



Middle School Newsletter

December 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



Dear Middle School Families and Caregivers,

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and start in on the holiday season, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of our stakeholders here at Tapestry for your continued support and cooperation during these challenging times. I am especially thankful for:

- Our staff's resilience, hard work and commitment to the learning of our students and care they put into their virtual classroom environments.
- Our parent community with understanding, flexibility and patience for our staff and students as learning has transitioned into the home.
- Our students who have accomplished this remarkable transition in learning and continue to demonstrate resiliency and scholarly behavior.
- Our district staff for providing meals and technology support to ensure student and staff's needs are taken care of.

We wrapped up the month of November with Student Led Conferences. **we have had 90% of students and families participate in these meaningful and reflective conversations.** Although this is an increase of 5% from last year, we will still be reaching out to the remaining families to complete these meetings, keeping in mind the goal of 100% of families engaging in these important conversations.



The month of December provides the time to start the goals that were set at the student led conferences and continue learning in the second quarter in a way that students are proud of themselves. **December 16th marks the halfway point of the 2nd quarter!** We will be distributing progress reports at this time. This is a time to revisit and reengage **healthy habits and routines.** In order to support student's responsibility for their own learning from home, students should form habits of waking up, getting ready for school, having a healthy breakfast and then logging into their crew for 8:00. On their live days, using their lunch time is helpful to reset their learning in the afternoon and take a break from online learning. On their asynchronous days, we have updating their schedules to follow the order of office hours. The updated schedule will be in students' crew google classroom. It will break down the time in the day in the same way the synchronous live learning days are outlined. The office hours provide direct teacher support to ask questions while completing the asynchronous learning as well as remediate and receive teacher feedback. Although it is not mandatory, please encourage your child to follow the asynchronous schedule, especially if self-management is an issue for your child. Our staff is aware of the challenges of learning from home and are incredibly flexible and supportive. Please continue strong communication with your child's crew leader or myself for any support you may need.

Thank you to the families who have completed the Parent Satisfaction Survey during the Student Led Conference. If you have not done so, please use this [link](#) to complete the survey. An overview of the survey results are below. These will be discussed in more detail during the next PAG meeting on December 17th as well as supporting the work we will work on together as a community. Below are highlights from the survey results:

- 98% of families are aware of our PIRR traits
- 99.3% of families are satisfied with communication provided through weekly updates and newsletters
- 97.5% of families are satisfied with communication from their child's crew leader
- 92.1% of families are satisfied with communication from their child's classroom teachers
- 96.7% of families have a satisfied impression of Tapestry Middle School
- 98% of families would recommend Tapestry Middle School to friends and family.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MRS. LEE (CONTINUED)

Parent Virtual Learning Support Session: 12/10/20 at 3:00

We want to provide parents with more support in navigating online learning. The management of multiple learning platforms, including eDoctrina, Google Classroom and Amplify can be challenging. While we want students at this age to have their independence with their learning, it is important that parents have an understanding of how to navigate and support their child while they are learning at home. **We will be hosting a parent virtual learning support session on Thursday, December 10th at 3:00. Additionally, there will be another session on January 5th at 3:00. This will include information for 5th grade parents on Zern and 6-8th grade parents on Amplify.** More information will be provided as the time for this session approaches including access to the link to attend.

Teacher Support & Recognition

The results of the parent survey as well as ongoing conversations I have with families, it is clear that our Tapestry community is extremely grateful to our teachers and their creative and tireless work they are putting forth to support and engage students in their learning at this time. The holiday season is the perfect opportunity to reach out to teachers and let them know how much your family appreciates their efforts. An email goes a long way in accomplishing this. Along the same lines, please know that when you do communicate with teachers they have 24 hours to respond and although remote, will maintain their normal work hours of **7:30-3:30**. Thank you, teachers!

