



# Middle School Newsletter

October 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



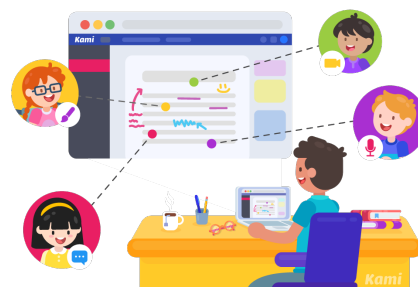
Dear Middle School Families and Caregivers,

Although the start of the school year has been anything but normal, it has been a positive start! Students who are new to the middle school and are transitioning from elementary school are persevering through the changes and settling into a routine. Our character traits of PIRR (Perseverance, Integrity, Responsibility and Respect) are a part of our virtual and in-person community and are being celebrated by classroom teachers and administration.

The focus as we started was centered on **building relationships and virtual routines**. This slow and

intentional start to the school year is setting students up for success for the entire school year. Classes have taken the time to develop virtual and in-person norms allowing the classroom community to shine.

As students start in on the content of their classes, teachers are working on engagement strategies to involve all students in the learning process and maintain a rigorous learning environment.



The biggest challenge we have faced is technology. Not having enough devices for each child to learn with has been extremely difficult and a barrier for learning. We hope to have this worked through by the middle of the month when the new devices arrive.



**Starting October 5th Hybrid Students may bring in their own personal device and connect to tapestry's net work.** Families in need of tech support are encouraged to check out the

Tapestry website Tech Assistance Page at [https://tapestryschool.org/tech\\_assist/](https://tapestryschool.org/tech_assist/) and click on the Grade 5-8 Tech Assistance which will allow you to complete a [form](#). We will then follow up with families based on this information.

Below are some **helpful tips** in supporting your child in their virtual and in person learning this year:

- Remind your child to **check their email two times a day**. The recommended time to do this is after crew and at the end of their learning for the day.
- Remind your child to **check their crew and class google classroom daily** for remote students and on home days for hybrid students
- Parents should **check the grade level website weekly** for updates
  - [5th grade website](#)
  - [6th grade website](#)
  - [7th grade website](#)
  - [8th grade website](#)

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED)

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- Go over your child's **daily schedule** with them. Schedules are not the same each day so it is helpful to see what learning will be like each day.
  - Crew is everyday from 8:00-8:30**
  - A day students** are in the building or have live instruction on Monday and Wednesday. They have work to complete in their google classroom on Tuesday and Thursday.
  - B day students** are in the building or have live instruction on Tuesday and Thursday. They have work to complete in their google classroom on Monday and Wednesday.
  - Here are the **grade level learning schedules** with links to virtual classes for Monday-Thursday
    - [5th grade schedule](#)
    - [6th grade schedule](#)
    - [7th grade schedule](#)
    - [8th grade schedule](#)
- All students have **office hours on Friday and online learning support** available throughout the week Here are the office hour and online learning support schedules
  - [5th grade office hours for Dytche and Kubiak Crews](#)
  - [5th grade office hours for Coyle and Campbell Crews](#)
  - [6th grade office hours](#)
  - [7th grade office hours](#)
  - [8th grade office hours](#)

helpful  
tips



Even though this school year is different, we are staying true to our traditions. This month we will continue to have **picture day**, **grade level community meetings**, **celebrate Halloween**, participate in **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** and **Bullying Prevention Month** and have a **School Spirit Week!**  
Have a safe and healthy October,

**Mrs. Lindsay Lee - Principal**

## P.I.R.R SPOTLIGHT

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PIRR Spotlight for the month of September focused on students that are demonstrating our PIRR Trait of Perseverance. We wanted to recognize students that have been persevering, not giving up even when it is challenging, through the start of a new school year in a time that is different from any other. **Congratulations to the nominees for the month of September for demonstrating our PIRR trait of Perseverance.** We will be recognizing our students during our Grade Level Community Meetings.

### 5th Grade Crews:

**Dytche:** Charlie Griffith  
**Kubiak:** Sonya Kutnyak  
**Coyle:** Tonya Lewis  
**Campbell:** La'Kari Harris

### 6th Grade Crews:

**Hoerner:** Kaelynn Martin  
**Cooke:** Jaeden Petty  
**Brunner:** Derrion Clendening  
**Lawrence:** Jayla Thomas  
**Gentile:** Marlon Gomez  
**Scanlon:** Kiarri Coles  
**Bailey:** Aja Wiesnewski

### 7th Grade Crews:

**Hartke:** Nicholas Fillice  
**Close:** Siona Green  
**Steffan:** Naja Lewis  
**Frost:** Allen King IV  
**Camp:** Desmond Anderson  
**Hahn:** Becker Lyons  
**Slepian:** Alonso Ferrel  
**Brew:** Josiah Navarro

### 8th Grade Crews:

**Matos:** Olivia Harris  
**Hills:** Trina Huynh  
**Tomasik:** Donovan Vasile  
**Smerda:** Niomi Kittle  
**Mastrangelo:** Antania King  
**Ritchey:** Michael Vance  
**Raham:** Anson Spates



Hello Middle School Families!

