



Middle School Newsletter

November 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,

November 8th marks the end of the 1st quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. Students will present their work and reflections on the first quarter during their Student Led Conferences. **Student Led Conferences will take place on Monday, November 25th and Tuesday, November 26th.** During the conference, your child will be showcasing the high quality work that

they have been working on in each class since the start of the year. You will expect to see the process of learning on display, including students implementing feedback to produce multiple drafts and using a rubric to guide their work production. Students should be very proud of the high quality work they have developed! Students will also reflect on their strengths and weaknesses of the first quarter and goal set for the remainder of the school year. During the student led conferences, 1st quarter report cards will be shared. Please look for communication about scheduling from your child's crew leader.



Also this month will be the first PIRR day of the school year. This day allows students to reflect on the first quarter, both on their learning and habits of work and spend time team building with their crew while goal setting for the remainder of the school year. **PIRR Day will take place on Friday, November 22nd.** The PIRR Day will end with the first school-wide community meeting at 2:00 PM.

Also in November is the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Each crew will be competing to bring in the most items. In order to be eligible for the competition, each crew must submit 5 items to begin (rice, box of mac and cheese, dessert mix, box of stuffing and cranberry sauce). **Please help your child support our community! The food drive will run from October 21st-November 19th.**



Have a wonderful November!

Mrs. Lindsay Lee - Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL CULTURE WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MS. DIMAGGIO



Dear Middle School Families,

November is a good time to think about being thankful and contributing to our community. I would like to recognize and thank our parents and families for being supportive within our Tapestry community.

This month will be collecting donations for our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive until November 19th. Crews are competing against each other to raise the most canned goods. The winning crews will receive hot chocolate and donuts!



Beginning on November 21st we will start our Annual Snowflake Sales. You can stop in the front office to purchase a snowflake. The snowflakes will also be on sale during Student Led Conferences. Snowflakes are \$1, \$3, or \$5. The money raised by this collection will be used to purchase items for the winter wear drive. Crews will be running another competition to collect winter clothing to be donated for those who need it. We will be collecting new gloves, scarves, hats, and socks from November 21-December 18th.

November 22nd will be our Breakfast of Champions, PIRR Day, and our first whole school community meeting. We will kick off the day by celebrating students that earned honor and merit roll status for the first quarter with breakfast and certificates. Then grade levels will be engaged in our first PIRR day of the year. Students will be working with their crews all day to build relationships and engage within the community. Teachers are in the works of planning this fun day for their grade levels and we will be communicating how each grade level will participate in PIRR day. Look out for the details in the weekly updates from Principal Lee. We will close out the day at 2:00 PM with our first whole school community meeting. Parents are welcome to attend!



Thank you again for your support! We hope to see you all at your child's Student Led Conference on November 25th or 26th.

Miss Amy DiMaggio - Assistant Principal

P.I.R.R SPOTLIGHT

The PIRR Spotlight value for October was Integrity. The following students were nominated by their crew leader for showing integrity throughout the month of October. Congratulations!

6th Grade Crews:

Gerchic: Payton Parker
Beerman: Tyler Schroeder
Brunner: Joshua Mansaray
Tomasik: Idrees Douglas
Hoerner: Harper Hazelton
Gentile: Alonso Farrel
Scanlon: Azul Hevia Hernandez

7th Grade Crews:

Kamholz: Angel Hernandez
Close: Evangeline Kuhl
Hartke: Jackson Snodgrass
Frost: Zion Wilson
Fields: Clementine Gianadda
Hockwater: Vincent Vasile
Slepian: Ryleigh Berenson

8th Grade Crews:

Matos: Shayley Casey
Hills: Elyse Castile
Flores: Naomi Scott
Smerda: Leto Platz
Marino: Carly Cardinal
Ritchey: Denise Birmingham
Raham: Lena Trietley

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING (EL), MRS. KAUFFMAN

What are Learning Expeditions?

Learning expeditions are a signature of Tapestry Charter School as an EL School. They make standards come alive for students. These long-term, in-depth studies offer real-world connections that inspire students toward higher levels of academic achievement.

This week, our 8th graders kicked off their expedition, called "Finding Home". During this expedition, students will explore why people become uprooted and how communities help families "find home" and in turn how New Americans influence communities.



Jessica Kauffman, Expeditionary Learning Gr. K-12

UPDATES FROM NURSE BURNS IN THE HEALTH OFFICE

Fight Flu at Home and School!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.



Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids
Keep your child home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems.

Don't spread flu!

