



Middle School Newsletter

October 2019

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,

It has been a positive and successful start to the year. The transition to middle school can be challenging, but students are persevering through the changes from elementary school to middle school and settling into a routine. It is hard to believe that we have wrapped up our first month of the school year! Students all collaboratively wrote the norms for their

classrooms and are meeting the expectations. Our character traits of PIRR (Perseverance, Integrity, Responsibility and Respect) are a part of our community and are being celebrated by classroom teachers and administration. Each week we pull Golden Feather Winners on the announcements to highlight students who are demonstrating PIRR throughout the school day.

Students are engaging in rigorous learning opportunities that will lead to the creation of high quality work products. Additionally, the relationships between crew leader and student and student to student continue to expand and grow into positive relationships.



PowerSchool
Parent Portal



As we transition into the second month of school, students are truly engaged in their first unit of study in each of their classes. Within this, homework has begun and grades are being entered into Powerschool. Please check your child's grade level website for information on homework and weekly learning as well as logging into Powerschool to access grades. Students are reviewing their progress weekly during crew academic check-ins. Now is the perfect time to reach out to teachers if you have any questions. **The five week (half way) point of the marking period is on October 9th. A progress report will be mailed home with updated grades.**

Also this month we will participate in our annual Middle School Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign to raise money for Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. We will host a PINK week the week of 10/21-10/25. Each day will have a separate pink themed dress day concluding with an overall PINK DAY on Friday, 10/25. There will also be a pink bake sale in each lunch, please feel free to donate a pink baked-good. During crew, 6th students will be making pink ribbons to sell in the morning before school during our PINK Week. In 7th grade crew, students will be making pink awareness keychains and in 8th grade students will be making inspirational bracelets for patients. We will give all donations to Roswell Park during our 1st school-wide community meeting on November 22nd.

Hope to see everyone at the Tapestry Harvest Festival on October 4th from 3:30-6:30!

Have a wonderful October!

Mrs. Lindsay Lee - Principal



MIDDLE SCHOOL CULTURE WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MS. DIMAGGIO



October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Here at Tapestry Charter Middle School we are actively learning about bullying prevention throughout the month of October. Crews will be participating in three bully prevention lessons that will help students learn about bullying, bullying reporting procedures in the Middle School, and a focus on cyberbullying. The message that we are trying to convey is **"if you see something, say something!"** If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me as the DASA Coordinator for the Middle School.

Here at Middle School, our day begins with crew. This is such an important time for students to connect with their TAPMS family and start their day on a positive note. This month, crews are working on a few different collaborative projects. We will be painting pumpkins for the Harvest Festival and creating items for our Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. It is so important for students to get to school on time so that they are able to participate in crew and these activities that strengthen our community. Please make sure students are here and in their crews by 8:00

am! If you are having a difficult time getting your child to school, please reach out to us in the front office. You can also refer to the Student and Family Handbook for our Attendance and Tardy Policies.

Starting October 15th, we will begin collecting items for our Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Crews will be competing with one another to collect the most canned food items. We will celebrate the winning crew in each grade level with a prize! More details will be sent home with students in October.

We are looking forward to moving into Fall here at the Middle School!

Always reach out to me if you ever have any questions or concerns!

Miss Amy DiMaggio - Assistant Principal



P.I.R.R SPOTLIGHT

The PIRR Spotlight value for September was Perseverance. Crew Leaders in each grade level nominated one student that demonstrated the PIRR trait of Perseverance. **Perseverance means that you keep on trying, even when the task is difficult.** Please help us celebrate the following nominees:

6th Grade Crews:

Gerchick: Jessica Brown
Beerman: Simier Sweet
Brunner: Becker Lyons
Tomasik: Bethany Callahan
Hoerner: Jayda Coleman
Gentile: Richard Panos
Scanlon: Desmond Anderson
Bailey: Djibril Horsford

7th Grade Crews:

Kamholz: Mykala Peay
Close: Santino Wilson
Hartke: Taliyah Wiley
Frost: Lucy Krytus
Fields: Damon Askew
Hockwater: Robert Wells
Slepian: Aidan Schenk

8th Grade Crews:

Matos: Briana Hernandez
Hills: Korey Martin
Flores: Grace Trietley
Smerda: Christopher Armstrong
Marino: Isaiah Brown
Ritchey: Alanna Sands
Raham: Vernia Laventure

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING (EL), MRS. KAUFFMAN



As an EL School, we pride ourselves in helping students to become "leaders of their own learning". We believe that students want to succeed in school. In crew they reflect on their academics and set goals to improve. Then they get to share out their work and their progress with parents at Student-Led Conferences. Student-Led Conferences, or SLCs, are just that, student-led. Instead of parent teacher conferencing, we give ownership of learning to students and they present their progress and portfolio to parents and crew leaders at an SLC meeting. So, mark your calendars! You will be invited to attend your child's 30-45 minute SLC on Monday, November 25th or Tuesday, November 26th.

Jessica Kauffman, Expeditionary Learning Gr. K-12

ENRICHMENT WITH MRS. MIRANDA

According to www.achieve.org, “Content knowledge and skills in mathematics and in ELA/literacy are foundational to the study of all other disciplines, and high school graduates are often asked to demonstrate competency in these subjects before they can begin further study (at two- and four-year colleges), enter certain job-training/apprenticeship programs, or pursue the military career of their choice.” At Tapestry, staff is dedicated and focused on making sure all students are prepared for their post high school college and career paths.

One way Tapestry measures students' growth is through the NWEA MAPS assessments. These computerized tests assess students literacy and mathematical skills, which are then compared to national norms. These assessments are administered 2-3 times per year. Teachers can then look at individual results to identify skills that students excel with in addition to identifying areas of needed support.

After completion, students will reflect on their literacy and math growth. The program sets growth goals for all students compared to the national norms. Each year, students are encouraged to reflect on their ability to meet this goal and then identify action steps they are willing to commit to to further their literacy and math growth.

Embedded into the daily schedule, students receive an enrichment period every day focused on literacy and math skills. Teachers use the NWEA MAPS data and other assessments to group students by similar needs and provide strategic skills and strategy instruction. As the year progresses, students can be moved into different groups based on these literacy and math needs.

Stephanie Miranda, Instructional Coach

WELLNESS & HEALTH WITH JESSICA MASCLE

In the coming weeks, your middle schooler will be getting training and practice in mindfulness. We will be looking at defining what mindfulness is and recognizing what it feels like when we are mindful and when we are not mindful. We will practice bringing our awareness out of our busy minds and into our physical bodies in order to help us relax. We will practice focusing by learning to sit upright, find our breath, and listening to the sounds around us. We will learn to notice our thoughts and how to watch them and not become attached to them when we are trying to focus. We learn to identify our emotions, how to cope with the tough ones and how to embrace joy, compassion, gratitude, and peace within ourselves. At the end of this study we will offer our new skills to the rest of our community



Jessica Mascle, Wellness & Health

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS UPDATE

This Fall season, participation is the highest it has ever been at Tapestry Middle School sports. I would like to thank our Tapestry families who have been great with student drop-offs and pick-ups at our various game locations this season.

The MS Volleyball team's season has started keeping the players busy with a full schedule of practices and games. An email will be sent out soon with schedule updates.

Also, I had a chance to see the 5/6 & 7/8 soccer teams play and the Middle School Volleyball team practice **and could not be more impressed with the level of skill and sportsmanship that our coaches have instilled in our students here at Tapestry.** [Keep up the good work Thunderhawks!](#)

Please check out the Tapestry website for all Middle School Sport schedules.

Mr. Marc LaMorticella - Athletics Director



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS

VISUAL ARTS

Students in grades 6-8 have been exploring their new creative space while implementing freshly gained studio art routines within the classroom. Students have been building culture through the participation of creating norms to craft a safe, structured, and creative working environment.

