



# Super Subjects

*Celebrating 20 years of developing the whole child —  
from teaching the Arts to Wellness!*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - Jennifer Pangborn



Tapestry is an organization that was founded in response to the need for a unique, arts-based program for students in the City of Buffalo. Twenty years later, as a school of choice, we are proud to offer access to our special and unique program to over 1,000 students K-12 including eleven surrounding districts. The arts continue to be an integral part of teaching and learning. We are passionate about students exploring the arts and growing in new ways!

Over the years we have added curriculum that expands knowledge beyond core subject areas. In this publication we celebrate the individuals who contribute to our unique programming.



## DANCE with Miss Deborah

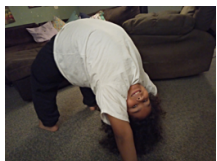
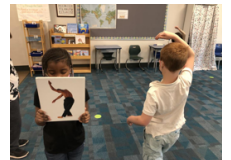


*Meet Deborah Lipa-Ciotta, Dance teacher*

I am thrilled to be part of this wonderful school and have served as a public school dance educator for over 29 years. It is a joy to dance with your children!

### *What happens in Dance*

Tapestry is proud of our unique dance curriculum which has developed over the past 20 years, and is aligned with the New York State Standards in Dance and embraces artistic expression. Our K-2 *Brain-Compatible Dance Education* curriculum model is centered in creative movement, improvisation, composition and choreography, and informal performances. The language of Dance is explored through the *Elements of Dance (Body, Space, Time and Force)* and includes many arts integration experiences with literacy, math, music, theatre and visual art. You can often find us dancing and expressing stories in our own unique style.



This work continues in the 3rd grade with a focus and deeper exploration of the many genres of dance including Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Musical Theatre, and African dance. We love to include influential dancers and choreographers in our sampling of these styles.

Our 4th grade "Dance Around the World" curriculum is a fun and deep exploration of the many folk and traditional dances from around the world and the collaborative work dancers do to celebrate each special culture and dance their stories.

### *A quick tip*

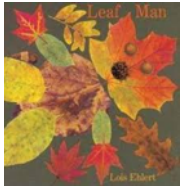
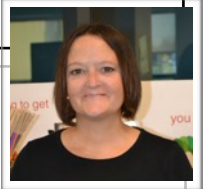
Participation in remote dance can be fun! It's always helpful to wear comfortable clothing and have an open space for moving freely. Students are encouraged to dance and create in their own unique style, persevere and most of all have fun!



## LIBRARY with Miss Jen

### Meet Jennifer Chapman, Librarian

I am the proud Mom of two grown boys and have two adorable kitties. When I have time, I love to do creative things like painting and building things. When the weather is right, I love to be outside gardening or splashing in some water. The beach is my favorite place to be (when I'm not in the library of course...)



### What happens in "Library"

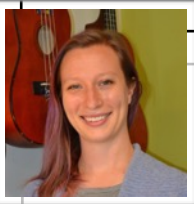
Library is a time to hear and read all different kinds of stories, books and information. It's also a time to learn more about technology. We almost always do a fun activity after we read a story together, and even friends learning at home can do them!



### A quick tip

I try to use things you might just have at home like some paper and crayons, or a paper towel tube and some glue! At school or at home, I always just ask for everyone to do the best they can with whatever we are doing!

## MUSIC with Miss Marie



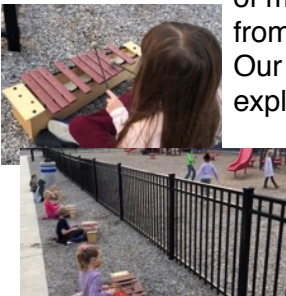
### Meet Marie Mealer, Music teacher

Music has found its way into my life both at school and at home. The clarinet is the instrument close to my heart and while studying at Buffalo State College I was part of the wind ensemble, the Philharmonic orchestra, but my favorite thing to do was playing in a woodwind trio. I am a member of the National Association for Music Educators, the NYS School Music Association and the Erie County Music Educators Association. Currently I play piano and sing at church and teach private piano and voice lessons. My current musical hobby is learning to play an accordion I acquired during quarantine! In these unique times, music can help bring joy, comfort, entertainment, and creativity into our lives and homes, even remotely!