Welcome back! Let me begin by re-introducing myself! Many of you already know me as Miss DiMaggio. I recently got married and my new name is **Mrs. Meshulam**. I am the Assistant Principal here in the Middle School. This is my third year in this role and I am really excited to see everyone back in school. We are excited to start the year with some really great events and traditions.

We will kick off October with our first ever **Grade Level Community Meetings** on October 9th. Each grade level will be

hosting their own community meeting within their grade level. This will take place during crew at 8:00 AM. We hope to see you there!

Our **Thanksgiving Food Drive** will start on October 13th and go until November 20th. Crews will be competing to collect non-perishable food items for our Tapestry Food Pantry. The crew with the most can goods collected in each grade level will be celebrated and earn a really great prize! For our remote students, can goods can be brought to the middle school Monday through Friday from 8-3:00. Please make sure your child's Crew Leader name is on the bag or items so that it can be counted for their crew!



October is **Breast Cancer Awareness month**. Every year the Middle School raises money and awareness around Breast Cancer through crew lessons and projects that raise money for breast cancer. The funds that are raised will be donated to Roswell Park Cancer Institute. This year, we will continue the tradition with our crew lessons and we will also be modifying our fundraiser. We will be sending out specific information about our fundraiser through a school-wide communication so please look out for that in your emails!



October is also **National Bullying Prevention month**. I am the Middle School's DASA Coordinator. If your child has experienced bullying behaviors or was witness to a bullying behavior, please report it to me or our Middle School counselor, Ms. Bedell. We also have forms that can be filled out on our website or in the front office of the school. Teachers also have these forms available to them to distribute to students. Students will learn about bullying and harassing behaviors and how to prevent them and report them during crew this month. Teachers will also receive training on the Dignity for All Students Act as well as some restorative strategies to address these issues.

The week of October 19th is our first **School Spirit Week**! Our Student Government is meeting at the beginning of October to help plan for School Spirit Week. The students will decide how we will represent our school spirit through different themed days. The week will end on October 23rd with our Pink Day in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness. Look out for more communication as we get closer to this date!

At the end of the month, students will be able to participate in a **costume contest**. Students can wear their Halloween Costumes to school on October 28th or 29th (on their in-person hybrid day). Please be sure your child follows the costume and dress guidelines (**no masks that cover the entire face, no blood, and no weapons**).

If you have any questions please reach out to us in the Middle School front office.



**Mrs. Amy Meshulam - Assistant Principal**



This year and as always, crew is a central focus to what we do and how we do things. Crew, as a structure and as a culture, drives learning. At Tapestry, we recognize students not just as academic learners, but as whole people. We recognize that, in order to be successful, students must have social and emotional skills that will lead to productive outcomes and meaningful relationships. This year, we are especially focusing on the “3 R’s”; **relationships**, **resiliency** and **routines**. Make sure your child is in crew everyday, on time, whether in school or remote!

Also, crew is a structure of support to families. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s crew leader! We look forward to your partnership!

**Jessica Kauffman, Expeditionary Learning Gr. K-12**

## ENRICHMENT WITH MRS. MIRANDA

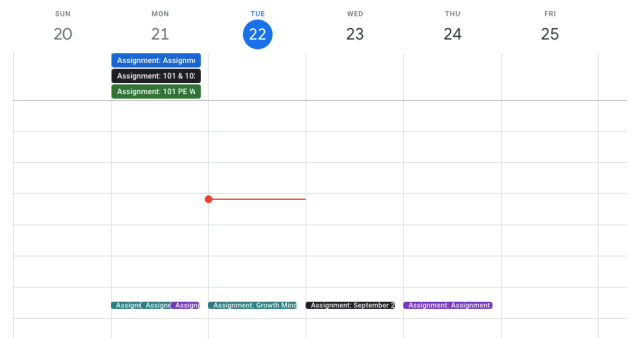
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### Google Classroom Reminders

One of the biggest changes to students’ schedules this year is the use of synchronous and asynchronous instructions. Twice a week, students will be given live instruction. For hybrid students, these are the days they attend school. For remote students, these are the days they are logging into their classes’ google meets to do the lessons live through the computer. Remote students have a copy of their schedule in their crew google classroom. The schedule has links for them to click on at the beginning of each class. If remote students can’t log in for the live lesson, it will be recorded for students to watch later that day or the next day. Student must also complete the assignment that goes with the live lesson to get class attendance credit.

