



# Middle School Newsletter

December 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

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Dear Middle School Families and Caregivers,

The month of December provides the time to start the goals that were set at the student led conferences and to continue learning in the second quarter in a way that students are proud of themselves.



**December 17th marks the halfway point of the 2nd quarter!** We will be distributing progress reports the week of December 20th. **We would like to celebrate the 90% of our students who have participated in their Student Led Conference.** If your child has yet to participate, please connect with your child's crew leader. We continue to aim for 95% of family engagement in these important conversations.



Within the building this month, we are putting a heavy emphasis on getting to class on time. This will allow students and teachers to start class on time and maximize the time spent in the classroom on learning. This is so important, especially at this time of the year when we are already close to the midway point of the second quarter.

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This month also provides a way to celebrate the holiday season and spread kindness throughout the community. In December, we are selling snowflakes in the front office. This will raise money for our Angel Tree. Please stop by the office or send money with your child to purchase snowflakes. They are sold in \$1, \$3 and \$5 quantities. Thank you for your support! Please also know that students are working collaboratively with their crew to plan out their decorating idea for their crew door as the whole school is competing in the Door Decorating Contest. We will wrap up the month with our Student Government-run Holiday School Spirit Week from December 20th-22nd. We are looking forward to a fun month all around!

Have a safe and healthy  
December,

-Mrs. Lee, Principal



#### UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

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**December: Snowflake Sale (\$1, \$3, \$5). Money will be collected in the main office. Proceeds will go towards The Angel Tree.**

December 8: Adventure Club, 2:50-3:45

December 8: Harry Potter Club, 2:45-3:30

December 8: Student Government Meeting, 2:45-3:15

December 9: Theater Arts Club, 2:50-3:50

December 9: Yoga and Mindfulness Club, 2:50-3:30

December 9: 8th Grade Bookclub, 7:30-8:00

December 9: GSA Club, 2:50-3:50

**December 14: Middle School Picture Retake Day**

December 15: National Junior Honors Society Meeting, 2:45-3:30, Cafe

December 15: Yearbook Club, 3:00-4:00

**December 23-January 2: Winter Break, No School \*Happy Holidays!\***

**\*\*School Resumes Monday January 3rd\*\***

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Hello Middle School Families!

December is here and this marks the end of the end of the year 2021. During the month of December we are very intentional about celebrating with our students and incorporating as much joy as we can before we start the new year. Students are engaging in our annual door decorating crew competition. Each crew will design

and decorate their crew's door and then one crew from each grade level will win a prize for meeting the criteria of the contest the best. All crew students must participate in creating the door decoration and the entire crew must be represented on the door. Each year our students really embrace the power of high quality work through this competition. Many times there are multiple drafts and making improvements based on peer feedback. We are excited to see what the crews design this year, winning crews will win a great prize!



The reset in the building has been well received and students are making great strides to demonstrate our core values of PIRR. A big focus has been on holding students accountable for coming to their classes on time. We have seen a significant decrease in the number of students that are arriving late to class, as well as a decrease in overall disruptive behavior in the building. Thank you to the teacher and administration teams for bringing so much

attention to this plan. Thank you to students and families for your support in our reset efforts.

Finally, Mr. Meshulam and I would like to thank the community for all of the well wishes as we welcomed our daughter Sofia on November 19th into our family. If you need anything while I am out on maternity leave, please reach out to Dr. Gibbs, Mr. Sprowal, Mr. Lewis, or Ms. Bedell.

Have a wonderful December!

Mrs. Meshulam - Assistant Principal

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This school year we will be focusing on one PIRR trait per quarter. For the previous month of November, 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 **November**.

## 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	Ford Shanahan	Hoerner/Cooke	Ta'Raji Banks	Hartke	Brixton Ector	Heidenreich	Makayla Edwards
Fiorella	Sophia Smith	Goehrig	Olivia Parker	Close	Kamora Ramos	Hills	Kellen Paterson
Shehata/Chudy	Nyeelah Broughton	Brunner	Marlo Loatman	Capestrani	Fiona Safford-Cameron	Santora	Harper Hazelton
Tolli/Coyle	Joseph Brown	Dehlinger	Sonya Kutnyak	Frost	Jaliya Lopez	Smerda	Arianna Ramos
McCraith	Kailli Hawks	Yager	Max Miranda	Camp/Brew	Kiarri Coles	Mastrangelo	Jayshon Rodgers
Kauffman	Jackson Meir	Howe	Matthew Van Vessem	Hahn	Josiah Brown	Ritchey	Naiyanna Desnose
MacDonald	Julian Rivera	Bailey	John Carlton Pinnock	Slepian/McFall	Skyler Ball	Raham	Angel Lynch

## COUSELING - JESSICA BEDELL

Happy December!

