



Tapestry Charter School

An Expeditionary Learning High School of Excellence

2009-2010 Profile

Tapestry Charter
High School

10 Days Park
Buffalo, New York 14201

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C.E.E.B. code: 331087

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Tapestry Charter
High School will
graduate its first senior
class in June 2010

College and university
representatives are
cordially invited to visit.
We are eager to learn
more about your college
and introduce you to
our fine students.

Inquiries should be
directed to:
Tracey Johnson-Cofield
School Counselor
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(716) 204-5883 x124

Tapestry
CHARTER
SCHOOL

Mission Statement

Tapestry Charter School provides a challenging and rigorous education in an environment that emphasizes diversity, collaboration, community, creativity, and leadership. Students are academically and socially prepared to meet the demands of further education while maturing into productive and caring adults with a lifelong passion for learning.

Community

The city of Buffalo, in western New York State, is home to 275,000 residents. The population is economically, ethnically, and racially diverse. Once famous as an industrial boomtown, the city is in a process of revitalization and reinvention. Our current economy provides jobs in the education, health sciences, industrial, light manufacturing, service, and high tech industries.

School History

Tapestry Charter School is a K-12 school with three distinct programs. The school was founded in 2001 with K-4 classes and soon after added the 5-8 program; there is an emphasis on the arts, which is woven into every aspect of the curriculum.

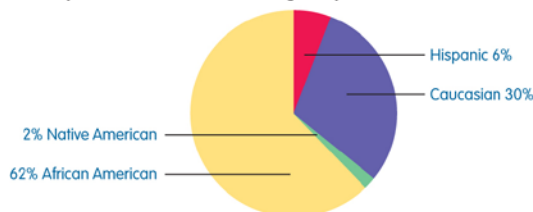
In 2006, **Tapestry Charter High School** opened with an enrollment of 50 students in the class of 2010. The class of 2011 arrived the following year with 75 students, and each subsequent class will be 75 students strong.

Tapestry Charter School has become a name that is synonymous with student engagement, faculty and administrative innovation, and parent involvement. The success of the school programs at every level is evidenced by the popularity of the lottery each year; many more applications are received than can be accommodated.

Currently housed in two separate locations, the high school community will move to a new, state of the art school building in fall 2010, and they'll be joined by the K-8 community in fall 2011.

Student Body

Tapestry Charter High School is ethnically and socio-economically diverse, and students hail from all parts of the city. 56% of the students qualify for free or reduced school lunch.



Faculty

100% of **Tapestry Charter High School** core academics faculty hold advanced degrees.

Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound

"There is more in us than we know. If we are made to see it, perhaps, for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less."
—Kurt Hahn, founder of *Outward Bound*

Tapestry Charter High School was selected by Expeditionary Learning Schools as one of 20 small high schools nationwide to receive significant funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Expeditionary Learning model, a New American Schools design, emphasizes high achievement and college preparation through active learning, character growth, and teamwork. Expeditionary Learning Schools uses research-based best practices in literacy, inquiry-based mathematics, and original research and data collection. Learning is accomplished through academic, cross-disciplinary expeditions, active forms of teaching and learning, and a challenging and supportive school culture.

Pattern of School Day and Year

The use of time in an Expeditionary Learning school is different than that of traditional high schools. Classes in the four core academic areas are allotted a total instructional time exceeding 200 minutes, with 90 minute blocks regularly used for Science and Social Studies. The long blocks and additional minutes allow for academic support to be provided within the classes, and encourage teachers to vary their use of instructional time with an emphasis on active learning.

Teachers are afforded time to plan as a regular part of the daily and weekly schedule, including at faculty and grade level meetings each week.

Tapestry Charter High School operates on a trimester schedule.

Graduation Requirements

In New York State, the minimum program of study leading to graduation includes 22 units, though the vast majority of **Tapestry Charter High School** students complete at least 25.5 units, 18 of which must be in the major academic subjects, as follows:

English	4.0 units
Mathematics	4.0 units
Social Studies	4.0 units
Science	4.0 units
Spanish / Language Other Than English	3.0 units
Physical Education	2.0 units
Arts	2.0 units
Health	0.5 units
Crew	2.0 units
Intensives	1.0 units

Students can take eight or nine Regents Exams in order to earn an Advanced Regents Diploma.