Have a safe and healthy December,

Mrs. Lindsay Lee - Principal

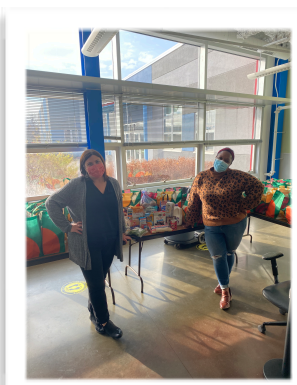
MIDDLE SCHOOL CULTURE WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MRS. MESHULAM



Hello Middle School Families!

We hope that everyone is safe and healthy as we continue on our virtual learning journey this year. The front office staff is available Monday through Friday each day from 7:30 until 3:30 to support families with anything that they might need. Please reach out if you're having an issue with technology or anything else middle school related. You can also fill out our [technology support form](#) and we will get back to you as soon as possible with a solution.

Thank you for your donations for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We had an overwhelming response and were able to help families in need of a Thanksgiving meal this year! Our winning crews for the competition were:



5th Grade: Campbell Crew

6th Grade: Bailey Crew

7th Grade: Close Crew

8th Grade: Tomasik Crew

As part of the Tapestry Charter School's reopening plan, we set a goal around equity. The Middle School has been working over the last few months to collect and examine data from the student's perspective around race and equity. This past month we met with student leaders to look for trends in the data and generate questions that we would like to ask our student focus groups. Our next step is to schedule and meet with focus groups to ask our questions and collect our last round of data before we start our action planning. We also asked questions about equity to our parents in the survey that was shared during SLCs. We will be examining this data across the K-12 program. We look forward to sharing more about our progress in the upcoming months.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CULTURE WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MRS. MESHULAM

Even though we are virtual, we still have some fun events taking place throughout December. We are raising money to purchase winter wear items for children in need of warm winter gear. If you would like to make a donation, there is a donation button on the Tapestry Charter School website. We are also hosting our first school-wide Holiday Spirit Week! Students and staff members will be wearing specific holiday gear as they participate in online learning the week of **December 16th-December 22nd!** Each day is a different theme

Wed, 12/16: Holiday Headgear
Thursday, 12/17: Holiday T-shirt
Friday, 12/18: Holiday Socks
Monday, 12/21: Family Photo Day
Tuesday, 12/22: Ugly Sweater

Please send in any photos to me of your child or family participating and we will include those in the next school wide community meeting. Students will be able to participate in their Grade Level Community Meeting on Friday, December 18th. This meeting will take place during their crew's regular meeting time. Their crew leader will share the link for the Grade Level Community Meeting.

As always, if you need anything, please reach out to me in the front office. We hope you have a delightful December!



Mrs Amy Meshulam - Assistant Principal

P.I.R.R SPOTLIGHT



PIRR Spotlight for the month of October focused on students that are demonstrating our PIRR Trait of Integrity. We wanted to recognize students that have been following Tapestry's PIRR values, even when it is challenging and when no one is watching. **Congratulations to the nominees for the month of October for demonstrating our PIRR trait of Integrity.** We will be recognizing our students during our Grade Level Community Meetings.

5th Grade Crews:

Dytche: Bettina Lesh
Kubiak: Antonio Olivero
Coyle: Olivia Lawrence
Campbell: Amina Lewis

6th Grade Crews:

Hoerner: Leilani Thomas
Cooke: Cache Armstrong
Brunner: Martina Yockey
Lawrence: Aerianna Ramos
Gentile: Jaliyah Lopez
Scanlon: Justice Kauffman
Bailey: Brixton Ector

7th Grade Crews:

Hartke: Nevaeh McDonald
Close: Djibril Horsford
Steffan: Payton Parker
Frost: Angel Lynch Jr.
Camp: Ni'Khye Shine
Hahn: Jacob Goble-Recker
Brew: Eduardo Arroyo Jr.
Slepian: Kendall Goldsmith

8th Grade Crews:

Matos: Zion Wilson
Hills: Thayer Fell
Tomasik: Jaerah Dunnigan
Smerda: Vaughn Parkinson
Mastrangelo: Thomas Snodgrass
Ritchey: Ethan Duke
Raham: Evangeline Kuhl

HEALTH OFFICE UPDATE WITH NURSE BURNS, RN

2020 has been a struggle...

