



# Middle School Newsletter

March 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



Within the middle school, we have many exciting events planned for our students that support a positive culture of learning. On March 1st the **March Madness Positive PIRR Crew Competition** started. Students will be trying to earn as many positive PIRR 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 14th** and **School Spirit Week** planned for the week of **March 21st**. We then will recognize **International SEL Day on March 11th**. The month will wrap up with the Talent Show on Thursday, March 24th.



The **final day of the 3rd quarter is Friday, March 18th**, Please be sure to have your child check PowerSchool to see if assignments are missing or can be remediated before March 17th. We will also end the month with the NYS ELA Assessments on March 29th and 30th. Tapestry is not a test-prep school, we view these assessments as another opportunity for students to apply the skills and strategies they have been learning all year and utilizing in their classes. We will view these days as a celebration of learning and look forward to showcasing what we have learned this year.

I will be returning from my maternity leave on March 27th and am very excited to be back with the teachers and students as the last quarter of the year is ahead of us.

Have a healthy and happy March,  
Mrs. Lee



#### UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

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- March 1-31st: March Madness Crew Competition
  - **March 21st-25th: School Spirit Week!**
  - March 24th: Middle School Talent Show (2:45-3:15 PM)
  - March 29-30th: New York State ELA Exam
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Hello Middle School Families,

It feels so great to be back in the Middle School after my maternity leave. March is full month that we have with our students and we often use this time to reset and get back into consistent routines.

We are continuing to hold our students accountable for getting to class on time with our Hallway Sweep initiative. This month our focus has moved towards keeping our students in classes.

Middle school policy and our Grade Level Consistencies allow for students to have 2 passes per day to leave their academic classes for any reason (bathroom, locker, going to the main office, etc.). We keep track of this through the student's agendas. Teachers sign the agenda to allow students to leave the classroom. If a student does not have an agenda, they can get a daily pass sheet from their crew leader or Mr. Lewis (only during crew). We are holding tight to students only leaving their classes 2 times in a day. Students are able to use the restroom during lunches without getting their agendas signed. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to reach out to me in the main office. Thank you for your support with this initiative.

We look forward to welcoming families and caregivers back into the building during March. We ask that if you are coming in to the building you stop in the Main Office to sign in or sign your child out if leaving early. Visitors are required to provide a phone number for contact tracing. This means that meetings can be scheduled in person or virtually upon request.

We also wanted to remind parents that afterschool clubs and office hours are held on Wednesdays-Fridays and end by 3:45 PM. We need all students to be picked up or leave campus by 4:00 PM on these days as there is no supervision for our students after that time. If you are unsure if your child is staying after school, please call the Main Office by 2:00 PM. Our regular dismissal time is 2:33 PM.

We hope you have a Marvelous March!

Mrs. Meshulam

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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 **Perserverance**. 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 **February**.

## 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	Shawn Woods	Hoerner/Cooke	Luciano Greico	Hartke	Leilani Thomas	Heidenreich	Skylar-Rae Mitchell
Fiorella	Aurora Nava	Moore	Makel Norris	Close	Devin Clanton	Hills	Lamaya Dubois
Chudy/Ziomek	Nykia Martin	Brunner	Deshawn Foots	Capestrani	Christian Irizarry	Santora	Desmond Anderson
Tolli	Jamere King	Dehlinger	Kianti Dillard	Frost	Alani Mack	Smerda	Daphanie Da Rosa
McCraith	Demari Thomas	Yager	Deanna Szymanski	Camp/Brew	A'kari Johnson	Mastrangelo	Alonso Ferrell
Kauffman	Kiylee Baylor	Howe	Nicholas McColgin	Hahn	Lonnie Lewis	Ritchey	Kendall Goldsmith
MacDonald	Samuel Paolini	Bailey		Slepian/McFall	Mariana Carrion	Raham	JJ Morales

## COUSELING - JESSICA BEDELL

Happy March!

During the month of March, the middle school makes a point to observe **SEL Day** on **March 11th** and **Say Something Week** which falls on **March 14th-18th** this year.

**SEL Day** celebrates the importance of social/ emotional learning; this year's theme being *Finding Common Ground*. Students will be having open discussions during crew surrounding this topic.

**Say Something Week** was created after the horrific Sandy Hook event that occurred 10 years ago. During the week of March 14th,, school communities are taking time out of their day to have discussions with students surrounding the importance of knowing the signs when a peer may be seriously struggling and whom they can trust to report their concerns.

<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/say-something/say-something-week/>

At Tapestry, our mission is to always be vigilant about having these honest and open discussions with our students. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact me anytime.

Stay Well,  
Jessica

## Visual Art With Nikki Ritchey

### Grade 5

Students are in the process of 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.

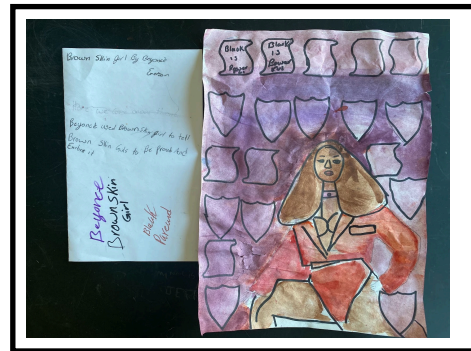


5th Grade, Stephen Smyntek's start of his still life showing value with the use of shadow and color.

