



Welcome to 6th Grade and Middle School

1. Send the class a **postcard** from some place you visit this summer. Send it to me at Blessed Sacrament School, 1417 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302. Tell us what you saw or learned.

2. **Other ideas:** Try and get to some of the wonderful activities and events that are a part of Washington, DC: National Geographic Society; Sackler Gallery of Asian Art; Smithsonian Museum of African Art; Smithsonian Folk life Festival, June 30–July 4 and July 7–11, 2011—to name just a few!! The Festival is held outdoors on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., between the Smithsonian museums. Admission is free. This year's Festival features programs on Colombia, Peace Corps and Rhythm & Blues.

The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History has an exhibit, Hall of Human Origins, which would be a very interesting introduction to our 6th grade study of history-- pre-history and ancient civilizations. Even if you cannot get to the museum, there is quite a bit of interest online. You might also be interested in the Smithsonian's first mobile app, MEanderthal; it is free!

3. **OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT IN SCIENCE (Summer 2011)** (from Mrs. Regelbrugge)

Option 1 – Science in the Summer

Summer is the perfect season for Science. As additional optional extra credit, visit a science museum (such as the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, Arts and Industries, or Air and Space Museum or National Geographic here in DC, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, the New York Hall of Science in New York, or the Exploratorium in San Francisco) and/or conduct some science experiments. For each one of these activities you undertake, do a one-half to one-page write up explaining what you did, where, what was most interesting to you and why, and what you learned from the experience. Each of these will be worth up to 20 bonus points, depending on the quality.

Option 2 – Reading and Writing about Real Scientists

A biography is a book someone writes about another person, and an autobiography is a book someone writes about his or her own life. Read two biographies or autobiographies about scientists or inventors, and then complete an essay that compares and contrasts those two people. Your essay must include:

- Introductory paragraph introducing the two people you read about, when and where they lived, and why these two people are significant (why are there books about them).
- Two paragraphs about each person that summarize highlights from their lives, including their scientific work and achievements.

- Three to five paragraphs that compare and contrast the two people (similarities and differences).
- One to two paragraphs about how their lives were similar to and different from your own.
- A closing paragraph that tells what you found most interesting about each person.
- Bibliography of the two books you read that includes the title, author, publisher, and publishing date of each book.

Students who complete this assignment at a level of quality that is average will receive 25-50 bonus points; if the level of quality is high, you may receive up to 100 bonus points at the start of your 6th grade year.

4. Summer reading assignment is provided by Mrs. Taylor. Her assignment is a separate sheet.

Have a wonderful summer. See you August 29th.

Ms. McBride