



# Middle School Newsletter

December 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,

Thank you for coming out to your child's student led conference in November. **We had 85% of all of our families attend!** As a school, we set a goal of 95% of families attending these important conferences. If you did not attend, please make sure you are in contact with your child's crew leader to reschedule. During the SLC, you witnessed and celebrated the high quality work your child has been working on so far in the school year. There was also an opportunity to set behavioral and academic goals. Please have conversations with your child about these goals throughout the month. We only have 15 days of school in the month of December and on **December 18th is the halfway point of the second quarter.**

During SLC's, we encourage families to take the Parent Satisfaction Survey. This gives us helpful information on how parents feel about our middle school program. Results of this indicate that **96% of families are overall satisfied with our school and 98% are aware of our core values of PIRR.** It also lets us know that **94% of families are satisfied with the overall communication from the school.** If you have any

suggestions about improving communication, please share them with me!



In the month of December, we are again partnering with Harvard Graduate School of Education to help students think about their digital character and learn about thinking routines. These will support your child in making safe and positive choices while interacting on social media.

This month we will also be having our annual Middle School Winter Wear Drive. Each crew will be competing to bring in the most items. In order to be eligible, each crew must submit 3 new sets of gloves, hats, scarves and pairs of socks. Top crews in each grade level will win lunch from a restaurant of their choice. Please help us support our community!

Winter Break starts on Monday, December 23rd and goes through January 1st. Students come back to school for the new year on Thursday, January 2nd.

Have a wonderful December,  
**Lindsay Lee - Principal**



Dear Middle School Families,

To kick off the month of December, we have four lessons around Digital Character that will be taught in crews. Each week in December, students will engage in discussion around real life digital dilemmas. Students will talk through situations that involve social media conflicts and other issues that teenagers face when using the internet and social media platforms. These conversations will allow for students to talk about how we can all handle ourselves when these situations arise and what we can do when we don't know what to do. We hope this helps decrease the

number of social media conflicts that take place when students are not in school, especially over breaks.



Crews will have another Crew Competition for the month of December! They will decorate their classroom doors starting on December 9th. Crews will be able to select a theme for their door that is either holiday, winter or Tapestry. The doors will be judged by selected staff members and the winning crew in each grade level will receive hot chocolate and donuts as a prize!

We have also kicked off our annual Winter Wear Drive! We are also selling snowflakes in the front office for \$1, \$3 and \$5 to raise money to purchase warm winter wear for the drive. If you purchase a snowflake, you can write your name on it and we will hang it up on the windows in the front office. The crew in each grade level that collects the most winter wear will receive lunch from a restaurant of their choice!

As always, please reach out if you ever have any questions or concerns!

**Miss Amy DiMaggio - Assistant Principal**

### P.I.R.R SPOTLIGHT

The PIRR Spotlight for the month of November focused on identifying students that show respect. **Respect is defined by Tapestry and the Golden Rule as doing unto others as you would have others do unto you.** Please help us celebrate the PIRR Spotlight winners for the month of November! Please help us celebrate the following nominees:

#### 6th Grade Crews:

**Gerchick:** Famaj Chowhury  
**Brunner:** Arianna Perez  
**Tomasik:** Chace Hargrove  
**Hoerner:** Robert Kerns  
**Gentile:** Emilia Epperson  
**Scanlon:** Evah Joi Bostic  
**Bailey:** Connor Schroeder  
**Beerman:** Phoebe Fox

#### 7th Grade Crews:

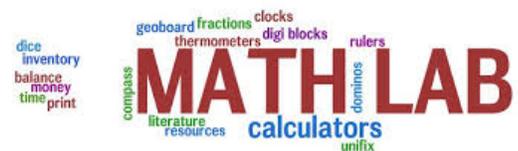
**Kamholz:** Nathan Mulligan  
**Hartke:** Micaela Vera  
**Frost:** Naurina Chaney  
**Fields:** Kaylin Lyle  
**Hockwater:** Elia Rios  
**Slepian:** Donovan Vasile  
**Close:** Destinee James

#### 8th Grade Crews:

**Matos:** Jorden Griffin  
**Flores:** Demetrius Evans  
**Smerda:** Valentino Shine  
**Marino:** Summer Fox  
**Ritchey:** Anthony Jessie  
**Raham:** Olivia Petrie

### ENRICHMENT WITH MRS. MIRANDA

At the beginning of quarter 2, all students were placed into a math lab rotation during enrichment. This now allows all students to receive an additional math class every other day by either the math teacher or the math specialist. Using class data and interim results, the math teachers identified power standards that are necessary for students' success. Students will be reviewing previously taught material through conceptual understanding to help them obtain mastery.