I cannot believe how quickly time passes and that we are approaching winter break. I am so thankful for all of your support as our students have transitioned back into the school building. Thank you for working with us and your children as we are re-setting the students back into a healthy routine.

I continue to be available to you if you need any support regarding your child's social/emotional well being, or any questions regarding their education in general. Please contact me anytime at ext.1060.

Jessica



## Visual Art With Nikki Ritchey

### Grade 5

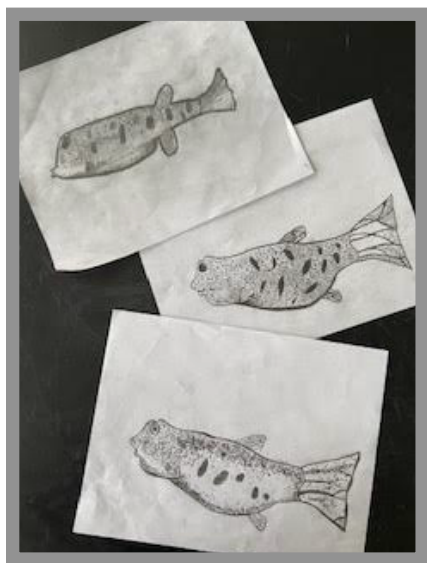
Students are composing scientific drawings using several methods, depending on the particular lab or experiments connected to their Science Expedition. These illustrations demonstrate the relative size, shape, and location of different species found within Western New York's Great Lakes.

### Grade 6

In grade 6, students have begun to create a personalized artwork inspired by Bill Traylor's "Folk Art" style. Bill Traylor displayed simplistic characters of animals, plants, and people that are prized today for their innovative aesthetic form and documentation of oppression in the Deep South. Each student then created a visual representation of a "Hot Topic" that is addressed in the media as well as close to their own culture and everyday life.

### Grade 8

Students in grade 8 are illustrating some of the African American war heroes from WWII. In their artworks they recognize the contributions made by some of these individuals who fought in the war. Students had the choice to select a man or woman to research and create an artwork



Grade 5 Scientific Drawing



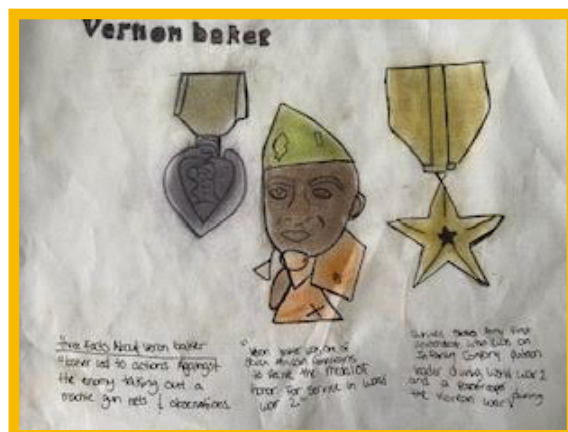
Grade 6 Visual Art John S



Grade 6 Visual Art Demia A



Grade 8 Visual Art Alanna M



Grade 8 Visual Art Bethany C

## Music with Greg Baressi

### Grade 5

5th Grade is off to a fine start in their second quarter music rotation. The kids have been working on reading standard notation rhythms and ukulele tablature. We've begun work on our first piece, "Jingle Bells."



### Grade 6

Our 6th graders have been hard at work this quarter on the ukulele. They have built upon their previous experience reading standard rhythmic notation and are working on using it in conjunction with uke tablature. They are on the road to playing "Jingle Bells" in two parts as an ensemble and will begin more challenging material shortly.

### Grade 7

Our 7th Grade students have developed a strong understanding of rhythmic notation over the years and are quickly applying it to ukulele tablature. They are breezing through a 2 part arrangement of "Jingle Bells" and are near to begin work on more challenging material.



