



Middle School Newsletter

February 2022

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,

We are officially in the second half of the school year! Report cards for the second quarter have just recently been sent home. Please review this closely with your child. We are having supportive Student Led Conferences for some of our students where we feel an additional layer of support and discussion would be valuable in ensuring success for this school year. If your child is eligible for this conference, your child's crew leader

has already been in contact with you. These will take place either in person or remotely on Friday, February 18th. There will be no school on this day which will lead into the February break the following week, February 21-28th. **Students will return to school on TUESDAY, MARCH 1**, after having off on Monday, February 28th for a teacher work day.

Within the past few weeks, all students have taken their NWEA MAPS reading assessment. As an overall notice, we are seeing the effects that the pandemic has taken on reading and learning for students. Please continue to encourage reading routines for your child, 20 minutes of reading each night is recommended. This is an opportunity to tuck the technology away for the day and wind down prior to bedtime. Please connect with your child's ELA Teacher if you want specific information on how your child is performing and for tips on what you can do at home to support your middle school child with their reading.

As we are continuing to navigate schooling and the pandemic, please note that should your child need to quarantine in the coming weeks because of close contact with someone who is positive for Covid-19, they are still expected to stay up to date with classwork and homework. **Teachers are now available to provide support to *remote* learners on an “as needed” basis.**

Check your teacher’s Google classroom (classwork page) for a FORM to submit indicating what help is needed and a time you are available. Your teacher will get back to you with a meeting time confirmation and directions for using Google Meet.

This month is full of many celebrations and positive school culture focuses, including intentionally celebrating Black History Month. Please see Mrs. Meshulam’s school culture section for all the details.

Have a safe and healthy February,
Mrs. Lee





Hello Middle School Families!

I would first like to thank you for your support during this snowy start to 2022! Students have been so successful signing into their Google Classes during inclement weather. This will only help them to be successful and not fall behind on assignments on a day when classes would have been canceled in the past.

February is the month when we intentionally celebrate Black History. We kick off the month with the raising of the Pan African Flag at 65 and 111 Great Arrow. This flag will fly throughout the month of February to honor Black History Month, as well as our dedication to Black Excellence all year. Middle School celebrates each week on the morning announcements by learning about a person that has publicly demonstrated Black Excellence and listening to music by Black artists as our song of the week. If you have any questions or ideas on how to celebrate in our community please feel free to reach out to our Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Kara M. Oliver-Pérez.

Our 8th Grade team has decided to work with the Make-A-Wish foundation this year as a community partner. As a community partner, they have collaborated to learn about the organization and committed to provide services and collect donations for the organization. TAPMS Staff is competing in a Basketball game to raise money for Make-A-Wish on Friday, February 11th. Students will buy tickets to watch their TAPMS staff battle each other in a game of basketball. All proceeds will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The annual Valentine's Day Flower Sale is continuing this year. Students will be able to pre-order their flowers in crew and then deliver them to their friends and family on February 14th.

February 21-25th is a break and there will be no school for staff and students. There is also no school for students on February 28th, as it is a teacher planning day.

Finally, I will be back from my Maternity Leave on Tuesday, March 1st. You will be able to contact me through my email (meshulama@tapestry-school.org.) and by calling the Middle School Front Office (716) 332-0755. I look forward to seeing everyone again!

Have a Fabulous February!

Visual Art With Nikki Ritchey

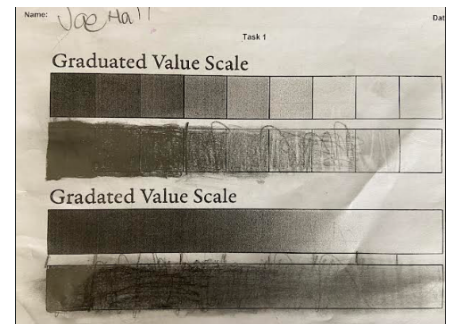
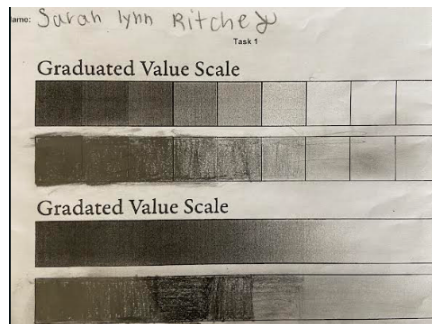
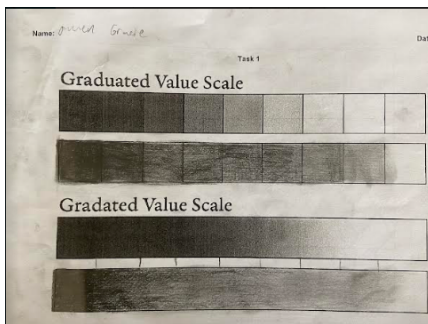
Grade 5

In grade 5 we are excited to meet your new rotation of students for quarter 3 & 4.

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.