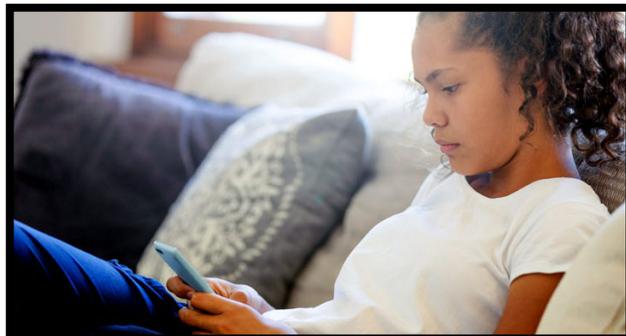
## UPDATES FROM NURSE BURNS IN THE HEALTH OFFICE

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Is your child glued to their electronic devices? Do you worry that they aren't getting enough sleep? The presence of electronic devices in teenagers' lives isn't going anywhere, anytime soon, so it's important to understand its effects on sleep.

### **The Blue Light Effect:**

Electronic devices emit an artificial light that can suppress the release of the body's sleeping-inducing hormone, melatonin. The more time teens spend in front of an electronic device, especially in the evening, the greater the delay in the release of melatonin, making sleep a challenge. As a result, these teens sleep fewer overall hours; over time, that sleep deprivation can lead to symptoms of depression.



### **Getting Back on Track:**

Limiting overall daily screen time can help improve sleep issues, most importantly, restricting use right before bed can play a key role in helping kids fall asleep faster and improve sleep quality. Consider setting a digital curfew one to two hours before bedtime. Create a sleep positive environment by encouraging students to read, and to have a tech free bedroom policy - no TV, computer, or smart phone allowed in the sleeping space, at least during the night.

**Nancy Burns, RN, BSN**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS UPDATE

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Middle school winter sports are well under way! The schedules can be found on the school's website. Weekly practice and game schedules will be distributed and emailed as gym time is always in flux. As spectators please follow our code of conduct for athletic events. Please continue to support the hard working student athletes and coaches.

**THUNDERHAWK PRIDE!**

**Mr. Marc LaMorticella - Athletics Director**



### VISUAL ARTS

#### **Grade 6**

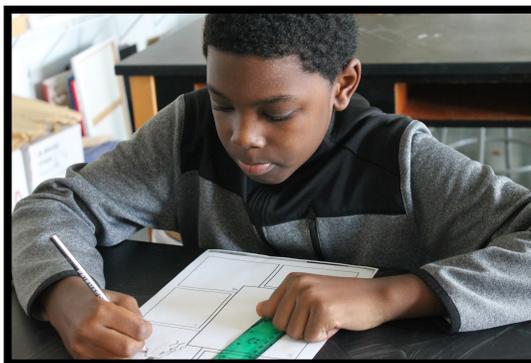
Students in grade 6 have been exploring and exercising the style of Op Art. This art form of optical illusion utilizes 2D abstracted patterns in black & white or select colors with repetition. When these works of art are completed, students will look at varied Cubist artworks by Pablo Picasso. Students will then render self-portraits distorting and altering the details from the real world. Students will learn to fracture features into altered geometric forms within a space.

#### **Grade 7**

Students in 7th grade Visual Art are taking a hands-on approach to working with varied jewelry making concepts to design ornamental pieces utilizing wiring and beading techniques. Some students will also have the opportunity to develop creative concepts in self designing, planning, and fabricating jewelry bags as well as wood burning designs into wooden craft boxes to house there jewelry making products.

