



# Middle School Newsletter

October 2021

## 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.*

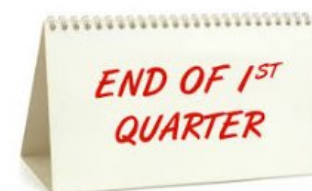
## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MRS. LEE



Dear Middle School Families and Caregivers,

Welcome to the month of October. We are settling into our school routines of being back in person 5 days a week.

**The first quarter ends on November 5.** When reports cards go out to families this will be the first time that students are graded following the updated grading policy for this school year. A major change in the grading policy is to separate students' Habits of Work (HOW) from their



academic grade. This allows the academic course grade to accurately reflect students'

progress on grade level standards for each class. Another change is that if students are missing a significant summative assignment or too many assignments in a class, they will earn an incomplete. If a student earns an incomplete, they will have a

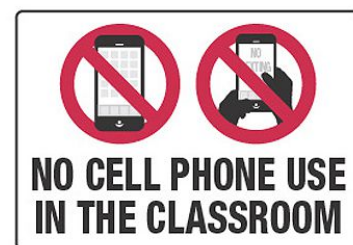
meeting to discuss what work needs to be completed and sign an incomplete contact where they will need to complete the missing work to earn a grade in the class.

Families are highly encouraged to check the academic and HOW progress of their child in Parent Portal frequently. As a way to support families in the transition of the new grading policy, **the Principal Advisory Group (PAG) meeting on October 21st at 4:00**

will be focused on the new grading policy. An invite and google form to sign up will be sent out in the next week.

Another revision for this school year involves our cell phone policy. We are no longer collecting cell phones from our students, but expecting that cell phones are turned off and tucked away when they enter the building. Unfortunately this month, we are seeing an increase in students using their cell phones throughout the school day. If you could please remind your child that they are to turn off their cell phone when they enter the building and

keep it off, except during approved times such as recess and lunch. If your child's cell phone is a distraction, please encourage them to keep it home before coming to school. If you would like the school to collect your child's cell phone when they enter the building, please reach out to Mr. Sprowal, the Dean of Students, and we will collect their cell phone at your request.





As cold and flu season is upon us while at the same time we still have COVID protocols in place. If you have any questions on whether or not your child can come to school, please review Nurse Burns' section of this newsletter closely and reach out if you have any questions.

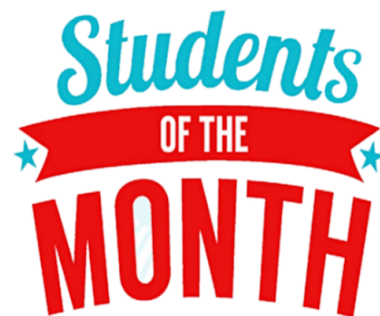
Each month we celebrated students by naming them the Students of the Month who are demonstrating PIRR, showing high scholarly behavior in academic classes and being a role model for their classmates. Congratulation to our September Students of the Months:

**5th Grade: Hser Nay Lwae & Aldan Scott**

**6th Grade: Willa Piekiewicz & Gordon Dean**

**7th Grade: Isaiah Firestone & Nylisa Hooker**

**8th Grade: Alanna Waikiki & Becker Lyons**



*Congratulations!*

We have many fun and community-building events planned for October, including Breast Cancer Awareness, Bullying Prevention, the Crew Pumpkin Filler Competition, Halloween Celebration and our first Middle School School Spirit Week of the 2021-2022 school year! Looking forward to a great month ahead!

Have a safe and healthy October,

Mrs. Lee

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#### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- September 15-October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
- October 1-October 31: Breast Cancer Awareness & Bullying Prevention Month
- **October 12-29: Crew Pumpkin Filler Contest**
- **October 18-22: School Spirit Week**
- October 21: Principal Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting, 4:00. Discussion Topic: Grading Policy
- **October 29: Halloween Celebration**
- November 2: School Picture Day
- November 5: Quarter 1 Closes





Hello Middle School Families!