**\*\*Tapestry Middle School is starting a Rock, Pop, and Jazz Band! Students will be playing contemporary pieces of music on guitar, bass, keyboard, and drums. No previous experience playing these instruments is necessary but a strong desire to learn is essential! Rock, Pop, and Jazz Band will be led by Mr. Barresi and will meet on Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45. Our first session is December 15th in Room 107.\*\***



According to “Leaders of Their Own Learning”, **In order to meet challenging goals, students must believe that the goals are within their capacity to achieve.** Many students who have previously been unsuccessful in school acquire a fixed mindset, rather than a growth mindset. They see intelligence as something you are born with rather than something that can be developed through hard work. Strategic use of data in the classroom provides an opportunity to overcome this mindset of limitation. It gives students the chance to document their learning over time and have concrete evidence that they know more and can do more than they could previously. *And, it develops the connection between hard work and achievement, replacing the idea that ‘some kids are smart’ with ‘if I work hard, I’ll get better.’*

## HABITS OF WORK

**This quarter, the Habit of Work focus is respect. Students will get feedback on the following targets:**

1. *I work cooperatively within the classroom environment.*
2. *I take care of resources and materials within my school community.*

As you and your child check in on their grades in powerschool, encourage them to look at their Habits of Work grades. *Students that consistently earn 3 pt for **meeting** this target will have greater academic success!*



What a great start for the long Winter season. Thunderhawk Basketball teams have started their game schedules at our local community centers. ***If you plan on attending athletic events at the community centers it is important to follow the protocols for these public spaces by practicing proper mask wearing. Students must also be accompanied by an adult if they stay to watch and support our teams.***

As Buffalonians, we know how hard it can be to stay active during the winter months. In January, we will start our wrestling and fitness clubs. This opportunity is perfect for those that are not currently playing Basketball. *Fitness club will meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting January 11th.*

Keep an eye out for school reach and handouts for this opportunity after the Winter break.

**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! You can also fax physicals to 716-332-0758**

**THUNDERHAWK PRIDE!**





**MASK COMPLIANCE  
IS KEY TO PREVENTION  
AS COVID NUMBERS CLIMB  
IN ERIE COUNTY**

Face coverings are to be worn by staff and students at all times when individuals cannot maintain social distancing protocols.

If you have questions about approved face masks please refer to the Tapestry School Website.

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO WEAR THEIR MASKS  
PROPERLY WHILE AT SCHOOL.**

A phone call answered by a real person to help answer your questions can make or break a day. There is so much to navigate. Please feel free to contact me with questions/concerns you may have.

Nancy Burns, RN  
[Burnsn@tapestryschool.org](mailto:Burnsn@tapestryschool.org)  
(716) 332-0755 ext. 1082



## MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS

**Extracurricular** activities, such as clubs, sports, band and other non-academic pursuits can be a big part of middle school for a child. There are numerous benefits to participating in extracurricular activities, such as developing good teamwork skills and discovering a personal passion. Get involved today! Below is a list of clubs and their locations. Have your child reach out to the club organizer if they may seem interested.

**This month we added Yearbook Club, Adventure Club and the GSA. Soon to come is our after school Music/Band**

**Club.** Students are welcome to check out clubs! Call the office with any questions!



Name of club	Organizer(s)	Dates	Frequency	Time	Location
<b>Student Government</b>	Sydney Mastrangelo & Danielle Smerda	Wednesdays, bi weekly	bi weekly	2:45-3:15	107
<b>Theatre Arts Club</b>	June Bailey & Amy Jakiel	Thursday, weekly	Weekly	2:50-3:30	Cafe
<b>Yoga/Mindfulness Club</b>	Liz Palmer	Thursday, weekly	Weekly	2:50-3:50	Dance Studio (121)/Outside
<b>NJHS</b>	Jakiel & MacDonald	Wednesdays	Monthly	2:45-3:30	Cafe
<b>Harry Potter Club</b>	Chudy	Wednesday	11/17 then weekly after dec. 2 (ends 1/5)	2:50-3:50	room 114
<b>8th Grade Book Club</b>	Hoerner	Thursday AM	Weekly (starts Dec 2)	7:30-8:00	Library
<b>Yearbook</b>	Hartke	Wednesday	bi weekly (starts Dec 1)	2:50-3:45	221
<b>Adventure Club</b>	Frost and Raham	Wednesday	weekly (starts Dec 1)	3:00-4:00	219/222
<b>GSA</b>	Victoria Cooke	Thurs	weekly	2:50-3:50pm	214



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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During the month of December, Student Government is focusing on spreading holiday cheer!

**Holiday Spirit Week** will run from December 20th to December 22nd.

**December 20th:** Holiday Accessories Day

**December 21st:** Ugly Sweater Day

**December 22nd:** Holiday Pajama Day

Please note that if your child is participating in Holiday Pajama Day, they **MUST** have school-appropriate footwear that aligns to our dress guidelines. All footwear must have a back and slides are not allowed.

The TapShack has been in operation since the beginning of November. So far we have earned \$1,671 in profit, which will be used for upcoming school-wide celebrations!

**Our only meeting for the month of December will be held on December 8th 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)).

*Wishing you and your families a happy holiday season!*  
*Ms. Smerda and Mrs. Mastrangelo*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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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)

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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.

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