



Middle School Newsletter

November 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,

The month of November starts with the first quarter ending on November 5th and the second quarter beginning on November 8th. Overall, the month of November provides an opportunity to reflect and reset.

Students will prepare for their Student Led Conference which will take place on November 22nd and 23rd. During these conferences, students will reflect on their academic and habits of work



(HOW) from the first quarter and then set goals as they move forward. 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 contract where they will need to complete the missing work to earn a grade in the class. These are important conversations that bring the most important stakeholders together--teacher, parent, and student--to support our students in their success. Crew leaders will be reaching out through signup.com and allow families the opportunity to sign up for a conference in person or remotely. It is an expectation that all students participate in these conferences as a member of our community.

WHY STUDENT LED CONFERENCES?

- Students develop **ownership** of their learning
- Students build **independence**
- Students take **pride** in their success
- Students identify areas for **improvement**
- Students **share** knowledge and skills learned

While you are in the building for your child's Student Led Conference, please be sure to check out the lost and found. This area is full of many student belongings and unclaimed items will be donated on November 24th.



We will have our first PIRR day of the school year on November 19th. This day will ensure that students are prepared for their conferences the following week as well as provide opportunities to team and community build. Coming back from the hybrid setting to 100% in person scheduling has been challenging, especially for students in the middle school levels. Building on social skills and re-learning how to be a positive member within the community and this day will provide opportunities to build this. We will end the day with a school wide community meeting. Unfortunately, this will not be open to the public but will be able to bring all of our students together.

Lastly, each month we celebrate 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.

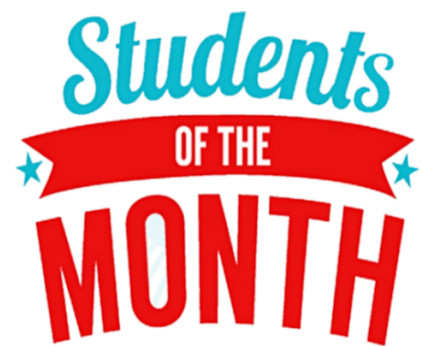
Congratulation to our October Students of the Month:

5th Grade: Ella Jurado & Owen Gracie

6th Grade: Adelyn Patterson & Tyler Mulligan

7th Grade: David Washington & Kamora Ramos

8th Grade: Alixandrea Broccolo & Alonso Ferrel



Congratulations!

We have many fun and community-building events planned for November, including Thanksgiving Food Drive and crew competition, Student Led Conferences & PIRR Day. Looking forward to a great month ahead!

-Mrs. Lee

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

November: Food Pantry Donations for Thanksgiving Food Drive

November 8: Start of Quarter 2

November 11: No School, Veteran's Day

November 12: Virtual Learning Day, no in person classes, grades 5-12

November 22 & 23: No regular Classes, Student Led Conferences Only

November 24-November 26: No School for students, Thanksgiving Break





Hello Middle School Families!

We are excited for the month of November. We are kicking off the month with another Crew Competition. From November 1-19th we are collecting Food for our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Each crew will be collecting non-perishable food for our Tapestry Food Pantry. In order to be entered into the

competition, each crew must provide one box of stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn bread, and dessert mix. Then the crew in each grade level with the most donations of canned goods and boxed food will win a Pizza Party after the Thanksgiving Break! You can send in your donations from now until November 19th.

8th Grade Families, please check your email for information on how to order an 8th Grade Hoodie Sweatshirt for the class of 2022! The online orders close on Monday, November 15th at midnight. The orders should be in before winter break in time for holiday gifts.



Friday, November 19th will be our first PIRR Day of the year. We will kick off the day by celebrating our students who earned Honor and Merit Role Status for the first quarter during a Breakfast of Champions. Then each grade level will spend their day with crews getting ready for SLCs, making connections with their community partners, and team-building with their grade

levels. Grade 5 will be heading to the Buffalo Museum of Science, Grades 6 and 7 will be walking to the Nardin Athletic Field to participate in crew competitions and team building activities and Grade 8 will be staying in the building and utilizing our middle school space for some team building activities. The day will close out with our first School Wide Community meeting that has been planned by our Arts Department and Student Community Meeting Committee. We look forward to a day of celebration, resetting, and refocusing.