#### **Grade 8**

This month, students in 8th grade have completed their comic cover and are now exploring the true meaning of the story behind the cover. Students have completed their narrative arc with an action packed plot. These plots are being re-enforced by creative and expressive illustrated characters. Each student is learning to work with in gutters and frames found on a comic page



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### DANCE

Dance Majors are preparing for their lecture demonstrations after the new year. Grade 6 will present their intro to modern dance technique under the theme entitled, "Why Do I Dance", Grade 7 is continuing their dance piece inspired by Limon Technique, and Grade 8 is delving more into the complex work of Martha Graham Technique.

### THEATER

Theater Majors are forging ahead in their work! Grade 6 will begin a unit on finger and hand puppets to present for an audience. Grade 7 is working on going off-script on their two plays, and Grade 8 is completing their unit in Commedia Dell'Arte with their masks that have recently arrived.

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## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS (CONTINUED)

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### GUITAR

The sixth grade guitar students had their first performance of the year at our November community Meeting where They played “Minor Waltz” and “Spy Tune”. They continue to improve their skills in technique, posture, reading, and musicianship as they prepare for the December 18th guitar concert



The seventh grade guitar students finished their written assessment and are in the midst of completing their playing assessment, where they are required to perform four songs

The eighth grade students began work on the song “Allstar” by Smash mouth. The song features several new chords and chord progressions, along with solos and difficult technical challenges. It’s a tricky piece but they are up for the challenge!

### BAND

The Tapestry Band program is excited to present our first concert of the year on Tuesday December 17th at 4:30pm in the Elementary School Gymitorium. [It will be the first multi media movie music concert for Tapestry Charter School!!](#) You will see performances by the Tapestry Elementary School Band, Tapestry Concert Band, the Tapestry Honor Band, the Tapestry High School Wind Ensemble, and the Tapestry Jazz Ensemble. We will be playing works from John Williams, Queen, Bill Conti, Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

The Tapestry Jazz Ensemble is excited to feature as our first guest artist saxophonist Dalton Sharp. Dalton Sharp is an active professional saxophonist in the Buffalo, New York area and beyond who regularly performs in several genres of music. He has performed with groups including jazz legend Onaje Allan Gumbs, international touring artist Tia Brazda, the BJC Repertory Orchestra, the CMC Centennial Big Band, to name a few. Past performance highlights include being a featured guest artist with the Canisius College Jazz Ensemble, the Queen City Jazz Festival, and the Northwest Jazz Festival. Dalton has studied saxophone with Ben Boyar, Dave Schiavone, Doug Stone and Bobby Militello.



## EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING (EL), MRS. KAUFFMAN

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Crew is a vitally important part of your child's school day. This time helps your child be academically, emotionally and socially successful.

This month, we are partnering with Harvard Graduate School of Education to help your children understand their digital character.

Unfortunately, we usually see an uptick in online related conflict after winter break. To be proactive, we are equipping students with a thinking routine to help them prepare for uncomfortable and unwanted interactions online.

One important thing that new research is finding about raising kids to be smart users of digital media, is that it's important to not only set boundaries with children but also it's important to allow for open dialogue about the benefits and challenges of the online world. We encourage you to ask the same questions (and more) as well.

Here is what we are asking:

- Consider online habits and why they have those habits. Are you bored, curious or do you feel pressured?
- How do your habits affect your overall well-being?
- What is your thinking process when you encounter uncomfortable situations online?
- How do you know when you are encountering dangerous media online?
- How can you improve your online habits to meet your goals for life?

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

## COUNSELING CORNER - MS. BEDELL

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This month I am visiting all health classes. My goal is for our 8th graders to start thinking about their futures as they are nearing high school. 8th graders are taking a personality quiz and the goal is for them to start thinking about who they are and what interests them.

6th and 7th graders will be exploring their value systems and how this adds to their development as they grow up and mature. The hope is for them to feel a sense of ownership of these values and to feel proud of who they are.

**Ms. Jessica Bedell - Counselor**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

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**December 17, 2019: Band Concert, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

**December 18, 2019: End of 5 week marking period for 2nd quarter**

**December 18, 2019: Guitar and Chorus Concert, 4:15-5:15 p.m.**

**December 19, 2019: Principal Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting, 8:15-9:00**

## 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.