Grade 6

Students in grade 6 are exploring drawing techniques in value studies. Students are learning how to compose 5 varied values and place them into geometric forms.



Grade 7

Students in grade 7 have been manipulating clay into clay pinch pots. Students have been exploring the positive and negative space, while checking for an even consistency through out their clay walls.

Grade 8

This month students in 8th grade visual art will be attending fieldwork at the Erie County Downtown Library on the 9th of October. This fieldwork will support the kick off for an expedition called, *Heroes in Motion*. Students will examine the different art genres of illustrations found in comics and graphic novels throughout history.



As an educator in the visual arts, Mrs. Nikki strives to inspire and generate narrative work that conveys a story line for experimental designs in illustration, sculpture, technology and mixed media.

GUITAR

The 6th grade guitar students are learning the basics of playing an instrument, including how to hold the guitar, how to read music, correct hand positions for both hands, and performing ensemble music together with their peers. We're currently working on "Minor Waltz" by Travis Marcum.

The 7th grade students have reviewed basic note reading skills, and have begun working on the song "See You Again" by Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth.

The 8th grade students have made tremendous progress with reading notation. They are working on "Key to the Highway" by Big Bill Broonzy.



THEATER

Grade 6 is making strides with their Puppet Theater Unit. These students are making shadow puppets and preparing to create and perform short scenes with their peers.

Grade 7 has begun a unit on Primitive Theater. Their next step will be making decisions on costuming to wear as they create an re-enactment of a hunt to perform for the Tapestry Community!

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS (CONTINUED)

Grade 8 is immersed in ensemble building to segue into their Commedia Dell'arte (Italian Comedy) Unit, to perform their own scenes in a lecture-demonstration.

DANCE

Grade 6 is learning the foundations of modern dance technique with plenty of arm swings, leg swings, rolls and falls. Solid black dance leggings are required for females, with black sweats for males.

Grade 7 has begun collaborating to compose a dance piece to bring awareness to the issue of Breast Cancer, along with studies in Limón Technique from modern dancer Jose Limón. Solid black dance leggings are required for females, with black sweats for males. This group will be performing their choreography for members of the Tapestry Community soon.

Grade 8 has entered into studies of Martha Graham Technique, to prepare for a lecture demonstration. Solid black dance leggings are required for females, with black sweats for males.

COUNSELING CORNER - MS BEDELL



Student Government is hosting their first spirit week: **Monday September 30th - Friday October 4th.**

Monday: Hat/Hoodie Day

Thursday: Throw-Back Thursday

Tuesday: Twin Day

Friday: Harvest/Pink Day

Wednesday: Pajama Day

We will end the week with the Harvest Festival on Friday, Oct 4th with many fun activities for all K-12 students.

Our first 6-8 middle school dance will be Friday, November 1st from 6:00-8:00pm.

We will be looking for parent volunteers to help with this event. Looking forward to a wonderful month!!

Ms. Jessica Bedell - Counselor

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4, 2019	Gr. K-12 Harvest Festival @ 3:30 - 6:30
October 8, 2019	Tapestry Community Association (TCA) Meeting @ 6:30 in the High School Library
October 9, 2019	Gr. 6-8 Picture Day
October 9, 2019	Marking Period 5-week Quarter End
October 9, 2019	Fieldwork for MS Visual Art Majors to the downtown library @ 8:45- 11:00 AM
October 11, 2019	Gr. 6-8 Public Information Session @ 8:30-9:30 in the MS Library
October 14, 2019	Indigenous People Day - School Closed
October 18, 2019	Go Home Early Drill, 2:00 Dismissal for Gr. 6-8 Students
October 29, 2019	Gr. 6-8 Principal Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting @ 8:15-9:00 AM
November 1, 2019	Middle School Halloween Dance @ 6:00-8:00 PM
November 8, 2019	End of 1st Quarter - Gr. 6-8 Grades Close
November 11, 2019	Veteran's Day - School Closed

CONTACT INFORMATION

65 Great Arrow Avenue

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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.