



Middle School Newsletter

March 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 Families and Caregivers,

As we start in on the month of March, it causes us to reflect on where we were 1 year ago. It is hard to believe that it has already been one year since so much has changed in our lives.

Although what school will look like for next school year may be uncertain, we do have certainty about what school is looking like for this year and feeling more comfortable with the structure we have in place. As March gets going, you will hear more from me about [opting into the hybrid program for the 4th quarter which starts on March 29th](#). We are anticipating more students opting into the hybrid program for the 4th quarter than the previous quarters this school year. We will follow a similar process as we have previously done with a survey for

remote families to opt into the hybrid. Hybrid families can opt to go remote at any time.

Within the middle school, we have many exciting events planned for our students that support a positive culture of learning. On Monday, March 1st the **March Madness Golden Feather Crew Competition** starts. Students will be trying to earn as many Golden Feather comments for their crew.

This competition lasts the entire month. We are also recognizing **Women's History Month** which celebrates the vital role women have played in American History. We have connected with the **Say Something**

Week and will focus on school and student health & safety for the week of **March 15th** and **School Spirit Week** planned for the week of **March 22nd**. We then will recognize **International SEL Day on March 26th** which also falls on the **final day of the 3rd quarter**. The month will wrap up with students sharing their high-quality work at their Student-Led Conferences on **March 31st and April 1st**. Crew leaders will reach out to families to schedule these.



The month of March puts us in a place where we are more than halfway through the year and already beginning to think about next school year. Middle school serves a very important stepping stone in a child's educational career. As families begin to plan for their child to enter middle school, we will hold a **Middle School Public Information Session on Friday, March 26th from 9:00-10:00 am**. Families can sign up to attend on the [website](#) or by clicking [here](#).

Have a safe and healthy March,

Mrs. Lindsay Lee - Principal



Dear Middle School Families,

March is a time in the school year when we can reset and establish really good routines. We have five solid weeks of school without interruption to our live class and asynchronous schedules. Students can focus on getting into good self-management habits. On live days, they can attend all of their classes and participate by completing their assigned classwork, joining in on conversations, posting on a JamBoard and signing into their PearDeck slides. On asynchronous days, students can follow the office hours schedule to complete their work as if it were a live class day. If students are taking more than 30 minutes to complete their assignments, encourage them to join the office hours to work with a teacher for extra help. Self management is one of the Social and Emotional Standards that middle school students struggle with the most. Use the month of March to work on these skills!

March Culture Event Updates:

- **Women's History Month:** We will be celebrating women's history for the month of March. We will kick off our Women's Wednesdays with a crew lesson. We will play music by strong, empowered women as students enter the building, and learn about women who have made a positive impact in our country over the morning announcements.
- **March Madness Competition:** Runs from **March 1st-March 31st**. Crews in each grade level compete to have the highest percentage of Golden Feathers for the month of March. The TCA is providing a crew prize for the winning crews!
- **Virtual Grade Level Meetings:** Will take place during Crew on March 12th.



•**Say Something Week:** We work alongside the Sandy Hook Promise organization to teach students to say something to a trusted adult when they hear or see something that could be concerning to them. Ms. Bedell has written Crew Plans for the week of **March 15th** where students will be talking about saying something to a trusted adult.

•**SEL Day: March 26th** is SEL day. We will be celebrating our Social and Emotional Learning this day. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to this date.

- **School Spirit Week:** March 22nd-March 26th is our spring School Spirit Week. The MS Student Government will be sending out a flyer that will include ways that all students can participate in School Spirit Week!



If you need anything, please reach out to the main office. We hope you have a **Marvelous March!**

Mrs. Amy Meshulam - Assistant Principal



#SELday



The PIRR Spotlight trait for the month of February was Integrity. Students that were nominated by their crew leader have demonstrated integrity by owning their behavior, being honest, following through, and demonstrating our PIRR values even when no one is looking. Congratulations to our PIRR Spotlight nominees for February!