Additional opportunities are offered for students who wish to expand the standard program. Acceleration, in the form of an honors extension program and/or college credit earned through Canisius College and Niagara University, are available for those who master Regents content.

Marking System

Tapestry Charter High School utilizes a Standards Based System for grading. For each class, a minimum of 3.0 is required to earn credit. Students who do not meet that requirement must participate in Summer Extension to reach mastery level and earn credit.

Requires Summer Extension for Credit

<i>Approaching Accomplished</i>	2.5 to 2.9
<i>Failed</i>	1.0 to 2.4

In addition to academic grades, students are also given a Habits Of Work (HOW) grade in each class. The HOW grade is not used to calculate the cumulative GPA but is a factor in determining students of merit and students of distinction.

Intensives

At the end of each trimester, classes are suspended and students participate in one of two types of Intensives: an Enrichment Intensive or an Academic Support Intensive. Each lasts for at least five days.

Enrichment Intensives allow those students who have earned a minimum of 3.0 in academic and Habits Of Work (HOW) areas to choose from an array of educational elective courses. For example, during a recent Photography Intensive, six students worked with a professional photographer to study the medium, design a photo essay, photograph specific features of the city, develop the photographs at a professional gallery, and display the finished project at the world-renowned Albright Knox Art Gallery.

Academic Support Intensives provide those students who are not on track to achieve a passing mark of 3.0 the time and opportunity to work toward mastery of learning targets. Teachers can provide highly individualized support during this time.

Student-Led Conferences and Passage Portfolios

At the conclusion of each trimester, students present a portfolio of exemplary work to their crew leader and family. Questions about student performance, remediation, and extension are addressed at the conclusion of the conference.

In the final trimester of 10th grade, each student must satisfactorily present a Passage Portfolio to a panel of faculty representatives and community leaders in order to earn promotion to 11th grade. The portfolio includes documentation and reflection on academic achievements, personal growth, and expeditionary learning.

Each 12th grade student creates a second, more extensive portfolio over the course of the year that is presented to a graduation panel. This portfolio is a documentation of academic and personal growth as well as the individualized investigation and internship experiences.

The process of creating and presenting two portfolios is a cornerstone of the Tapestry Charter High School curriculum.

Crew

Crew is a daily 30 minute meeting between a faculty Crew Leader and a small group of 10 to 12 students with each Crew assignment to span a minimum of two years. Meetings include discussions of academic progress and grade-based guidance curriculum. Objectives of Crew are to root each student in the school community, while preparing them for post-secondary options. Students develop a sense of accountability and connectedness through this group. Crew is another cornerstone of Tapestry Charter High School.

Sustained Silent Reading

20 minutes of every school day are devoted to Sustained Silent Reading. Students and staff may read any purposeful book, periodical, or newspaper.

Formal Partnerships

Professional Development School of Canisius College,
Buffalo, New York

Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound

Grants

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Walton Family Foundation

The Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation

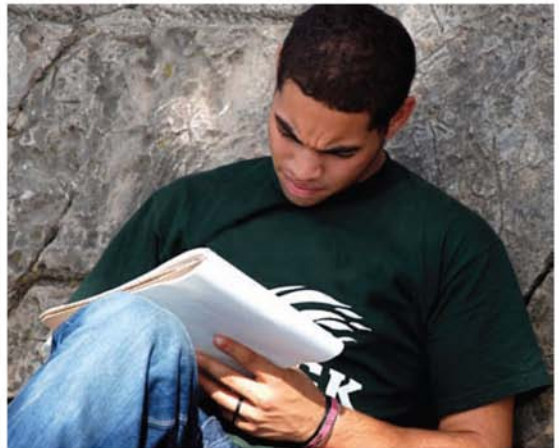
East Hill Foundation

Toyota Foundation

Accreditation and Memberships

Tapestry Charter School is authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York and the New York State Board of Regents

Tapestry Charter School is governed by an 11 member Board of Trustees





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Class of 2010 Profile

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Grading Scale Conversion/Standards Based System:

Exemplary	
4.0	99 to 100%
3.8 to 3.9	95%
3.5 to 3.7	90%
Accomplished	
3.2 to 3.4	85%
3.0 to 3.1	80%
Conditional	
2.5 to 2.9	65 to 75%
Failed	
2.0 to 2.4	60 to 64%
1.5 to 1.9	55 to 59%
1.0 to 1.4	50%

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