



Middle School Newsletter

November 2020

OUR MISSION

To educate and inspire a diverse community of K-12 learners by engaging them in rigorous real-world learning experiences which prioritize intellectual, social and emotional growth.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MRS. LEE



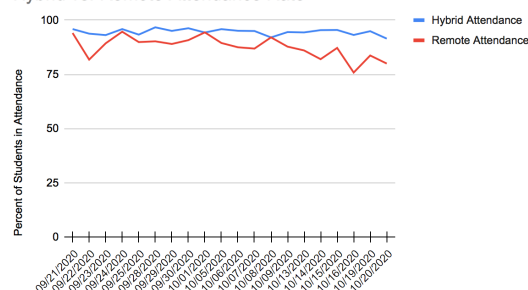
Dear Middle School Families and Caregivers,

As the month of November begins, we are settling into school routines, students, parents and teachers are becoming more confident and comfortable navigating the virtual platforms for learning. Although we are all still learning, the amount of growth we have made so far this year is remarkable. Thank you to all of our stakeholders for demonstrating the values of our PIRR traits while giving grace and patience with this learning process. Whether students are in the hybrid or remote learning model, they are in crew every day and have live instruction two days a week and independent work and recorded lessons in their google classroom two days a week. Throughout the Week and all day on Friday students have access to their teachers with daily office hours and daily online learning support. The second quarter starts on November 9th and we are excited to

welcome even more students into the building for the hybrid program.

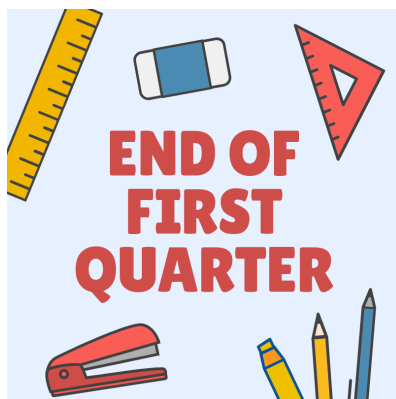
We are looking closely and monitoring attendance data. **For the month of October, the hybrid attendance average was 94% and the remote average is 86%.** We are following up with families, especially in the remote model, to determine what will help improve attendance. One of our biggest obstacles this school year has been the lack of technology for all students. We are aware that this is even more exemplified when students are sharing devices within one household. We are eagerly awaiting the delivery of more devices so all students will have access.

Hybrid vs. Remote Attendance Rate



Within each class, students are applying their knowledge through creating a **high quality work product**. They will be sharing these out to families in their November **Student Led Conferences which will take place virtually on November 23rd and 24th**. You will be receiving an invite through signup.com from your child's crew leader on November 6th. On these days, Students do not have classes, they only have their conference appointment. During their conference, students will be reflecting on their first quarter of learning, both at home and in school, celebrating their successes and creating goals for the next quarter.

As a reminder to families the **first quarter will be closing on November 6th**. Parents are strongly encouraged to regularly check their child's parent portal and weekly report from google classroom for updates.



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MRS. LEE (CONTINUED)

Within our community so far this school year, we have come together to celebrate and support. We just finished our Breast Cancer Awareness month and have raised over \$200 to donate to Roswell Park. We are in the midst of our Thanksgiving Food Drive competition. We have also held our first grade level community meetings. And we had our Fall School Spirit Week. Although we all wish things were back to “normal”, we are maintaining our community traditions and celebrating along the way.



This month, I am taking time to reflect and have gratitude for our special community. Reopening a school during a pandemic is a heavy lift, and one that took extreme planning and care. I am so proud of how our community has risen to the occasion and re-developed a school that is providing our students with an exceptional educational experience amidst a challenging time. Thank you to our students, families, caregivers, staff and teachers. Have a safe and healthy November,

Mrs. Lindsay Lee - Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL CULTURE WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MRS. MESHULAM



Hello Middle School Families,

November is often a time for reflection and thinking about the people and things that we are most thankful for. Our students spend time during the month of November reflecting on their learning and setting goals for the remainder of the school year. Student Led Conferences is a structure that we have built at Tapestry to help students take a moment to recognize their accomplishments and make a plan for the future. We are so excited to share this experience with families both in person and virtually. You can sign up for a time to watch your child present their work with your child's crew leader. We look forward to seeing you virtually on

November 23rd or 24th!

Our annual **Thanksgiving Food Drive** is well on its way! Our crews have been collecting food for our Tapestry Food Bank and to make a donation to families in need of a Thanksgiving dinner. Please continue to send in your donations through **November 16th**. The crew that donates the most in each grade level will earn a pizza party!