5th Grade Crews:

- Dytche:** Elena Ball
- Kubiak:** Arthur Van Wyk-Hammond
- Coyle:** Amira Hasan
- Campbell:** Brogan Spencer

6th Grade Crews:

- Hoerner:** Bakari Phelps
- Cooke:** Miracle Pearson
- Brunner:** Aaron Gillespie
- Sprowal:** Fiona Stafford-Cameron
- Gentile:** Sara Goble-Recker
- Scanlon:** Ehsoe Htoo
- Bailey:** Alaya Randle

7th Grade Crews:

- Hartke:** Damire Daniels-Johnson
- Close:** JJ Morales
- Miranda:** Sophia McDaniel
- Frost:** Josh Mansaray
- Camp:** Kei'Ana Branch
- Hahn:** Olivia Griffith
- Brew:** Yuset Bandomo Bosch
- Slepian:** Jaden Ortiz

8th Grade Crews:

- Matos:** Daniya Henning
- Hills:** Lauriana Bradberry
- Tomasik:** Vincent Vasile
- Smerda:** Ciara Cooper
- Mastrangelo:** Josh Collier
- Ritchey:** Maya Phelps
- Raham:** Kameron Wright

HEALTH OFFICE UPDATE WITH NURSE BURNS, RN

COVID CONFUSION

The rules and regulations seem to change on a daily basis. How is a person expected to keep up with all of these changes? Let us do the work for you! If you have any questions or concerns about how to move forward regarding testing, when to quarantine vs isolate, when can your child return to school, etc. please feel free to contact the school. We can help you navigate through the COVID maze. In the meantime here are a few general rules to follow:

1. If your child has a fever (100 degrees F or higher), chills, loss of taste/smell, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, congestion, nausea/vomiting or sore throat over the past 14 days, **DO NOT** send them to school.
2. If your child has tested positive for COVID in the past 14 days, **DO NOT** send them to school.
3. **3) If your child is tested for COVID they cannot return to school and must quarantine until the results are returned.** If the results are negative they may return to school if they are symptom free **AND** fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines. In addition, the student will require a note from their doctor that the test was negative **OR** provide a copy of the second test.
4. **Close contact tracing is tricky.** Please call the health office if you have been notified by the Department of Health that your child is considered a close contact. We will walk you through the quarantine process.

Help Prevent COVID-19
(2019 Novel Coronavirus)

MERCYONE. If you feel sick, call your MercyOne care location

Please feel free to contact the health office or Principal Lee with questions/ concerns you may have.

Nancy Burns, RN
716-332-0755 ext. 1082

Nancy Burns, RN, BSN

Tips for Talking to Your Kids About Mental Health from <https://www.onoursleeves.org/>

Model Openness

Share your feelings, challenges, successes and failures with your child in a way that is age appropriate. By doing so, you'll demonstrate to them that it's safe to talk about their own feelings and challenges. Try these **conversation starters** from Nationwide Children's Hospital if you need help.

Meet Them Where They Are

Quality time with your child is important. However, when you are ready to talk may be different than when your child is ready to talk to you. Plan activities together that you know they enjoy. Go to a movie, throw a frisbee or shop. While you're together, look for opportunities to talk about their friends, how school is going, or what they're following on social media.

Let Them Fail

In non-dangerous situations, it's healthy to allow your child to struggle and fail. If you take away their opportunity to learn from their mistakes, they miss out on the chance to gain confidence and resiliency.

Create a Safe Space

If you suspect your child is struggling, find ways to express your concern without seeming threatening or judgmental. Create a sense of safety by remaining calm and reassuring. Listen with understanding and validate their feelings. Be the kind of parent your child wants to talk to.

Sometimes Being Direct is Best

If you notice warning signs (such as shifts in behavior or personality, changes in sleeping or eating habits or loss of interest in activities) it's sometimes best to initiate a direct conversation. Ask direct questions in a supportive, thoughtful manner. This conversation is easier if you've established a baseline of trust.

Stay Connected to Your Pediatrician

Continue to schedule yearly well visits with your pediatrician. They can be your first line of support. They may be able to detect changes in your child's behavior, and they are skilled at screening for depression, anxiety and substance abuse. If you have an immediate concern, make sure to reach out to them.

Include Your Child in the Solution

If you're concerned that your child is struggling, ask how you can help before taking an action. For example, if your child is struggling at school, ask if it would be helpful for you to reach out to their teacher or school counselor. The more you can include your child in the process the better.



WELLNESS & HEALTH WITH JESSICA MASCLE (CONTINUED)

Find a Mentor

If your child is not comfortable talking to you, they might be willing to talk to another adult. Providing opportunities for them to open up is the goal. And often that's easier with someone who's not their parent!

Don't Assume

It's important not to make assumptions about what may be driving a child's fear and anxiety. If they seem anxious, encourage them to talk more specifically about their fears. By listening carefully to their beliefs and ideas, you may find healthy ways to help them take action to overcome their anxieties.

