and the children are eager!

Mrs. Jean Jochum, the librarian at St. James School, laughed happily telling her colleagues at lunch, "The second graders poured into the library declaring, 'We want books on the Greeks!""

Another sign of enthusiasm about St. James' new curriculum adventure included third grade Izzy Heath's detailed explanation of Emperor Constantine's battle at the Milvian Bridge in 321 AD and the inscription "In this sign conquer" emblazoned on his soldiers' shields. Margaret Watts shared that her sixth grade daughter MJ is enjoying classes more than ever before. "We are learning about the Vikings and reading a book on Erik the Red," related MJ. "Our discussions are

really interactive." MJ also relishes the projects accompanying the study. "Some of my classmates are making Viking weapons, boats, and long houses. My mom and I are going to sew a kirtle." For those readers not up to date on medieval fashion, a kirtle was a one-piece garment worn by men and women in the Middle Ages.

"The Catholic tradition of education is so very rich and centers strongly on history," explained Principal Sister Mary Alma. "We have the wisdom of thousands of years of Judeo-Christian thought, experience and culture to offer our students. We want our children to know and receive deeply from that history, which was good, beautiful and true and to learn from that

which was not."

St. James School believes that history, if taught well, leads children to ponder the big questions of life. Who am I? Who is God? What is the good person? What is my responsibility toward others? What is justice? What is injustice? What is my purpose in life?

History also offers children knowledge of nobility of character, wisdom and the inspiration to choose virtue for themselves.

Finally, the ultimate telos, or purpose, of history at St. James is relationship with Jesus Christ, the Lord and center of human history and the source of all goodness.





Izzy Heath, grade 3, shows her excitement for victory in Christ.



Nathan Rodriguez Lopez, grade 3, displays his shield. Emperor Constantine had his soldiers engrave the Chi Rho symbol on their shields.



Ximena Lopez Morales, grade 3, proudly displays her shield. The Latin for "In this sign, conquer" is "in hoc signo vinces." The Greek is "en toutoi nika."



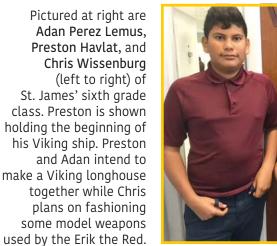
Jon Murphy, grade 3, holds up his shield. The Chi Rho is made by superimposing the Chi and Rho which are the first two Greek letters in the word "Christos."





Michaela Tyma Balltrip, (far left), grade 3, rolls out the pretzel dough soon to be shaped like arms in prayer.

Miguel Conejo Leon, (left), grade 3, is mixing dough to make pretzels just as the monks of the Middle Ages did. They called pretzels "pretiolas" meaning "little rewards."





St. James History Curriculum by Grade Level

Pre-K: History as found in Fairy Tales and **Nursery Rhymes**

Kindergarten: Ancient Civilizations of Africa, South America and Mesopotamia

First Grade: Ancient Greek Second Grade: Ancient Rome **Third Grade:** Medieval History

Fourth Grade: From the Renaissance to the

Founding of America

Fifth and Sixth Grade: United States History

PROUD SUPPORTER of the ST. JAMES JAGUARS!



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