### Grade 6

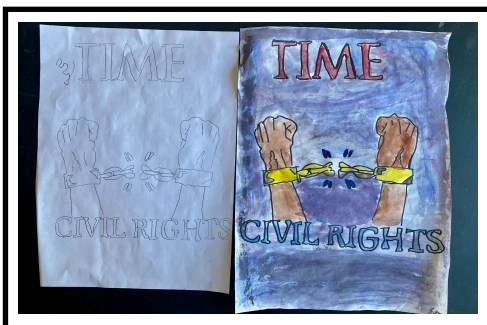
For centuries, artists have created work that explores, reflects on--- and advocates for--- social issues. Art offers powerful opportunities to express our common humanity, challenge assumptions, spark conversation, connect diverse people, inspire wonder, imagine new solutions, and promote action for positive change. It is time to reflect on how "Music" has helped to inspire empathy, which is why they have always played a role in social justice movements. Who are these musicians in the arts who have shifted the way people think about the world? Sour Tapestry Artists used studio art to illustrate these individuals on stage and represented them in a visual image inspired by Faith Ringgold's style.

6th Grade Emerson Bulluck picked the powerful song, Brown Skin Girl by Beyonce



### 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.



8th Grade Starleana Breisch picked the Times magazine layout to show the importance of the Civil Rights Movement



## PERFORMANCE ART

### **Grade 5**

Students are culminating their work on Natural Disasters. Working in groups, the students have learned to simulate extreme weather conditions in their bodies to poetry, maintain stillness tableaux along with a verbal presentation of facts on climate and weather change.

### **Grade 7**

Students prepared short scenes on the topic of ethics in society. Through tableaux and the protest posters they created, they are in the home stretch of rehearsing their scenes that make references to historical incidents in our country where questionable behaviors of human experimentation were performed.

### **Grade 8**

Completed short monologues, and tableaux to work with the topic of propaganda. As a class they're completing a verbal rant using their perspective on how propaganda is prevalent with exposure to artists who have written song on this same topic.

## **MUSIC**

### **5th**

Our 5th grade is wrapping up their introductory unit on the ukulele, having learned a number of short melodies.

### **6th**

Our 6th grade students are excited that construction on Tapestry's new wing is complete and we are back in our permanent music room. The move comes right on time for their final performance for children from the lower school. They have worked hard to learn the American folk song, "My Paddle" on the ukulele and have now expanded the arrangement to include glockenspiel, snare drum and cymbal.

### **7th**

After spending the first half of the quarter on the ukulele, our 7th graders are excited that construction on Tapestry's new wing is complete and we are back in our permanent music room. The move comes right on time for their final performance for the lower school students. They will be playing "See You Again," arranged for ukulele, guitar, glockenspiel, and hand percussion.

## Masks off. Now what?

Dr. Kathleen Grisanti, a pediatrician and Medical Director of Pediatric & Adolescent Urgent Care of WNY, states there are health concerns now that masks are off.

- Children that have been masked for a considerable amount of time haven't been exposed to many germs. That means that their immune systems are a little weaker than they were before.
- Common sicknesses like the common cold, flu, and stomach bugs are expected to run rampant.
- It is important to note that your child's illness does not mean they have COVID-19. There are many other things that can make your child sick. Monitor your child and call their pediatrician if you feel your child is not doing well.



# SPIRIT WEEK

**MARCH 21ST - 25TH**

## Monday: Pajama Day

Start the week off by wearing your comfiest pair of pajamas! Footwear must follow dress guidelines.

## Tuesday: Disney Day

Celebrate the magic of Disney by looking like your favorite character!

## Wednesday: Social Media Day

Dress up as your favorite Influencer, Meme, Tik Tok, or Vine star

## Thursday: Decades Day

Show off your 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, or 2000s style!

## Friday: Formal Day

Wear your fanciest, most formal outfit to end the week in style!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Student Government is  
hosting a Students and Staff**



**All are welcome to  
participate!**

**Thursday  
March 24 3 pm - 4:15 pm**

**Tickets: \$1**

**Concessions will be sold after the  
Talent Show**

**Sign up by March 14th at the  
TapShack before and after school!**



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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On March 17th, Student Government is hosting a **Green** Day for St. Patrick's Day! We hope to see everyone dressed up for the holiday!

**Tapestry Charter Middle School's Annual Talent Show** will be held on **Thursday March 24th** from 3pm - 4:15pm in the High School Cafeteria. Tickets will be sold at the TapShack before and after school for \$1.

**Student Government is hosting a Spring Spirit Week from March 21st - 25th!** Each day will have a different theme. Please see the attached poster for theme days. All students are encouraged to participate.

This year, Student Government will be sponsoring a **Basket Raffle** during the week of SLCs! We will be raising money for Student Government, Make a Wish, and the Ukrainian refugee crisis. We are asking for each crew to donate a basket. Please look out for communication from your child's crew leader for more details about the basket's theme.

**Our only meeting for the month of March will be held on March 30th 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 March!*

*Ms. Smerda and Mrs. Mastrangelo*

## 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.

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