Apologize When You're Wrong

Parents are going to mess up. Getting it right more than not is the goal. When you overreact or make a mistake, admit you were wrong and apologize. Not only will your children appreciate your truthfulness, it gives them permission to make mistakes too.

Practice What You Preach

If you're really feeling stuck, seek help from the guidance of a therapist, physician or spiritual director for yourself. A trusted third party can provide a new perspective into your child's behavior. It will also send a great message to your child that it's okay to reach out for help.



Stop the Stigma

Children pick up on their parents' attitudes. You may be **perpetuating the stigma of mental illness** without knowing it. Try to talk about emotional issues in a non-judgmental manner – the way you might talk about a physical illness.

Jessica Mascle, Wellness & Health

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH MS. SMERDA & MRS. MASTRANGELO

Our meetings for the month of March will be held on the **12th and 26th at 1pm on Google Meet**.

The next School Spirit Week will be from **March 22nd to March 26th!** More information about each theme day will be provided as we get closer to the event! We look forward to seeing everyone's school spirit!

If your child is not yet in Student Government but is interested in joining, please have him or her 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.

Happy March!

Student
Government

Ms. Smerda & Mrs. Mastrangelo

Music

Students in 5th and 6th grade are working on the genre unit. They have studied blues and jazz, exploring prominent musical artists and key features of each genre. Now, they are working toward a project where they are designing a google slide show highlighting a genre of their choice.

Students in 7th and 8th are working on their video games. Students have designed the basic premise of a game, including the plot, key characters, levels, and other special features. They have also created several songs in google chrome lab. They are now incorporating the chrome lab songs into their google slides and presenting it as part of their final project.



Visual Art

This month students have reviewed the HOW rubric in Visual Art in Hybrid and Remote mode. Students started working on their first drawing exercise exploring graduated values through blending techniques (dark, medium, and light) and used lines to manipulate textures in a value scale with hatching, cross-hatching, and stippling.

We will then progress to composing geometric forms found in Still Life using shading, blending, and textures with mixed media of choice to personalize our own style of art as an artist.



Maximus M. Grade 5



Destiny R. Grade 5



Vernado L. Grade 8



Justice K. Grade 6

Performance Art

Grades 5 and 6

This month students were required to draw and color a visual representation from one of the myths that was discussed in our lessons. Upon completion, students were required to submit a video justifying their creative choices and complete assignments related to characterization. Their final lessons to complete quarter two will incorporate more video submission of a character who shares a teachable lesson.

Grades 7 and 8

This month students wrote a poem entitled, "What Matters to Me" followed by a video recitation of their initial work. They have begun applying symbolism to their poetry and will subsequently create a symbolic visual representation of their initial work. Their final lessons to complete quarter two will incorporate lessons that assist them in developing visual imagery and ideas through sense association to create a spoken word poetry piece as a performance artist.



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. 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. Also be sure to check your emails for details about the new extra curricular offering of Esports. This is competitive gaming with the tapestry community and possibly other school teams. Stay active and healthy Thunderhawks we will see this through!

THUNDERHAWK PRIDE!

Mr. Marc LaMorticella - Athletics Director



COUNSELING CORNER - MS BEDELL



Happy Spring Middle School Families!

It's almost here...the nice weather will soon approach us and we can finally go outside with loved ones and enjoy some better weather. I wanted to update you on some things I have been working on with students. In the end of February I visited all 8th grade crews with four high school students that have been at Tapestry since 5th grade. High school students discussed their high school experience with our 8th graders. The goal is for the students to start thinking about the expectations that will be placed on them as they enter this new phase in their lives and to also give them some personal experiences from students that have been in our high school.

I also began surveying all students monthly to get data on what students' thoughts are regarding this school year, the way they have had to navigate learning and friendships, and the areas they feel they need support in. This data will guide how I work with students and also how our school will help best support students for the remainder of this school year. Crew lessons will be written based on the results of these monthly surveys.

If you have questions or concerns about your child feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Stay Safe,

Ms. Jessica Bedell - Counselor

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1-31: March Madness Crew Competition
- March 1-31: Women's History Month
- March 3: Progress Reports Due, 5 week point of Quarter 3
- March 15-19: Say Something Week
- March 19: PD Day no office hours for students
- March 22-26: School Spirit week
- March 26: End of 3rd Quarter
- March 26: Middle School Public information session, 9AM
- March 31 & April 1: Student Led Conference, No classes
- March 26: SEL Day

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.