### What happens in Music

Music at Tapestry is all about finding joy in music making! Students are exposed to a wide variety of musical styles and genres, finding appreciation for the trailblazers in music from centuries ago, to the musical innovators of today.

Our K - 2 students explore the foundations of music with a dive deep into exploratory music making. Each class follows a "musical workout", where students practice being tuneful, beatful, and artful. Based on the practice of John Fierebend, this well rounded workout gives students the musical vocabularies and experiences to feel comfortable singing and playing instruments alone and with others. During remote learning, we are still able to practice these musical skills. Third and fourth grade students take the foundation skills and apply them to the Modern Band curriculum —an approach that teaches musical literacy through the lens of current and popular music that Tapestry has adopted for their 3-12 curriculum. Virtually students are learning how to identify music from different popular genres, learning how to play a basic back beat using body percussion, and building drum sets that can be played at home using objects easily found around the house.

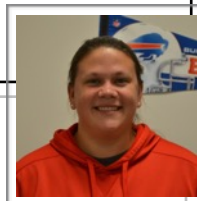


### Some quick tips

The most helpful thing for remote music learning is to have a quiet place and use headphones or earbuds during class which cuts out tons of feedback. This eliminates any distractions. Also it is important to have cameras on and microphones on mute during singing. The technology can be challenging but with practice and time everyone should become more comfortable.

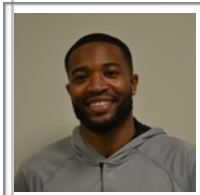


## PHYSICAL EDUCATION Miss Katie & Mr. Dawan



### Meet Katie Wratten, Physical Education teacher

I have been teaching PE at Tapestry since 2007. Throughout the years I've coached soccer, basketball and track and field at the modified level. When I am not at Tapestry I enjoy running, crossfit, reading, cooking, and taking long walks with my dog Autumn. I'm a huge Bills, Sabres and Syracuse Orange fan.



### Meet Dawan Jones, Physical Education teacher

This is the second year I have been teaching PE at Tapestry. I have also coached the Tapestry varsity track team. I am a graduate of Tapestry Charter high school where I was a four year member of the varsity track and field team. My involvement in the sport continued through and after college, I was a four year member of the Cortland State track team then went on to become a member of the coaching staff for the Buffalo State College track team.

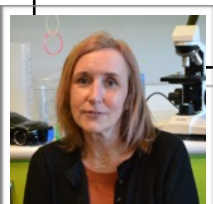
Outside of school I enjoy sprint training, walking my two dogs and watching sports. Big Bills and Lakers fan!

### What happens in Physical Education

Here at Tapestry our goal for PE is to develop physically literate students who understand the connection between physical activity, nutrition, peak performance and a healthy lifestyle. Students develop not only physical competency but their affective domain as well which focuses on students' feelings, attitudes, how they cooperate with others and values about movement. Students are also challenged in the cognitive domain which addresses the development of content knowledge and intellectual skills to check their understanding of the concepts of strategy and tactics.

### A quick tip

Even at home students can be physically active with no equipment required and still meet all PE goals by following along with either the live session with us, or the pre-recorded PE videos posted on their google classrooms. Students can meet their affective and cognitive goal by completing the activity in full and making the connection between physical activity and heart rate.



## S.T.E.A.M. with Ms. Melissa



### Meet Melissa Leopard, Science teacher

Like any scientist I like to experiment, and of course try out a few safe explosions along the way! Whether I am working with remote students, or in the classroom, STEAM is for everyone.

