

Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.



January 29, 2021

I'm feeling extremely appreciative this week. Our community has constantly shown support to our teachers, so I know that I am preaching to the choir when I say your student/s Middle School teachers are truly working as hard as I have ever seen teachers work. Capacity is a word that I have never heard thrown around more than in the 20-21 school year. As we all fade in and out of being "at capacity", consider having a conversation with your student (if you haven't already) about how hard teachers are working right now. Middle Schoolers, depending on age, are starting to be able to take in this kind of information and develop empathy. If you are looking for a project this week, I suggest a card or supportive email for your child to send to a teacher that they feel lucky to have. A little student love can go a long way for our teachers right now. I hope for all of you the chance to fill your own bucket this weekend.

Yours in the work,

~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean

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Middle School Schedule and Transitioning Update

We are two weeks away from bringing back our fifth grade A and B cohorts. Teachers are busy preparing for that re-entry. It's like having a second first day of school. Things to be thinking about could be: labeling Winter clothes, tracking down Hausschuhe and other school supplies, and organizing backpacks. Teachers will begin on 2/18 by reviewing safety protocols and expectations.

As a reminder for all, here is our schedule. I have left the video below for those that didn't watch it last week. It details our schedule.

	K-2	3-5	6-8
Jan. 25-29	Distance Learning M-T NO Instruction Th-F (Teacher Work Days) Async Instruction: W	Distance Learning M-T NO Instruction Th-F (Teacher Work Days) Async Instruction: W	Distance Learning Async Instruction: W
Feb. 1-5	In person: M, T, Th, F Async Instruction: W	Distance Learning Async Instruction: W	Distance Learning Async Instruction: W
Feb. 8-12	In person: M, T, Th, F Async Instruction: W	Distance Learning Async Instruction: W	Distance Learning Async Instruction: W
Feb. 15-19	Holiday/No School: M, T In person: Th, F Async Instruction: W	Holiday/No School: M, T In person Th-F Async Instruction: W	Holiday/No School: M, T NO Instruction Th-F (Teacher Work Days) Async Instruction: W
Feb. 22-26	In person: M, T, Th, F Async Instruction: W	In person: M, T, Th, F Async Instruction: W	Distance Learning Async Instruction: W
March 1-5	In person: M, T, Th, F Async Instruction: W	In person: M, T, Th, F Async Instruction: W	In person or Hybrid: M, T, Th, Fr (COVID #s pending) Async Instruction: W
March 8-12	In person: M, T Async Instruction: W No School: Th, F	In person: M, T Async Instruction: W No School: Th, F	In person or Hybrid: M, T (COVID #s pending) Async Instruction: W No School: Th, F

I understand that looking at this can be frustrating. I made a [video](#) to help you through it.

Looking Ahead

New Stuff:

Special Central High School Open House THIS WEEK!:

Saint Paul Central High School will be hosting a special pre-Open House meeting just for our incoming TCGIS families from 4:30-5:00 on February 4th. This will not take the place of the Open House but will be specific to the German Immersion program so parents should be encouraged to attend the Open House following the meeting as well. I have attached the flyer I received from Central. In addition, Central put together folders for 8th grade families containing registration and course information. Feel free to stop by the TCGIS materials and pick up to grab yours. Most of the information can be found on the Central High School website. Here is the link for that: [Zoom Link](#)

Reminders:

Class of 2021 Make-Up Capstone Trip Meeting

Although we are heartbroken about our inability to travel to Germany, visit exchange partners and have our 8th grade Capstone trip, we are excited to announce that we are currently working on a travel opportunity for the class of 2021 and potentially 2020 in the summer of 2022. We invite 8th graders and their families to a meeting to hear the beginnings of this plan. Please join us via Zoom on February 18th at 7:30pm to learn more. Link coming as we get closer to this date.

First 7th Grade 2022 Capstone Trip Meeting

Save the Date! The first meeting for the 7th graders' Capstone trip to Germany in 2022 will be held on **March 4th at 7:00pm** via Zoom. Link coming soon to your Email inbox. Note the date change from last week.

Black History Month Opportunity to Celebrate

***New Information Added Here

To celebrate Black History Month the TCGIS Library is hosting an online Read-In for 4th-8th grade students on **Wednesday, February 24 from 1:45-2:30pm**. The goal of our Read-In is to celebrate the works of African-American and African-German authors while spotlighting the importance of reading from racially-diverse authors.

How it works:

On February 24 we will be having an online ZOOM event in which students in 4th-8th grade are invited to read *and/or* listen to works from African American or African-German authors. This includes essays, poetry, books, etc.

Note: This does not include books about racially-diverse characters by white authors.

****ALL students in grades 4th-8th grade are welcome to attend, not only those who would like to read. In fact, it is just as essential to listen as it is to present!****

If you would like to read a text, please send Mary Zimmerman at mzimmerman@tcgis.org to sign-up. Please tell me your book, author, and the page numbers you'd like to read (in case someone else would like to share the same book). **I understand it may be difficult to find books in German and therefore English or German is also okay.** While you're not required to say anything after your reading, you are welcome to share why you chose to share this particular passage or book, something about the author, or anything else you feel relevant. Please keep in mind that each sign-up slot is THREE-FOUR minutes in order to include as many readers as possible within our time frame.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 820 3249 0839

Passcode: 237521

7th Grade Math Scores Presentation

In November, Dr. Jessie Kember and I presented to the Parent Council on the state of Math in the 7th grade. We dove into the data and explained where we thought this class has landed in their math achievement. The presentation helped to increase confidence among the council members that Math is on the right track here at TCGIMS and additionally, helped the lay person have a stronger understanding of the data and screener results.

Dr. Kember and I would like to offer this presentation for all 7th Grade families on:

February 23rd at 7pm via Zoom. Here is the [link](#).