October is a busy month in Middle School! October is both Bully Prevention and Breast Cancer Awareness month. We will be taking the time to honor both of these causes in our crews and Middle School.

Staff and students are trained on how to report instances of bullying and harassment. Students can report in any way that they feel comfortable, whether that be through a trusted adult, an email, a note, or filling out this DASA form. As long as the situation is reported, an investigation will take place within 24 hours by the DASA Coordinator, Amy Meshulam. If Mrs. Meshulam is not available, Ms. Bedell, our school counselor, will help to investigate any claims that are made. Our message for students, families, and staff is that if they see something, they should say something.



We kicked off our Breast Cancer Awareness campaign with a fundraiser for Roswell Park Cancer Institute. We are currently selling T-Shirts and Masks to raise money to donate to Roswell Park. If you would like to order, please use this [link](#). We hope to



invite them in for our November 19th school-wide community meeting to present them with a check from our fundraising. We will have 2 crew lessons and a crew project leading up to our Pink Day on October 28th. This day students and staff are encouraged to wear pink to demonstrate their awareness and we will be selling pink ribbons to raise money for Roswell Park that day as well.



**School Spirit Week starts on October 18th. Check out the flyer on the last page for the ways our students can express their school spirit!**

Finally, we will be allowing students to wear the costumes to school on October 29th. Costumes must not be distracting and take away from the learning environment. Fake blood, weapons, or full face masks are not allowed to be worn at school. Students must still follow the norms of the dress guidelines with their costumes. **We will be**

**selecting winners from each grade level with the most creative costumes.**

You may notice an increase of Golden Feather comments coming home this month. We are starting a grade level crew competition of pumpkin bucket fillers. The crew in each grade level that gets recognized the most for demonstrating our PIRR values during the month of October will win a prize!

We hope to have an outstanding October!

Mrs. Amy Meshulam, Assistant Principal





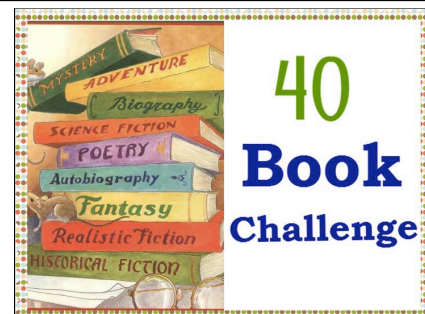
This school year we will be focusing on one PIRR trait per quarter. For the month of September, students have been focusing on the trait of **Responsibility**. Students are being recognized for coming to classes on time and prepared for learning, completing their assignments carefully and in a timely manner, and participating in classes. Crew leaders selected one student in their crew that met these expectations during the month of **September**.

## Congratulations to the following:

5 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	Student	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Student	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Student	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Student
Dytche	Liam Stefanik	Hoerner/Cooke	Angel McDonald	Hartke	Aja Wisniewski	Heidenreich	Riena White
Fiorella	Sawyer Deacon	Goehrig	Rhianna White	Close	David Washington	Hills	Na'Kiyah Funderburk
Shehata/Chudy	Adalia Elliot	Brunner	Gordon Dean	Capestrani	Brady Spencer	Santora	Ayianna Santana
Tolli/Coyle	DaVaughn Jones	Griswold	Arthur VanWyck Hammond	Frost	Jaeden Petty	Smerda	Azul Hevia Hernandez
McCraith	Zoey St. John	Yager	Lexi Ross	Camp/Brew	Justice Kauffman	Mastrangelo	Alix Brocollo
Kauffman	Sarah Ritchey	Howe	Elena Ball	Hahn	Autumn Nelson	Ritchey	Malik Nolley
MacDonald	Kamree Thomas	Bailey	Tyler Mulligan	Slepian/Jones McFall	Derrion Clendening	Raham	Evah-Joi Bostic

## INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS/CREW - EXPEDITION LEARNING

October 1st kicked off our **40 Book Challenge**. Students who read a **mystery novel** before the end of the month will be entered in a raffle to win a book of their choice. **Students can also write a book review and submit it for another chance to win the raffle!**



## COUSLING - JESSICA BEDELL



Recently, all of the middle school students were asked to complete a survey that rated how they are feeling emotionally, socially and academically. As a faculty, we are committed to ensuring that our students are feeling happy about their experience as a middle school student. It has been a huge transition returning to school full time for

our students and we want to ensure we have the best programming possible to fit your child's needs. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Stay well,  
Jessica

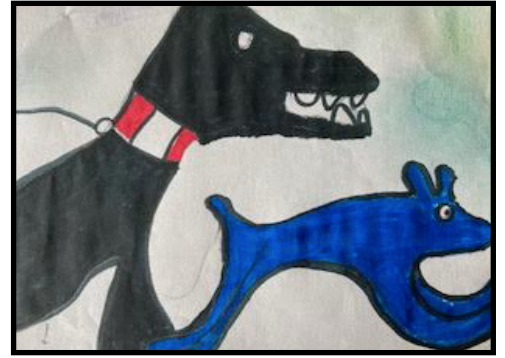
## Visual Art With Nikki Ritchey

### Grade 5

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 into a Still Life

using shading, blending, and textures with mixed media of choice to personalize our own style of art as an artist.



Cameron B. Grade 5



Violet W. Grade 6

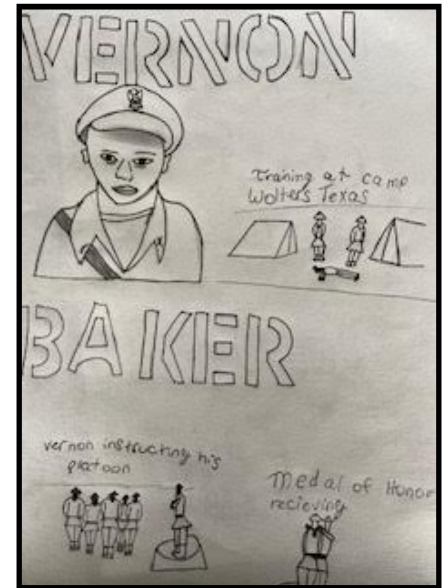
flat symbolized characters inspired by “Hot Topics” from their own community and everyday life.

### Grade 8

More than one and a half million African Americans served in the United States military forces during World War II. They fought in the Pacific, Mediterranean, and European war zones, including the Battle of the Bulge and the D-Day invasion.

Each student in the visual art rotation this quarter illustrated the contributions made by some of these individuals who fought in the war. Students selected a man or woman of honor to research and create an illustration with text in the style of Charles Alston.

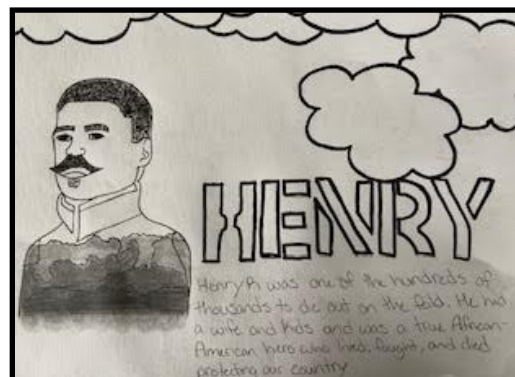
Charles Henry Alston was an American painter, sculptor, illustrator, muralist and teacher who lived and worked in the New York City neighborhood of Harlem.



Robert K. Grade 8



Matt M. Grade 8



Chace H. Grade 8



Ella Grade 5



Skylar Grade 5

## ARTS CONTINUED

### Music with Greg Baressi

#### Grade 5

After spending a few weeks learning the basics of reading tablature (a form of string instrument notation) for the ukulele, students are working on learning their first melody, “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” They are practicing hard in the contexts of small groups (2-4) as well as the entire class ensemble (11). The kids are looking forward to getting the song in shape so they can play it for Mrs. Mealer’s Lower School music classes. Additionally, we have listened to and discussed a few pieces of music including a movement from Beethoven’s 5th Symphony as well as Trombone Shorty’s New Orleans jazz infused funk piece, “Backatown.”

**TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR!**  
- anonymus lullaby -  
Arrangement: Andrei Lucian Drăgoi

Tempo: 110bpm (MODERATO)

1 C 2 G 3 F 4 G 5 G 6 C 7 G7 8 C  
Twinkle, twin-kle li- -tle star! How I won-der what you are!

9 G 10 G 11 C 12 G 13 G 14 G 15 C 16 G  
Up a- -bove the world so high, Like a diam-ond In the sky!

17 C 18 G 19 F 20 G 21 G 22 C 23 G7 24 C  
Twinkle, twin-kle li- -tle star! How I won-der what you are!

#### Grade 6

Having gotten down the basics of reading tablature notation for the ukulele, and learning a number of warm up exercises, the 6th grade has nearly mastered their first melody, “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.”

This week we began work on the song which will be our final project for the quarter. “Up Above My Head” is a non-denominational Gospel/Folk style song by an under-appreciated recording artist, Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Active from the 1940’s through the 1960’s, Sister Rosetta Tharpe was a pioneer of the electric guitar whose influence on early rock ‘n’ roll is often overlooked.

The 6th grade is learning to accompany themselves by playing chords while singing the lyrics in a call and response. The positive message of the song and their spirited interpretation is infectious! “Up above my head/I hear music in the air/and I really do believe there’s joy somewhere.”

#### Grade 7

Our 7th graders began the year learning the basics of ukulele technique and tablature notation. They have since mastered a number of warm up exercises and the melody to “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.”

They have listened to, analyzed, and/or studied ukulele arrangements of music by Beethoven, Trombone Shorty, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra among others.

This week they have begun working on “Take the ‘A’ Train,” written by Duke

Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. This piece, by two of America’s great jazz composers, will be their final project for the quarter. They will learn to play chordal accompaniment as well as the melody on the ukulele.





Tapestry Athletics in the Middle School have been a huge success this Fall with over 100 participants taking advantage of the extra curricular opportunities! Coaches have instilled the Tapestry traits amongst their teams and athletes. Soccer teams have been competing against local schools at various fields in the WNY area. Volleyball and Flag Football teams have been practicing skill building and playing intramural with peers here at the school. Thank you Tapestry families, your help and timeliness with transportation has made these opportunities happen.



The upcoming winter will offer Basketball and Wrestling. Due to historically large numbers in participation, Basketball teams may have to have a tryout process. We are also looking into intramural opportunities. As soon as schedules are finalized, information will be out to families.

**Please be aware that sport physicals are good for one year. Please get physicals from your primary care physicians if your child is interested in athletics!**

**THUNDERHAWK PRIDE!**



## COVID/SICK Protocol:

### Do not send your child to school if they have the following...

- a. **a fever 100.4;** to return your child must be fever free for 48 hours with no medicine administered
- b. **a cough** - consistent bad cough (coughing multiple times per hour), *not sleeping through the night due to cough*
- c. **Nasal Congestion** – your child has a consistent runny nose and is blowing their nose multiple times an hour; if you see green colored discharge – time for an MD visit.
- d. seems more tired than usual
- e. has an unusual rash
- f. general body aches with no underlying cause