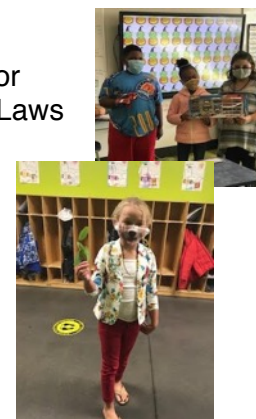
### What happens in "S.T.E.A.M."

In our STEAM class, we come up with unusual ways to show the sciences. For example, right now we are using remote control cars to understand Newton's Laws of Physics. Or how about working with robots to show how a map works for our Kindergarten kids? We do that! We spend time working with all kinds of supplies, and scientific tools. Our motto is hands-on, brains-on. All of our work is exploratory, hands-on and sometimes messy.

Regardless of the age and the content area in STEAM, we have fun learning. Learning something new in an engaging and playful way is the best way to ensure kids remember the learning, and look forward to learning even more!

### A quick tip

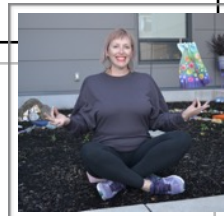
STEAM is a time for kids to think creatively, take risks, and get energized about their learning.







## WELLNESS with Miss Terra



### Meet Terra Bialy, Wellness teacher

I came to Tapestry in 2006 after several years teaching in NYC. I was one of the first teachers when we opened our high school. Some of our Tapestry parents had me as a teacher as did two of my colleagues! I was the ELA teacher for our first group of Tapestry graduates. In 2010 I was given the opportunity to develop a theatre program at the high school. For the next ten years I watched that program grow and develop so that students from grades K-12 had the opportunity to experience theatre as both performer and audience.

Since March of 2020 I have been working towards my 200 hour yoga teacher training. I am now a certified yoga instructor. I wanted to share with our students the physical, mental, and emotional gifts that come with regular yoga practice.

### What happens in Wellness

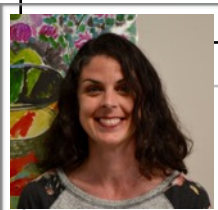


This year I am working with Ms. Molly and Ms. Krista to integrate Social Emotional Learning into the Wellness curriculum. I will also be collaborating with Ms. Katie and Mr. Dawan as there are many connections between yoga, wellness and P.E. My goal is to teach all of our in school and remote students the basics of yoga so that they can develop a practice at home. In addition we will work on lessons that encourage healthy habits.



### A quick tip

Students and families can practice wellness at home by doing some basic yoga poses, mindful breathing, drinking plenty of water, eating healthy foods and whenever possible getting outside. This Spring I would like to work with students, staff, and families at Tapestry to create a community garden. Stay tuned for more information. Namaste.



## VISUAL ARTS with Miss Brooke



### Meet Brooke Fawley, Visual Art teacher

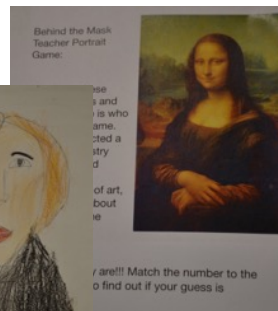
Making anything is my favorite hobby. From cookies and cards for friends to pottery and paint nights, creating is fun! When I am not busy making things, my dogs, Merlin and Peaches, take me for walks all around the region. My favorite place to be is on an adventure. I hope to get back to traveling soon. But in the meantime, art can help us experience new places and ideas together at Tapestry. One of my favorite things about teaching art besides using fun supplies, is sharing with students the wonderful and amazing things people share in their art all around the world. The world is a wonderful place!

### What happens in Visual Art

Miro was an artist from Spain. He used wild, organic shapes to create his work of art called "Women and Two Birds at Night".



In Art we spend almost all our time creating, using a variety of supplies and artifacts for inspiration. We often begin with a deep look at a work of art. Next, we talk about the process and how we will create. After a project is finished it is presented to the class or hung on the walls for the community.



### A quick tip

Reflecting and presenting art are very important to learning. Find a gallery spot at home to present your art. Look at the art with your family!