We close out the month with Student Led Conferences on November 22nd and 23rd. Be sure to sign up for a time with your child's crew leader. All students must participate, we are looking for 100% attendance for SLCs.

Finally, I wanted to communicate that Friday, November 12th will be my last day in person before I take a maternity leave. If you need anything please reach out to Dr. Gibbs and Mr. Sprowal who will be filling in for me during this time. Mrs. Lee is also available for any questions or concerns.

We hope you have a great Thanksgiving Break!

Mrs. Meshulam



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

Congratulations to the following:

5 th Grade:	Student	6 th Grade	Student	7 th Grade	Student	8 th Grade	Student
Dytche	Hser Nar	Hoerner/Cooke	Gavin Salzman	Hartke	Salome Cabrera	Heidenreich	Josiah Navarro
Fiorella	Carliece Pinnock	Goehrig	Trevor Minor	Close	Aeriyanna Ramos	Hills	Maia Hunley
Shehata/Chudy	Damien King	Brunner	Jamal Jones	Capestrani	Sarah Snodgrass	Santora	Allen King
Tolli/Coyle	Milani Hollis	Dehlinger	Monya Taylor	Frost	Alantae Bishop	Smerda	Tyler Schroeder
McCraith	Khy'rie McDade	Yager	Aidan Lyle	Camp/Brew	Ehsoe Htoo	Mastrangelo	Tamia Rainey
Kauffman	Stephen Smyntek	Howe	Bettina Lesh	Hahn	Parker Berenson	Ritchey	Reina White
MacDonald	Terrance Bateman	Bailey	Nyla Evans	Slepian/McFall	Abigail Tofflemire	Raham	Kameelah Goosby

COUSELING - JESSICA BEDELL

Happy November Families!

It has been wonderful having students back in the building full time, but there has been an unusual amount of stress put on our students as they are trying to assimilate back into the school building after not being here full time for almost a year and a half. I have attached an article that may be helpful to you as you may see your child struggling more than usual.

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/helping-students-reacclimate-being-others-all-day>

Please contact me anytime if you need support for your child. ext 1060

Stay Well,

Jessica



Visual Art With Nikki Ritchey

Grade 5

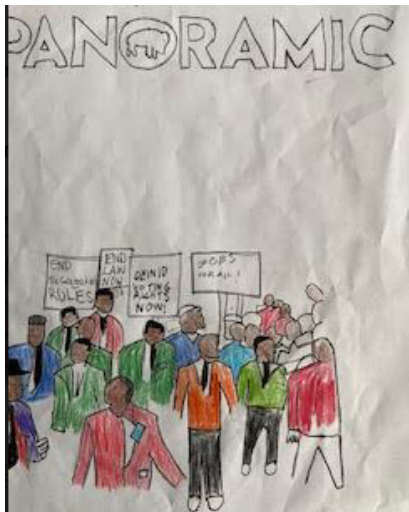
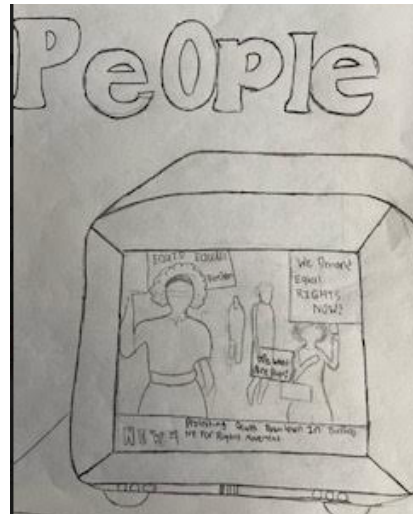
As students were ready to end quarter 1 they were very excited to explore visual images with positive and negative space through the style of OP art.

Grade 6

The last assignment in quarter 1 focused on printmaking techniques in art. Students crafted silhouettes and outlines of a famous icon who had made an impact on their everyday life. The characters were inspired by Aaron Douglas's simple black and white style which demonstrated a strong visual representation of positive and negative space in art to create powerful simplified forms.