We will be hosting our first Virtual School-Wide Community Meeting on **Friday, November 20th at 2:30 PM**. Your child will receive an invitation to the meeting from their Crew Leader to join.



Please feel free to join your child to watch our LIVE Virtual Community Meeting. We will send a recording of the video out to families for future viewings.



We will start our **Snowflake Sale Fundraiser**. Snowflakes can be purchased during dismissal for **\$1, \$3, or \$5** beginning **November 23rd**. Students from the National Junior Honor Society will be selling snowflakes to parents during dismissal! The proceeds of the sale will be used to purchase winter wear for our students. We would like to thank the Golden Age Center for their generous donation of 175 pieces of winter wear! The senior

citizens knitted and crocheted hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for our middle school students!

Just as a reminder, I am the Middle School's DASA Coordinator! Please report any instances of harassment or bullying to me. You can submit it in person, through our [online form](#), or by just sending me a note or email. We will investigate all reported incidents within a 24 hour time frame.

If you need assistance with a school provided technology device, please fill out our [technology form](#). This form is specific to the middle school and is checked daily. If there is an issue, we try to resolve it as quickly as possible.

Please reach out if you need anything! Let's have a notable November!

Mrs Amy Meshulam - Assistant Principal



PIRR Spotlight for the month of October focused on students that are demonstrating our PIRR Trait of Integrity. We wanted to recognize students that have been following Tapestry's PIRR values, even when it is challenging and when no one is watching. **Congratulations to the nominees for the month of October for demonstrating our PIRR trait of Integrity.** We will be recognizing our students during our Grade Level Community Meetings.

5th Grade Crews:

Dytche: Cameron Bell
Kubiak: Delilah Torres
Coyle: Alexandra Ross
Campbell: Ayanna Davis

6th Grade Crews:

Hoerner: Loraine Hawkins
Cooke: Ruby Burget
Brunner: Steven Harrison III
Lawrence: Owen Scott
Gentile: Alante Bishop
Scanlon: Abigail Bishop
Bailey: Isaiah Firestone

7th Grade Crews:

Hartke: Harper Hazelton
Close: Starleana Breisch
Steffan: Marki Rodgers
Frost: Avianna Santana
Camp: Anita Collins
Hahn: Kellen Patterson
Brew: Reina White
Slepian: Azul Hevia-Hernandez

8th Grade Crews:

Matos: Maya Pender
Hills: Elia Rios
Tomasik: Caleb Tofflemire
Smerda: Brooke Czarniak
Mastrangelo: Taliyah Wiley
Ritchey: Gabby Cabrera
Raham: Cydney Johnson

HEALTH OFFICE UPDATE WITH NURSE BURNS, RN

Influenza (Flu) Preventative Steps

Take time to get a flu vaccine

The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.

Flu vaccines will not prevent COVID-19, but they will reduce the burden of flu illnesses and hospitalizations. Increased vaccination coverage would reduce that burden.

Most flu vaccines protect against the four flu viruses that research suggests will be most common.

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine by the end of October.

Vaccination of high risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.

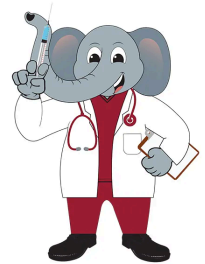
People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with certain chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 and over.

Many people at higher risk from the flu also seem to be at higher risk from COVID-19.

The Erie County Department of Health is a valuable resource regarding the flu and vaccination clinics. The link is below:

[Influenza \(Flu\) Information](#)

If you should need assistance on obtaining a vaccination please feel free to call the health office at 716-332-0755 ext. 1082



DON'T FORGET
YOUR FLU SHOT

Nancy Burns, RN, BSN

Get the
FLU  **SHOT**
not the flu!



This month in Health and Wellness class students will be starting a Food and Nutrition Unit. They will learn about the differences between real and processed foods and why real foods provide the most benefit. They will set goals to help them choose real foods over processed foods and will be asking you to help them learn to make some healthy homemade foods. They will also be setting goals and practicing balancing fruits, vegetables, and whole grains with animal products on their plate. They will learn to moderate their intake of sugar, salt, and fats by setting a goal to moderate their snack/splurge foods. They will be asked to navigate the food environment around their homes and will start to advocate for healthy nutrition in your home, in the school, and/or in the community.

Jessica Mascle, Wellness & Health

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING (EL), MRS. KAUFFMAN



One thing that is obvious this year is that school is very different. With this new setting, comes unique challenges. There are many.

One challenge that we predicted our students would face would be self-management. Regardless of whether they are learning fully remotely or in a hybrid setting, students have more responsibility than ever before.

