



Middle School Newsletter

January 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



Happy New Year! This is the perfect time of year to set goals for the second half of the school year. Please be sure to actively log into the Parent Portal to view your child's grades as well as visit the grade level website to view current learning and assignments. Progress reports were also mailed home during winter break. These provide an added layer of communication for how your child is performing in their classes.

The second quarter ends on January 24th. Looking ahead to February, we will have intervention Student Led Conferences on February 14th. These conferences are not for all students, but are mandatory for the students that qualify for one. Students that qualify may be at risk for summer school due to academic performance. Crew leaders will be in contact if your child is scheduled for a conference. During this SLC, students will express goals and supports they need for the second half of the year that will lead to a successful end of the school year.



In middle school, we focus a lot around teaching the importance of study skills. We strongly encourage all students to utilize their daily agenda to write down their homework at the end of class and then bring it home with them. Agendas can serve as a checklist for what needs to be accomplished. This teaches students about responsibility for their own learning both in and out of the classroom. All students were provided a homework agenda at the start of the year. **If your child needs a new agenda, they are sold at the front office for \$5.** Please check in with your child about their agendas and how they use it.

During the month of January, all students will take the NWEA MAPS reading assessment. This is a computer-based normed referenced test that provides students with an updated RIT score which aligns to a Lexile reading level. Although reading on grade level is the ultimate goal for students, we focus on growth. All students have a predetermined growth goal that is set for them and we will celebrate with them when they have reached their goal for the halfway point of



the school year. Students will be taking this assessment in the morning on January 8-10, depending on their grade level. Please connect with your child about how they did. If you are looking for ways to support your child's reading, please contact your child's ELA teacher.

The month of January is exciting for our students. We have our Student Government **Lip Sync Battle on Thursday, January 10th from 3:30-5:00.** There are also several home basketball games. Please check the Weekly Update that I email home each week or the athletic website for updated sports calendars.

Thank you for your participation and support in our Winter Wear Drive during the month of December. It was very successful and we were able to donate to the Buffalo City Mission as well as to students within our school community.

Have a wonderful January!

Mrs. Lindsay Lee - Principal





Dear Middle School Families,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to a brand new year at TAPMS. We are excited to kick off 2020 with an exciting event for our students. On Thursday, January 10th we will be hosting our annual MS Lip Sync Battle! This event will run from 3:30pm until 5:30pm. We will hold tryouts for students on Tuesday, January 7th at 3:15pm.

The month of January typically revolves around making resolutions and setting goals for the new year. A great focus for TAPSMS students would be to set a character goal using our PIRR compass traits, **Perseverance, Integrity, Respect or Responsibility**.

As a middle school, we have set specific character goals for this school year. We are working on increasing the number of students that come to school on time, maintaining the number of positive PIRR comments that go home to families for our students, and decreasing the number of challenging behaviors that happen within our community.

In order to help reach our attendance goal, we will start a new initiative in January to incentivize coming to school on time.

Throughout the month of January, any student that comes to school on time every day will be able to participate in a school wide celebration on Friday, February 3rd. On this day, students that come to school on time, every day, during the month of January will be able to wear their hoods up or their headwear in school (hats, etc).

Welcome back and we hope you have a happy new year!

Miss Amy DiMaggio - Assistant Principal



P.I.R.R SPOTLIGHT

The PIRR Spotlight value for December was Responsibility. Crew Leaders in each grade level nominated one student that demonstrated the PIRR trait of **Responsibility**. Students can show responsibility by coming to class and school on time, prepared and ready to learn. Please help us celebrate the following nominees:

6th Grade Crews:

Gerchick: Angel Lynch Jr.
Beerman: Kameelah Goosby
Brunner: Ethan Brown
Tomasik: Kellen Patterson
Hoerner: Carly Samuel
Gentile: Matthew Pimentel
Scanlon: Ayianna Santana
Bailey: Aaliyah Molson

7th Grade Crews:

Steffan: Adrianna Bruyere
Close: Maya Pender
Hartke: Thayer Fell
Frost: Daniya Hennings
Fields: Jamieece Worthy
Hockwater: Caleb Tofflemeier
Slepian: Lucy Palamara

8th Grade Crews:

Matos: Mikhail Autman
Hills: Alani Williams
Flores: Carly Cardinal
Smerda: Gerric Cino
Marino: Annajean "AJ" Meier
Ritchey: Zach Harris-Stephenson
Raham: Adamo Shugg

Why Do Kids Become Overweight or Obese?

Diet and Lifestyle: Much of what we eat is quick and easy - from fat-filled fast food to processed and prepackaged meals. Portion sizes, in the home and out, are too large.

Exercise and Physical Activity: Many kids do not get enough physical activity. Older kids and teens should get 1 hour or more of moderate to vigorous exercise every day.

Genetics: Genetics can play a role in what kids weigh. Our genes help determine body type and how the body stores and burns fat. People in the same family tend to have similar eating patterns, levels of physical activity, and attitudes toward being overweight or obese.

How Can We Prevent Overweight and Obesity?