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use alcohol based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

Nancy Burns, RN, BSN

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS UPDATE



The Fall athletics teams will be wrapping up their seasons with team pizza parties on Tuesday October 29th after school from 3:05-4:00 PM.

Hats off to coaches Mr. Brunner, Mr. Kahrimanian, Mr. Tomasik, and Mrs. Ramsey as they have completed this fall sports season. It was great to see how the coaches instilled PIRR traits to improve our athletes skill sets in just two short months.

A huge shout out to all the parents that were committed to getting their athletes and teammates to and from various game and practice locations.

Be sure to get your child a sports physical from your primary care physician if they are interested in playing winter sports. Sport physicals are good for up to one year.

Winter season information and sport opportunities will be distributed shortly!

Thunderhawk Pride!

Mr. Marc LaMorticella - Athletics Director



VISUAL ARTS

Grade 6

At Tapestry Charter School, 6th grade students taught the skill of observational drawing through contour lines, gestural forms, and spatial awareness. Each student has been exploring line, shape, value, and texture which has been found in the study and rendering of simple forms, such as their hands, crumpled paper, and found objects.



Grade 7

This month 7th grade students are continuing to manipulate basic hand-building techniques with clay bodies in pinch pot form and slab constructions with clay. Students have been fine tuning their knowledge and abilities to work with tools to craft textured surfaces on their monster pinch pots and contemporary lanterns.

Grade 8

This month students in 8th grade visual art attended 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.



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS (CONTINUED)

GUITAR

Grade 6

The sixth-grade guitar class continues to make progress in our music fundamentals unit. We work on skills such as holding the guitar properly, reading music notation, basic hand position, and performing in an ensemble. We can play songs such as “Minor Waltz” and “Spy Tune.” We are starting to learn the notes on the B and E strings which will allow us to learn even more songs and skills!

Grade 7

The seventh-grade guitar class continues to work on its norms and chordal playing. We have focused on caring for the guitars and putting them away properly so that they do not get damaged. We have also worked on the G, C, D, and A-minor chords in a variety of songs.

Grade 8

The eighth-grade guitar class continues their work on playing the blues by studying the guitar styles of various blues masters. First we learned the song “Key to the Highway” by Big Bill Broonzy, then we learned the pentatonic scale. Next, we listened to several B.B. King recordings and analyzed his playing. Now we are working on soloing over the song in the style of B.B. King. Eventually, we will be able to improvise the blues in the style of five different blues masters.

THEATER

Grade 6: Theater Class Warm-Up Exercise for Tableau.



Grade 7: Theater Improve Exercise.



Grade 8: Theater Exploring Roles for a Winter Performance.



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS (CONTINUED)

BAND

Tapestry would like to celebrate some of the accomplishments of our middle school music students. Two Tapestry student trumpeters Kameron Martin and saxophonist Korey Martin were selected to participate in the *All City Jazz Ensemble* this year. The *All City Jazz Ensemble* is an honors ensemble comprised of students from Buffalo Public Schools and now students from Tapestry Charter School. It is part of the education initiative of the Buffalo Jazz Collective.

The *All City Jazz Ensemble* has been rehearsing to prepare for a concert and master class with special guest saxophonist Brad Leali. Brad Leali is Professor of Jazz Saxophone at the University of North Texas. Mr. Leali is also a 2 time grammy award winner with the Count Basie Jazz Orchestra and has served as a lead alto/musical director for Harry Connick Jr.



MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1, 2019	Gr. 8 Student Information Session for Tapestry High School
November 1, 2019	Middle School Halloween Dance @ 6:00-8:00 PM
November 2, 2019	Food Pantry Open at 111 Great Arrow in the Cafe @ 10:00-11:00 AM
November 8, 2019	Gr. 6-8 Visual Art Majors Fieldwork to Kleinhan's Music Hall from 9:30-2:00 PM
November 8, 2019	End of 1st Quarter - Gr. 6-8 Grades Close
November 11, 2019	Veteran's Day - School Closed
November 13, 2019	Gr. 9 Information Session for Current Gr. 8 Families in the HS from 5:30-6:30 PM
November 20, 2019	Picture Retake Day
November 21, 2019	Principal Advisory Meeting (PAG) & Coffee w/ Counselor, Ms. Bedell @ 8:15-9:30
November 22, 2019	PIRR Day, Community Meeting @ 2:00 PM
November 25-26, 2019	Student Led Conferences - No School for Students
November 27-29, 2019	Thanksgiving Break - No School for Students

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.