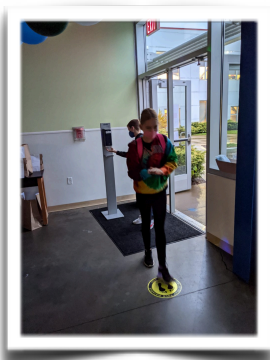
There are many ways we have structured our program to help students. This year every student is taking health class. Right now in health, students are deeply exploring their own routines and identifying healthy/unhealthy routines and setting goals to develop newer healthier routines. Ask your children about their goals.

But that is not all! In crew, we are also asking students to engage in reflections and conversations once a week about time management, study skills, and work ethic. Discuss these self-management strategies with your children to better understand their own understandings/strengths and challenges. For myself personally, I know that I didn't have to really wrestle with these concepts until I was much older, but I do believe with the right supports, that we can help our students come out of this year with more strategies to help them be successful!

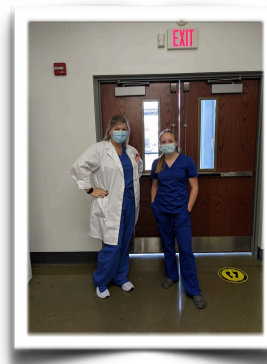
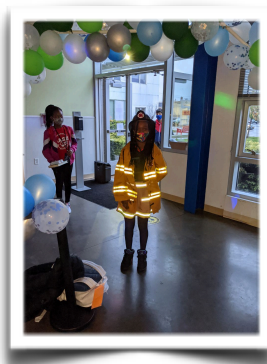
Jessica Kauffman, Expeditionary Learning Gr. K-12

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH MS SMERDA & MRS. MASTRANGELO

Our Middle School Student Government planned a fantastic Spirit Week to wrap up the month of October. Many students, both in person and virtual learners, participated and showed off some fantastic school spirit!



STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH MS SMERDA & MRS. MASTRANGELO (CONTINUED)



For the month of November, our Student Government meetings will be held on November 6th and 20th at 1pm. All of our meetings this school year will be held virtually through Google Meet on the Student Government Google Classroom.

Our focus in November will be to continue brainstorming ideas to support our Thanksgiving Food Drive. In honor of Thanksgiving, Student Government will recognize our middle school teachers whom we are thankful for every day. We will also continue our efforts to fundraise for our middle school program. When we have finalized our fundraising initiative for the school year, more details will be shared.

If your child is not yet in Student Government but is interested in joining, please have he or she email Ms. Smerda (smerdad@tapestryschool.org) or Mrs. Mastrangelo (hohls@tapestryschool.org).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either of us.

Ms. Smerda & Mrs. Mastrangelo

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS



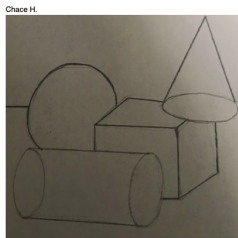
Music:

Students in 5th and 6th grade continue to work on the genre unit. We have studied blues and jazz, exploring prominent musical artists and key features of each genre. In the blues genre, students wrote their own lyrics to a 12-bar blues song.

Students in 7th and 8th grade continue to work on their unit on video games. Students have designed the basic premise of a game, including the plot, key characters, levels, and other special features. They have also been practicing creating songs with google chrome lab. They will eventually use the chrome lab songs to create a soundtrack for their characters and levels.

Visual Art:

This month students in grades 5-8 added values onto their Still Lifes background and foreground with pencil for their geometric compositions. They have added at least 2-3 values placed on the background and foreground. Students will continue to work this month to add varied tones on cubes, cylinders, pyramids, or spheres.



Performance Art:

Grades 5 and 6

This month students were required to draw and color a visual representation from the myth that was discussed in our lessons. Upon completion, students were required to submit a video justifying their creative choices and complete assignments related to characterization. Their final lessons to complete quarter one will incorporate more video submissions and their visual representation on a t-shirt to present their final product.



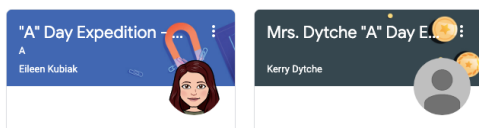
Grades 7 and 8

This month students have been learning to apply symbolism to their poetry and create a symbolic visual representation of their recent work. Upon completion, students will submit a video justifying their creative choices and begin performing their poetry on video. Their final lessons to complete quarter one will incorporate more video submissions with requirements to become resourceful on soliciting audience participation as a vital component of being a performance artist. Students will also create a symbolic representation on a t-shirt to present their final product.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT WITH MRS. MIRANDA