The key to keeping kids of all ages at a healthy weight is taking a whole-family approach. Make healthy eating and exercise a family affair. Get your kids involved by letting them help you plan and prepare healthy meals. Take them grocery shopping with you. Teach them how to make good food choices.

Cut down on TV, phone, computer, and video game time and discourage eating in front of the TV. Eat meals together and serve a variety of healthy foods. Encourage kids to eat breakfast every day, have at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables daily, and limit sugar-sweetened beverages.

Try to avoid these common traps:

- Don't reward kids for good behavior or try to stop bad behavior with sweets or treats.
- Don't have a clean plate policy. Even babies turn away from the bottle to send signals that they are full. If kids are satisfied, don't force them to keep eating. Reinforce the idea that they should eat only when they're hungry.
- Don't talk about bad foods or completely ban all sweets and favorite snacks.

What Health Problems Can Obesity Cause?

- Bone and joint problems
- Shortness of breath that makes exercise, sports, or any physical activity more difficult. This can also make asthma symptoms worse or lead kids to have asthma.
- Restless sleep or breathing problems at night, such as sleep apnea
- A tendency to mature earlier.
- Liver and gallbladder disease.
- High blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, heart failure and stroke.
- Self esteem issues, eating disorders, depression and substance abuse.

Talk to your kids about the importance of eating and being active. Be a role model by eating well, exercising regularly, and building healthy habits into your own daily life. Make it a family affair that will become second nature for everyone.



EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING (EL), MRS. KAUFFMAN



As an EL School, we pride ourselves in helping students to become "leaders of their own learning". Before break, 8th grade kicked off their yearly expedition called "Finding Home". Finding Home asks students to explore how immigrants from the past and how current New Americans influence our community and culture. They will be hearing from multiple guest experts and going out on fieldwork in the Buffalo community this month to learn about this influence.

As an EL Education school, we value culturally and socially relevant curriculum. It's through these expeditions that we engage students to think about the world around them. This kind of learning experience encourages compassion and empathy for others as students explore how to make the world a better place.

The 8th grade showcase featuring our "Finding Home" expedition will be held on Wednesday February 12th at 5:30 pm.

They are excited for you to see all they've learned!

-Jessica Kauffman, Expeditionary Learning Gr. K-12

VISUAL ARTS

Students in Grade 6 have been working with pastels and mixed media to create self-portraits in the Cubist style of Picasso. This month, Visual Art students will explore the wonderful collection and workshop at the Burchfield Penny Art Gallery. Students will attend fieldwork on January 21st. We will depart at 9:45 am and return to Tapestry at 11:00 am. Please remember to sign the permission slip if your family has not already.

Students in Grade 7 have been designing an ornamental series in jewelry making. Students are learning to manipulate varied metals, learn wiring strategies, and beading concepts while developing proficiency in tool application.

Grade 7 Jewelry Making



Students in Grade 8 are finishing up their comic splash pages and rolling right into Pop Art designs inspired by Roy Lichtenstein. This artist was one of the most innovative creators in the second half of the twentieth century. He helped to define Pop Art through concepts in parody.

BAND

The Tapestry Jazz Ensemble has been selected to participate in this year's Winter Jam Jazz Festival on [Saturday, January 25th at Asbury Hall](#). Other featured schools include Alexander High School, Charter School for Applied Technologies, Cheektowaga Central, Kenmore East High School, Lockport High School, Niagara Wheatfield High School, Starpoint Central and more. [Doors open at 6:30pm and the show starts at 7:30pm.](#) **General admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 day of show.**



GUITAR

6th: The sixth grade guitar students are preparing for their December 18th guitar concert. They continue to improve their skills in technique, posture, reading, and musicianship.

7th: 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. They have also begun work on the song "Allstar."

8th: 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!

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS (CONTINUED)

THEATER

Theater Majors are picking up where they left off before winter break. Grade 6 has 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 and will soon begin a unit on Elizabethan Theatre.

DANCE

Dance Majors are preparing for their lecture demonstrations : 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 Limón Technique, and Grade 8 is delving more into the complex work of Martha Graham Technique.

COUNSELING CORNER - MS BEDELL



Happy New Year to all families! I hope you enjoyed your holidays and made some memories together. Student Government will be hosting its annual Lip Sync Contest on January 10th right after school in the high school cafeteria. Please come and root on our talented kids. It's always a fun event! Student Government has many more events planned for the remainder of the 2020 school year.

It is always so wonderful to watch students enjoy themselves with their friends.

-Ms. Jessica Bedell - Counselor



MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7, 2020: Lip Sync Battle Tryouts, 3:15-4:00

January 10, 2020: Lip Sync Battle, 3:30-5:00

January 20, 2020: No School, MLK Day

January 24, 2020; Quarter 2 Closes

January 29, 2020: Fieldwork for MS Visual Art Majors to the Burchfield Penny Art Center

February 12, 2020: 8th Grade "Finding Home" Expedition @ 5:30 p.m

February 13, 2020: PIRR Day, Breakfast of Champions, Community Meeting @ 2:00 p.m.

February 13, 2020: K-12 Black History Month Celebration 5-7 p.m. @ 111 Great Arrow

February 14, 2020: SLCs, NO Classes for 6-8 students

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.