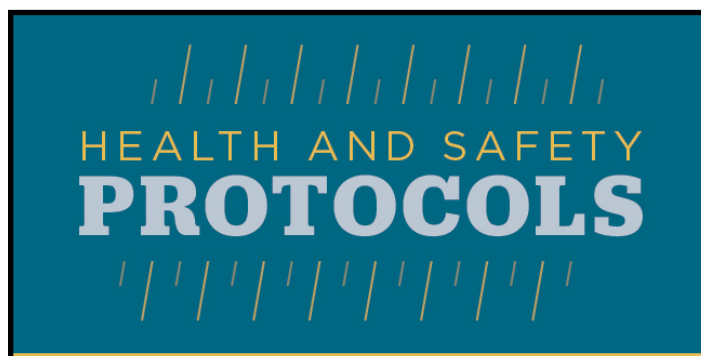


### Returning to School Following Illness:

ECDOH requires that in order for students or staff to return to school following a COVID like illness, regardless of vaccination status, one of the three following criteria must be met:

1. A negative COVID-19 test is provided, home tests do not meet criteria, test needs to be a PCR COVID-19 test OR
2. A note from the primary care physician stating an alternative diagnosis OR
3. There have been at least 10 days since the onset of COVID -19 symptoms.

ECDOH offers free COVID 19 PCR testing to Erie County residents and close contacts of confirmed cases. Other local testing sites are listed at [www.erie.gov/covidtestsites](http://www.erie.gov/covidtestsites). COVID 19 diagnostic testing is fully covered by all health insurance plans per federal mandate.





Tapestry Families,

**WNY Native American Community Services** will be coming into the 7th grade Health and Wellbeing classroom to teach a series of lessons based on the Be Proud. Be Responsible curriculum October 19th-November 3rd. The curriculum will include lessons on the following:



**Topic: Anatomy**

Students will learn about the different parts of the human reproductive system.

**Topic: STIs, Birth Control, and Abstinence**

Students will learn about safe sex practices and how to prevent STIs and pregnancy.

**Topic: Consent**

Students will learn about the importance of mutual permission in relationships.

Please note that not all 7th grade students are in Health this half of the year. The students who are not, will receive this education in April of 2022. If there are any questions please feel free to contact me, Jessica Mascle at [masclej@tapestryschool.org](mailto:masclej@tapestryschool.org).

If you would not like your student to participate in this program, inform us by filling out the opt-out form your student received in class. **If you want your student to attend, you DO NOT need to hand anything in.**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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Here at Tapestry Charter Middle School, Student Government exists to address the needs of Tapestry Middle School students, and encourage a positive, respectful, and supportive environment.

During the week of **October 18th**, Student Government is hosting a **School Spirit Week**! Each day will have a different theme. Please see the attached poster for theme days. All students are encouraged to participate.

We are anticipating opening the school store, the Tap Shack, during this month. We will provide more information as we get closer to opening.

**Our meetings for the month of October will be held on the 13th and 28th. Both meetings will run from 2:45pm - 3:15pm in room 119.**

All students grades 5 - 8 are welcome to join Student Government. If your child is interested in joining, please contact Ms. Smerda ([smerdad@tapestryschool.org](mailto:smerdad@tapestryschool.org)) or Mrs. Mastrangelo ([mastrangelos@tapestryschool.org](mailto:mastrangelos@tapestryschool.org)).

Happy October!

Ms. Smerda and Mrs. Mastrangelo

# SPIRIT WEEK OCTOBER 2021

## **Monday 10/18: Lazy Day**

Wear your comfiest pair of pajamas!  
If wearing slippers, make sure they have a back and follow the Dress Guidelines.

## **Tuesday 10/19: Jersey Day**

Show your pride for your favorite team or player!

## **Wednesday 10/20: Holiday Day**

Ever wonder what a holiday would look like if it were a person? Dress up as your favorite holiday!

## **Thursday 10/21: Hollywood Day**

Have you dreamed about being a celebrity? Or are you just a big fan of one? Dress up as your favorite celebrity, singer, or character!

## **Friday 10/22: Class Color Day**

Show your school spirit by wearing your Tap gear!

5th: Purple, 6th: Grey, 7th: Green, 8th: Tie Dye

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

65 Great Arrow Avenue Buffalo, NY 14216

Phone Number: 716.332.0755 | Fax Number: 716.332.0758 Website: [www.tapestryschool.org](http://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.

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