Grade 8

This past quarter students designed a magazine cover based off of an existing magazine, for example they used the layout and name of Teen magazine, but designed their own image, titles and story lines, or even created their own magazine totally from scratch, inspired by the the Civil Rights Movement.



Music with Greg Baressi

Grade 5

Our 5th Grade Music classes concluded the 1st quarter with a successful performance for Grades K-3 at the Lower School. The 5th Grade did a terrific job playing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and "This Land Is Your Land" on the ukulele. The younger children were delighted by the performance!

Grade 6

Our 6th Graders finished off the quarter strong with a performance for students in Grades K-3 at the Lower School. They played "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" on the ukulele and accompanied their own singing to the Gospel style classic, "Up Above My Head." The audience thoroughly enjoyed the show!

Grade 7

The 7th Grade ended their first quarter with a wonderful concert for children in Grades K-3 at the Lower School. The younger kids were thrilled to hear "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" on the ukulele as well as the ambitious jazz classic, "Take the A Train," for which the 7th Grade provided their own accompaniment while singing!

Performance Art With Karen Camp

All performance art students presented their works from their creative and collaborative efforts with their classmates!

Grade 5 students worked in groups on the articles of human rights that included mini scripts they wrote and tableaux they created and rehearsed while reciting a human rights article they memorized.

Grade 7 students created different scenes to bring awareness to the importance of ethics and historical circumstances of questionable behaviors of individuals and organizations in our country.

Grade 8 students took on the issue of propaganda and worked on creative methods to speak to its prevalence, by examining poems, song lyrics, and creating scenes using gestures.



- **Thank you to all of the athletes, coaches and families who participated in our fall sports season. Such a great start to the year for Thunderhawk athletics!**
- **Our upcoming winter season will run from November to February. We are thrilled with the outcome of our recent basketball sign up! This season boast a large number of students who are ready to develop their skills and play both intramurally and competitively with other local schools in the community.**
- **The athletic department will communicate via school reach. Please reach out if you have any issues with receiving school emails. It is strongly encouraged to provide your contact information to your child's coach as cancellations for games and practices are more common during the winter months.**
- **In January, we will start wrestling and fitness clubs! Be on the look out for sign up information!**

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!



MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS

Clubs are in starting up this year at Tapestry Middle School. Participation in clubs and activities helps students develop a sense of camaraderie and make friendships based on common interests. We encourage students to get involved and have some fun while they learn new skills!

STUDENT AND CLUBS ORGANIZATIONS

Name of club	Organizer(s)	Dates	Frequency	Time	Location
Student Government	Sydney Mastrangelo & Danielle Smerda	Wednesdays, bi weekly	bi weekly	2:45-3:15	Room: 107
Theatre Arts Club	June Bailey & Amy Jakiel	Thursday, weekly	Weekly	2:50-3:30	Cafe
Yoga/Mindfulness Club	Liz Palmer	Thursday, weekly	Weekly	2:50-3:50	Dance Studio/Outside
NJHS	Jakiel & MacDonald	Wednesdays	Monthly	2:45-3:30	Cafe
Harry Potter Club	Chudy	Wednesday	11/17 then weekly after dec. 2 (ends 1/5)	2:50-3:50	Room: 114
8th Grade Book Club	Hoerner	Thursday AM	Weekly	7:30-8:00	Library



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

November has been a productive month for Student Government!

The TapShack, our school store, officially opened on November 1st! During our first week of business, the TapShack earned \$592.45 in profit! This money will be used by Student Government and go towards future celebrations, events, and initiatives for our students! **Please remind your student(s) to always use PIRR traits while shopping at the TapShack.**

During the month of November, Student Government will focus on ways to be thankful for our wonderful teachers and staff.



Our only meeting for the month of November will be held on Wednesday the 10th from 2:45pm - 3:15 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) or Mrs. Mastrangelo (mastrangelos@tapestryschool.org).

Happy November!
Ms. Smerda and Mrs. Mastrangelo

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.