On days students do not have live lessons, they will be given asynchronous assignments. These are follow-up assignments that students need to complete before their next synchronous class. These assignments typically include a taped mini lesson from the teacher and then a google doc or form for students to complete. For A day students, this work will be completed on Tuesday and Thursdays. For B day students, this work will be completed on Thursdays and Mondays. Teachers have daily office hours to assist students that need extra support. The schedule with links to the office hour meets are found in the crew google classroom.

One way to help students keep track of their assignments and due dates is the use of their google calendar. If students open up their calendar, they can see which assignments are due each day. Students can then click on the assignment. It will bring them to that google classroom and open up the instructions and any needed materials to complete that assignment.



**Stephanie Miranda, Instructional Coach**



# Google Classroom



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH MS SMERDA & MRS. MASTRANGELO

Our first **Student Government meeting** will be held on October 9th at 1pm! We will be meeting bi-weekly at 1pm on Fridays. All of our meetings this school year will be held virtually through Google Meet on the Student Government Google Classroom.

At our first meeting, students will be discussing how to organize our Thanksgiving Food Drive and creating posters to advertise the initiative. Students will also begin brainstorming ideas for Spirit Week. This year, **Spirit Week** will be held during the week of October 19th. More information on Spirit Week will be provided via School Reach as the date approaches.

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](mailto:smerdad@tapestryschool.org)) or Mrs. Mastrangelo ([hohls@tapestryschool.org](mailto:hohls@tapestryschool.org)).

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

Happy Fall!

Ms. Smerda & Mrs. Mastrangelo



## HEALTH OFFICE UPDATE WITH NURSE BURNS, RN

### Physicals:

New York State law **requires** that each child in a school district have a health examination including body mass index before entering school for the first time and again in **grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11**. **If you have a child in grades 5 or 7** kindly submit your child's up to date physical to the middle school health office. A dental exam form is also requested.



### 2020-21 School Year New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance<sup>1</sup>

NOTES:  
Children in a prekindergarten setting should be age-appropriately immunized. The number of doses depends on the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Intervals between doses of vaccine should be in accordance with the ACIP-recommended immunization schedule for persons 0 through 18 years of age. Doses received before the minimum age or intervals are not valid and do not count toward the number of doses listed below. See footnotes for specific information for each vaccine. Children who are enrolling in grade-less classes should meet the immunization requirements of the grades for which they are age equivalent.

Dose requirements MUST be read with the footnotes of this schedule

Vaccines	Prekindergarten (Day Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-k)	Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11	Grade 12
Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTaP/Tdap/Td) <sup>2</sup>	4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses If the 4th dose was received at 4 years or older or 3 doses If 7 years or older and the series was started at 1 year or older	3 doses	
Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine adolescent booster (Tdap) <sup>2</sup>		Not applicable	1 dose	
Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV) <sup>3</sup>	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses If the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older		
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) <sup>3</sup>	1 dose	2 doses		
Hepatitis B vaccine <sup>4</sup>	3 doses	3 doses or 2 doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) for children who received the doses at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 through 15 years		
Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine <sup>5</sup>	1 dose	2 doses		
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) <sup>6</sup>		Not applicable	Grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11: 1 dose	2 doses or 1 dose if the dose was received at 16 years or older
Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib) <sup>7</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV) <sup>8</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		

### Immunizations:

New York State Public Health Law requires that schools will not permit a child to attend school, including remote learning, unless the parent provides the school with a certificate of immunization. Proof of immunizations must be submitted to the health office within 14 days of the start of school. If proof of immunizations is not provided to school NYS Law requires that the student be exempt from school until proper documentation is provided.

**MASKS:** Help stop the spread of COVID-19 to others. All students and staff are required to wear a mask during school hours. A proper fitting mask needs to cover the chin, mouth and over the nose.

(716) 332-0755 ext:1082

T-hawk says:

C'MON MASK!

Chin  
Mouth  
Over the  
Nose

**REMEMBER  
KIDS:**  
WEARING A  
MASK KEEPS  
EVERYONE  
SAFE!

help the house run even more smoothly and efficiently. From here your student will create a morning, after-school, and evening routine planner, practice using and following the planner, discuss their challenges, and honestly assess their ability to follow their routine planner.

A reminder that Health and Wellness is 100% online and will go the entire school year. Your student has two lessons a week for Health and Wellness class. My office hours are M-F from 10am-11am and my email is [masclei@tapestryschool.org](mailto:masclei@tapestryschool.org)

**NATIONAL JUNIOR HONORS SOCIETY WITH MRS. MIRANDA & MS. SCANLON**



Students in 5th grade will remain in NEHS (**National Elementary Honor Society**) with Mr. Joe in the lower school. Students will receive emails about upcoming events.