With the number of COVID-19 cases climbing, it's important for everybody to understand how this virus spreads and what we can do to stay healthy. Dr. Kevin Gibbons has put together a 10 minute video that explains how to stay safe during this pandemic in very simple terms. See the link below to learn more.

Where we stand: COVID-19 in WNY

November COVID-19 Update:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uvUcD_GtOI

Nancy Burns, RN, BSN



This month your student is practicing making strides towards three simple nutrition goals:

- **Eat real food.**
- **Mostly plants.**
- **Not too much.**



Reaching those goals doesn't have to be a burden or a bore! Have conversations with your child about these goals and share cooking, food shopping, and eating experiences as a family. Most important is for each child to grow in appreciation for nutritious homemade food and to get involved in the kitchen this holiday season!

Jessica Mascle, Wellness & Health

EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING (EL), MRS. KAUFFMAN



Times are tough but kids are resilient.

As my own children navigate school right now facing all the uncertainties that COVID-19 brings, I have to remind myself that children are resilient.

Resiliency is actually one of the focuses of Crew this year. Resiliency is defined by the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. It may seem like this capacity is either something you have or something you don't. But that's not true. You can learn skills that help you cope.

As a matter of fact, this month in Crew students have been focusing once a week on skills that help them become more resilient people. Each week, they will explore and set goals for themselves to practice these skills, like using positive self-talk, identifying what you can and cannot control and acting accordingly, and practicing a growth mindset. Check out [the article](#) that has guided students through most of this work and feel free to try some of these techniques at home as well!

Jessica Kauffman, Expeditionary Learning Gr. K-12

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH MS SMERDA & MRS. MASTRANGELO

Student Government is now selling Tapestry Charter Middle School

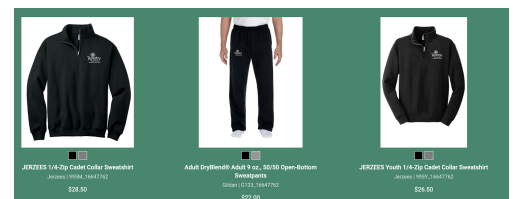
merchandise! All profits will benefit our Student Government and will be used towards planning amazing events for our students. Please visit this [link](#) to check out our selection and place your order! The online store will be open until December 18, 2020.

During the month of November, Student Government recognized our middle school teachers whom we are thankful for every day. In December, students will continue to plan our virtual Holiday Spirit Week! Spirit Week will run through December 16th - 22nd. More information will be provided in the next few weeks about our theme days and opportunities for students to participate virtually.

If your child is not yet in Student Government but is interested in joining, please have he or she email Ms. Smerda (smerdad@tapestryschool.org) or Mrs. Mastrangelo (hohls@tapestryschool.org).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either of us.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful and healthy holiday season,



**Student
Government**

Ms. Smerda & Mrs. Mastrangelo

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS

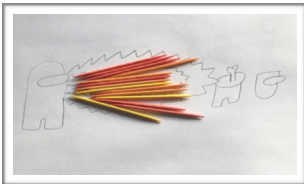
Visual Art

Students in Grades 5-8 are exploring creative ways to interact with art in illustration. As you can see our students are in the process of brainstorming how characters can interact with simple objects found within their environment. We can not wait to show you their final products!

Performance Art

Quarter 1 students in grades 5 and 6, culminated their learning into a short dramatic video as the character of their choice to share a teachable lesson, of which they will display through their individual google slide presentation during their SLC's. As quarter 2 begins, our new classes have begun with a brief background study on the definition of performance art. They will soon learn about, and utilize myths, legends, fables and fairytales as tools for developing their own creative themes and illustrations with life lessons for their individual presentation.

