

St. Monica Academy

ANCIENT HISTORY

Continuing our exploration of Ancient Greece, we'll begin the month looking at the time between the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars. By the end of the month, we will be moving away from classical Greece and into the time of Alexander the Great. Students will seminar on excerpts from Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Plato, and Aristotle. Our midterm will be held on January 24, after which I will pass out the prompt for this trimester's paper.

CHEMISTRY

This month we run full force into periodic law. We will conduct "Determining an empirical formula" lab and write our first Lab Report. Toward the end of the month, we will begin discussing chemical bonding. We will also take some time to discuss the nature of chemistry as an art as well as a science. We will ask questions such as "what exactly do we mean by the distinction between the two" and "why is chemistry worth thinking about?"

ANCIENT LITERATURE

In our ancient literature class we are finishing up our unit on the psalms as ancient Hebrew poetry. The students have each been assigned a particular psalm, along with other Scriptural readings from a particular feast day according to the lectionary, to prepare an analysis and a presentation for their classmates. Next, we will be reading Plato's Republic!

LATIN ONE

Felix annus novus vobis sit! May there be a Happy New year to you! Welcome back to school and 2022. We must have been doing some weather predictions before break as we spoke about snow, ice and ice making in the ancient world. Ecce, snow! Did you know that Pompeians loved snow cones? Crushed ice flavored with honey, yum. Hannibal and his herd of elephants had a rough time attempting to cross the Alps into Italy due to snow, avalanches, and narrow crossings. Hopefully, after our brief stint with snow, we will have an easier time getting to school and starting the year off strong. As always, feel free to contact me with questions or comments and keep those students studying their vocabulary and grammar! Think snow – but for the mountains!

MUSIC

"SMA music class employed their choral skills and knowledge of Latin to memorize a significant portion of *In Dulci Jubilo*, a traditional 14th century carol of alternating German/Latin text. Their dedicated work during weekly rehearsal resulted in a strong performance at the school Lessons and Carols service. SMA presented both this carol and the very melismatic *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, which requires excellent breath control and vocal flexibility. In the new year, SMA is learning Epiphany carols and taking ukulele lessons during music class.

GEOMETRY

Geometry agents are back to the grind with an introduction to vectors. Speaking of which, what do you get when you cross a mountain climber and a mosquito? Nothing. You know, you just can't cross a scalar and a vector. These are the next Geometry test days: 01/11, 01/24, 02/01.

ALGEBRA II

This month, we finish up some loose ends with our first foray into radicals. In more exciting news, we introduce some very interesting new ideas: the transcendental number e (named after the great mathematician Leonhard Euler [pronounced OY-ler]) and a new (to students) operation called the *logarithm*. The 18th century was an exciting time for mathematics! By the way, we all know at least one transcendental number: π . What a glorious name for a number!

IMPORTANT DATES

History Midterm: January 24

History CP Due: January 28

Geometry Test: January 11

Geometry Test: January 24

Geometry Test: February 1