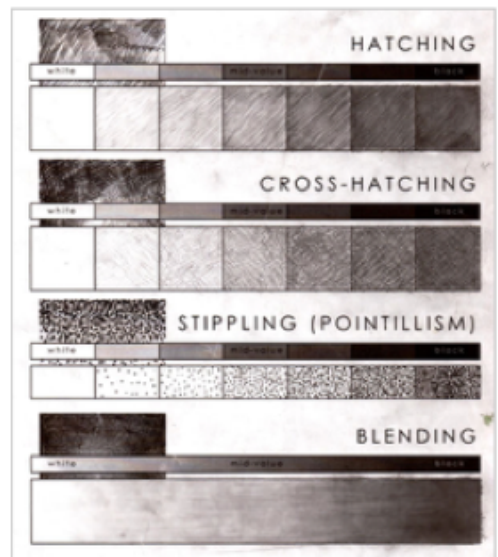
If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ms. Scanlon ([scanlons@tapestryschool.org](mailto:scanlons@tapestryschool.org)) or Mrs. Miranda ([mirandas@tapestryschool.org](mailto:mirandas@tapestryschool.org))

### VISUAL ARTS

This month students have reviewed the HOW rubric in Visual Art in Hybrid and Remote mode. Students started working on their first drawing exercise exploring graduated values through blending techniques (dark, medium, and light) and used lines to manipulate textures in a value scale with hatching, cross-hatching, and stippling.

We will then progress to composing geometric forms into a Still Life using shading, blending, and textures with mixed media of choice to personalize our own style of art as an artist.

Students and Tapestry families please remember on all remote days in Visual Art we do not meet in the Google Classroom Meet Link. I do have office hours for grades 5-8 from Monday - Friday 9:15am -10:00 am. You can find the link in the Supplemental Resources area in the Google Classroom under Office Hours. Please click on Visual Art (highlighted in blue) and that will take you to a virtual room to assist you with a given assignment. I look forward to any questions that I may help answer.



### PERFORMANCE ART

Grades 5 and 6 have begun with a brief background in the definition of performance art. Soon they will begin to utilize myths, legends, fables and fairytales as tools for developing their own creative themes and illustrations with life lessons for their individual presentation.

Grades 7 and 8 will take a deeper look into some of the influences of performance art with an emphasis on poetry, monologues, props and site specific locations.

### MUSIC

Students in remote and hybrid learning are starting off the year creating norms and going over class procedures and protocols. We have also started reading simple rhythms consisting of quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. My office hours are Mon - Thurs from 9:15 - 10:00 if a student needs extra help.





## SPED WITH DOMINIC BALLACHINO

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Welcome back to school everyone! We have been very busy with hiring and developing ourselves for a new school year that is unlike any other.

Related Services (Speech & Language, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, & Counseling) have all begun for our students in our buildings. This may be a remote/tele-therapy approach or an in-person delivery of service.

Special Education teachers have the new experience of virtual and in-person services. We are developing ourselves with technology and working through the success and challenges that come our way.

Students are happy to be back in a routine and structure. We will continue our typical meetings throughout the course of the school year. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please feel free to reach out directly to me. 716-332-0754 or email me at [dominic@tapestryschool.org](mailto:dominic@tapestryschool.org)

**Dominic Ballachino, Director of SPED**

## COUNSELING CORNER - MS BEDELL

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Dear Families,

I have been meeting with students virtually and it has been very successful. I enjoy being able to connect students to one another so they can interact and see each other face to face without having to wear their masks; the goal being for kids to have as much normalcy during this time as possible. If your child is not seeing me virtually and you are interested in this service, reach out to me at any time via email or my extension at the school at 1060.

I am very proud of all of the students for persevering through online learning and crew. For those kids who have been in the building, they have done an amazing job adhering to our rules.

I also saw some amazing presentations that were created by students showcasing who they are. I am excited for this school year and proud of our kids. Stay safe and reach out anytime.

Jessica Bedell

**Ms. Jessica Bedell - Counselor**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

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The month of October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** and **National Bullying Prevention Month**

**October 2:** PD Day, No students

**October 7:** Picture Day (hybrid)

**October 8:** Picture Day (hybrid)

**October 9:** Virtual Grade Level Community Meetings

**October 12, 2020: No School, Indigenous People Day**

**October 13-November 20:** Thanksgiving Food Drive

**October 16:** Picture Day (remote)

**October 19: October 23:** School Spirit Week

**October 26:** PINK Day for A Day Students

**October 27:** PINK Day for B Day Students

October 28: Halloween Celebration for A Day Students

October 29: Halloween Celebration for B Day Students

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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65 Great Arrow Avenue

Phone Number: 716.332.0755 | Fax Number: 716.332.0758 Website: [www.tapestryschool.org](http://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.