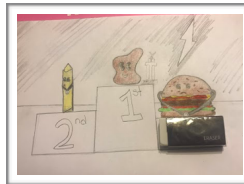
Grades 7 and 8 explored the art of spoken word poetry through narrative, free verse, rhyming and lyrical styles. Each student was required to record and perform their work with a reflection and will share it in their individual google slide presentation during their SLC's. As quarter 2 begins, our new classes will dive into the influences of performance art with an emphasis on poetry, monologues, symbolism and site specific locations.



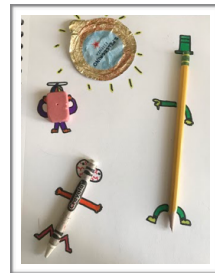
Alexandra R. Grade 5



Cache A. Grade 6



Chase H. Grade 7



Harper H. Grade 7



Doryaun S. Grade 6

Music

The quarter 1 5th and 6th graders have finished their genre projects! After studying multiple genres throughout the quarter, students picked one specific genre to focus on, research, and present. We received some stunning submissions. The students did wonderful work!

The quarter 1 7th and 8th graders finished and submitted their video game projects. For this assignment, students designed a plot, characters, levels, and special features for an original video game. They then composed songs in chrome music lab to match the mood, character, and description of their three levels. They presented their work in a google slide presentation.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS UPDATE

Athletics continue to find roadblocks and ways to break through as safe activities during this pandemic. It is unfortunate that this has put so much of the normalcy our student athletes love and hold dear on hold. In recent news NYS public high school sports has pushed back the pending start date of high risk sports to **January 4th**. For those of you that were excited to get winter sports started like Basketball we will have to put things on hold once again. With this being said, safety is of the utmost importance. My heart goes out to all the High School athletes that may not have a season if COVID-19 cases don't improve in our area. We will continue to keep you posted as the state gives us updates and guidance on what extracurriculars could potentially happen this spring when we could move things outdoors. With this being said as families try to find ways to keep your household active and healthy in these winter months. Students take those remote lessons your Physical Education teachers are sharing with you and continue to train yourselves from your homes and neighborhoods. Stay active and healthy Thunderhawks we will see this through!

ThunderHawk Pride!

Mr. Marc LaMorticella - Athletics Director



As we transition into our second quarter of hybrid learning, a common issue raised from both parents and students has centered around self-regulation.

Establishing routines during asynchronous days gives students a roadmap for important moments during their day and allows them to internalize and take ownership of their choices and move quickly into new learning experiences. To assist students in creating these

routines, their weekly schedule (located in the crew google classroom) now includes a routine for asynchronous learning. These recommended times allow students to access their teacher during his/her office hours to get further assistance if they have questions about the assignment for the day.

	Monday (A)	Tuesday (B) Online Learning from Monday's	Wednesday (A)	Thursday (B) Online Learning from Wednesday's lesson	Friday
8:00-8:30	Virtual Crew	Virtual Crew	Virtual Crew	Virtual Crew	Virtual Crew
8:30-9:25	Science	S.St (S.St office hour)	ELA Lab	S.St (S.St office hour)	Live Office Hours for google classroom assignments and remediation
9:25-9:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	
9:30-10:25	Math	ELA (ELA office hour)	Math	ELA (ELA office hour)	
10:25-10:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	
10:30-11:25	ELA	Math (Math office hour)	ELA	Math (Math office hour)	
11:30-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30-1:25	S.St	Science (Science office hour)	S.St	ELA Lab (ELA Lab office hour)	
1:25-1:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	
1:30-2:25	Visual Arts (quarters 1-2)** (taped lesson)	Visual Arts (Visual Arts office hour)	PE (taped lesson)	PE (PE office hour)	Health (Health office hour)

Assignment 122: Module 1 Lesson 15
 15

Posted Oct 27

-Watch this video:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ajN_ZfV/RbtG5L_xwL_OfppobNY-wZCx7/view?usp=sharing

-Complete slides 49-52 in the Google Slides Presentation titled "Module 1 (Ratios) Interactive Notebook"

-Submit Exit Ticket in Google Form attached

-Turn in Assignment

15 class comments

Twice a week, students complete a list of asynchronous assignments in google classroom. These often include a list of directions, a short video, and then an assignment.