Google Classroom

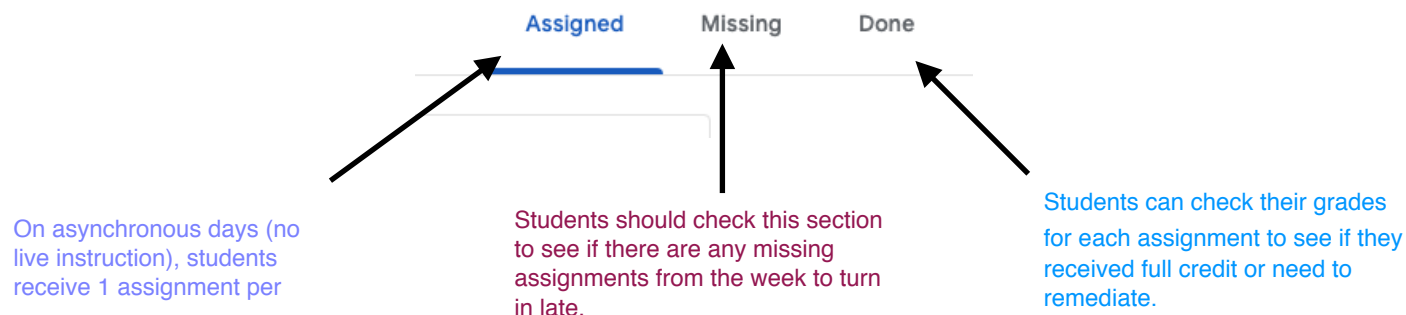
To-do Calendar



Google Classroom Tips

To support students with their asynchronous assignments, crew leaders have shown students multiple ways of accessing their google classroom assignments. One way students can do this is by using the to-do list. The snapshot below shows where students can access the to-do list when they open up google classroom.

The following picture explains how to use the to-do list.



Teachers offer daily office hours as well as an hour office hour on Fridays to help students with their work. Students are encouraged to use office hours to complete missing work, assignments they have questions about, or work that they wish to remediate.

How to Use PowerSchool Powerpoint

Here is a [short powerpoint](#) to walk parents and guardians through the steps to access their child's grades in powerschool. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's crew leader or Dr. Hayes at hayek@tapestrycharterschool.org.

Stephanie Miranda, Instructional Coach

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS UPDATE

High risk athletics are still on hold and schools around WNY have been waiting on guidance from NYS for the upcoming winter months. When updates are released we will let families know what is in store for the long winter season. Physical Education classes have embraced fitness at home and in school. Students have been exposed to a variety of at home exercises remotely focusing on the components of fitness. Hybrid students have had the experience of live PE weekly taking place both outside and in the ThunderDome. We look forward to setting up fitness goals with students as the year continues. Community organizations are coming up with some neat ways to stay active. I will be sending out information regarding these programs through School Reach. Keep an eye out for Hasek Heroes a skating and hockey opportunity.

ThunderHawk Pride!

Mr. Marc LaMorticella - Athletics Director



COUNSELING CORNER - MS BEDELL



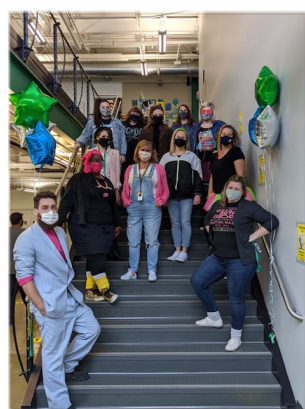
Happy Fall Families!

I am continuing to work with students in small groups to promote friendships and relationship building during this time in education. Students are missing their friends and those personal connections, therefore I have made it my "mission" to make sure these relationships are being built. If you are interested in having your child join one of my groups please reach out to me and I will make it happen. Stay happy and healthy and please contact me with any concerns at any time you may be having when it pertains to your child.

BUILDING strong communities
CULTIVATING positive relationships
ACHIEVING optimal health
— NOW AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY

Ms. Jessica Bedell - Counselor

SPIRIT WEEK FUN



MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

October 13-November 20: Thanksgiving Food Drive

October 30: 6th & 7th grade community meeting

November 3: Election Day

November 6th: 8th grade community meeting

November 11: No School

November 18: Picture Retake Day

November 23 & 24: Student Led Conferences, No Classes

November 25: PD Day, No school for students

November 26 & 27: No School, Thanksgiving Break

CONTACT INFORMATION

65 Great Arrow Avenue

Phone Number: 716.332.0755 | Fax Number: 716.332.0758 Website: www.tapestryschool.org



Tapestry Charter School is an arts-integrated, K-12 Expeditionary Learning, tuition-free, public school located in the city of Buffalo, NY. Founded by passionate individuals who shared a commitment to choice, accountability, and excellence, Tapestry received approval from the State University of New York Board of Trustees to open in September 2001.