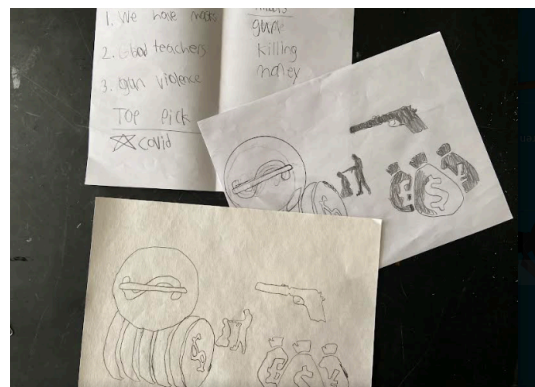
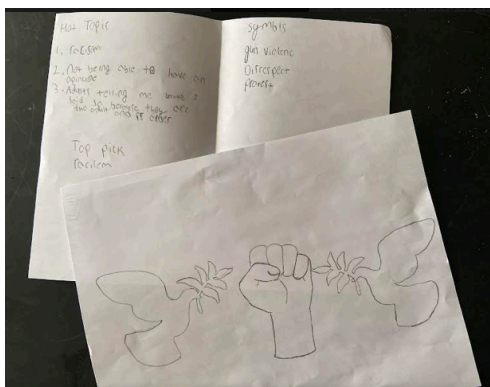
We will then progress to composing geometric forms into a Still Life using shading, blending, and textures with mixed media of choice to personalize our own style of art as an artist.



Grade 6

In grade 6 we are excited to work with your new rotation of students for quarter 3.

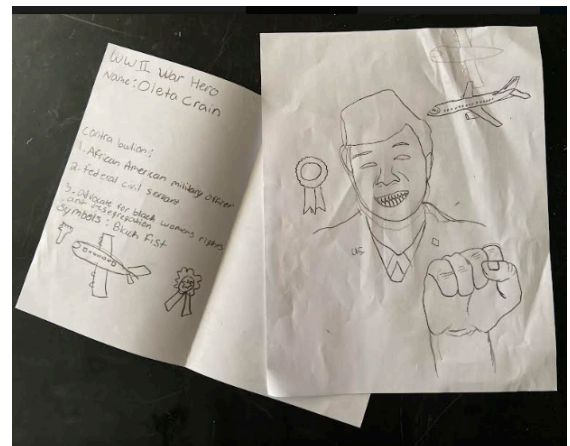
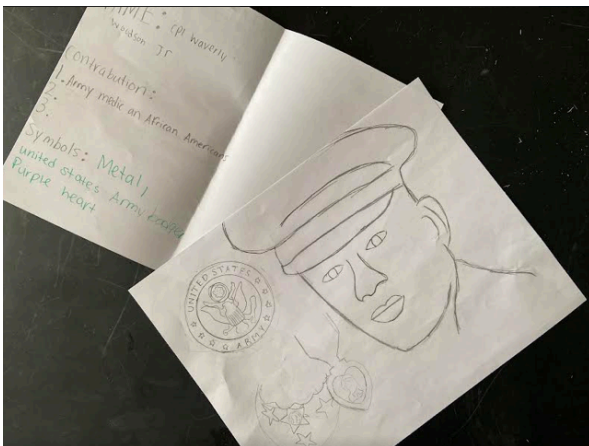
Students created a personalized artwork inspired by Bill Taylors "Folk Art" style. Bill Traylor displayed simplistic characters of animals, plants, and people that are prized today for their innovative aesthetic form and documentation of oppression in the Deep South. Students represented their own visual imagery with flat symbolized characters innspired by "Hot Topics" from their own community and everyday life.



Grade 8

In grade 8 it is wonderful to work with our new rotation of students this quarter. 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.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government is hosting an **Olympic Spirit Week** from February 7th - 11th! Each day will have a different theme. Please see the attached poster for theme days. All students are encouraged to participate.

On February 11th from 3:00pm - 4:15pm, Student Government is hosting our first ever **Staff v. Staff Basketball Game!** Tickets are \$2 and can be purchased before and after school at the TapShack. Please note that this event is only for middle school students. All proceeds of the event will be going to Make a Wish Western New York. Our goal is to help sponsor a local wish for a child in need.

On February 14th, Student Government is hosting a **Pink/Red** Day for Valentine's Day! We hope to see everyone dressed up for the holiday!
Our only meeting for the month of February will be held on February 16th 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) or Mrs. Mastrangelo (mastrangelos@tapestryschool.org).

Happy February!

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.

The poster for Olympic Spirit Week has a light blue background with a faint mountain range. At the top left, the words "OLYMPIC SPIRIT WEEK" are written in a large, bold, black, blocky font. To the right of the text are the five Olympic rings in their traditional colors: blue, yellow, black, green, and red. Below the rings, the dates "February 7 - 11, 2022" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The poster then lists the daily themes: Monday: Jersey Day (Wear your favorite sports jersey!), Tuesday: Team Day (Dress up as a team with your friends and wear the same outfit!), Wednesday: Swap Day (Ever wish you could be a teacher? Dress up as a teacher and the teachers dress up as students!), Thursday: Sports Day (Show off your sports pride and dress up in your sports gear!), and Friday: Make a Wish Day (Wear your best blue to support Make a Wish WNY!).

OLYMPIC SPIRIT WEEK

February 7 - 11, 2022

Monday: Jersey Day
Wear your favorite sports jersey!

Tuesday: Team Day
Dress up as a team with your friends and wear the same outfit!

Wednesday: Swap Day
Ever wish you could be a teacher? Dress up as a teacher and the teachers dress up as students!

Thursday: Sports Day
Show off your sports pride and dress up in your sports gear!

Friday: Make a Wish Day
Wear your best blue to support Make a Wish WNY!