Stephanie Miranda, Instructional Coach

PARENT LED BOOK CLUB



Calling all parents

Tapestry Middle School is looking to start a parent Led virtual Book Club for Students in **January**. The book club's mission is to build the foundation for a lifelong love of learning, as well as to bring our community together by reading and discussing stories from a wide array of genres. If this is something that interests you please fill out the following [Survey](#)

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES ANNOUNCEMENT

In 8th grade social studies, students have been studying the Civil Rights Movement and connecting it to what is occurring in today's society. Recently, students have been focusing on the leaders of the movement, as well as the tactics they used to achieve equality. Students created Historical Figure Trading Cards in which they listed important biographical information of these individuals. Students also specifically noted the contribution each individual made to the Civil Rights Movement.

HOSEA WILLIAMS

A. Philip Randolph
 Born: April 15, 1889 in Crescent City
 Occupation: civil rights activist
 What he stood for: the rights of african americans who wished to join the army but were denied for the color of their skin
 Died: Manhattan, New York May 16, 1979
 Major accomplishment: inspired others to stand up for their rights. Also, made the military let People of color into the army
 Three interesting facts: 1. was a unionist, civil rights activist, and social politician, all in one. 2. he organized and led the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. 3. and wrote many books about unity and peace.

Rosa Parks

Born:
February 4th, 1913 in Tuskegee, AL

Died:
October 24th, 2005 in Detroit

Jobs:
Dressmaker
Secretary

Most known for:
Rosa Parks is most known for helping initiate the civil rights movement in the United States when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955.

Three interesting facts:

1. Rosa Parks was not the first African American woman to be arrested for refusing to give up her seat on Montgomery bus.
2. She became active in the civil rights movement 12 years before she refused to give up her seat.
3. During the bus boycott, Rosa Parks and her husband both lost their jobs, received death threats and eventually moved to Detroit.



Dear Families,
I know this is such a difficult time in our country and the holidays will not look like they usually do, so please take time to feel gratitude for all the "little things". I have included an article that is worth reading. I will continue to be meeting with all of the students virtually. Please reach out to me if you are interested in having your child join one of my many "groups" that I am hosting online. The students are enjoying them and it makes them feel connected to one another. Stay well and be safe.

<https://www.hellomagazine.com/healthandbeauty/mother-and-baby/20201118101092/family-mental-health-advice-for-children-teenagers-in-pandemic/>

Ms. Jessica Bedell - Counselor

ELA ANNOUNCEMENT

For 8th graders:

8th graders start reading the book *Refugee* by Alan Gratz this week, with a focus on Syrian refugees. Students are expected to read 2-3 chapters and practice skills learned in class during their asynchronous days. Chapters are not very long (5-8 pages) and the link to a PDF of the book AND audio recordings are posted in the ELA Google Classroom.



FUNDRAISING AT TAPESTRY

Amazon Smile - While shopping this holiday season, support Tapestry Charter School on Amazon Smile! Visit smile.amazon.com to set Tapestry Charter School as your charity of choice!

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

This [#GivingTuesday](#), support **Tapestry Charter School! We are crew!**

You now have the opportunity to raise money for Tapestry on Facebook! You can set up the fundraiser by clicking on the Facebook menu button, you will then see a category called "Fundraisers". Click on "Fundraisers" and follow the instructions on how to set up your fundraiser. All donations made through Facebook will be sent to Tapestry 45-75 days after a donation is made. Facebook will match \$7 million in qualifying donations on #GivingTuesday!



FOOD SERVICE

Meals will be served from **10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday** this week at **111 Great Arrow (lower school)**. We are an open site, which allows anyone from the community to get a breakfast and/or lunch each day for any children under 18 years of age.

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

December 10: Parent Virtual Learning Support Session, 3:00

December 16: 5 week point of Quarter 2,

December 17: Principal Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting, 2:00

December 22: Grade Level Community Meetings, 8:00

December 23-January 3: No School, Winter Break

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.