

# Middle School Newsblatt

*Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.*



February 26th

TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

For some next week marks a big change, a return to school. Our A and B cohorts will be joining us starting March 1st and we will once again have four grades of Middle School students in our hallways. Our Distance Learners will remain in their C cohorts with their current teachers and current schedules. There is no change for these students. We have two groups of students that will be learning in two very different models of school. Our work going forward is equity in that learning. The Middle School Team will be brainstorming ways to hold these two groups together both academically and socially. We see the challenges ahead, but within that, there is much support in the form of responsive teaching and kind and curious students and families. I look forward to what feels like our third version of a school year.

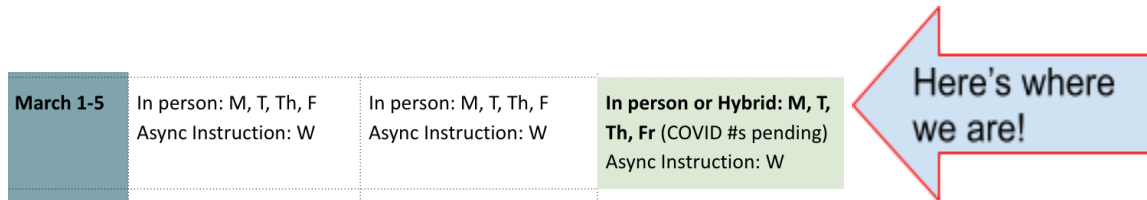
Yours in the work,

*~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean*

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## Middle School Schedule and Transitioning Update

We are moving into our next transition which is to bring our A and B cohorts of 6th, 7th and 8th grade into In Person learning.



### 5th grade In Person Transition:

5th graders had their first full week this week and it was great to see them getting into the swing of things. Thanks to MS Coordinator Rachael Schlee for communicating to parents what our back to school needs were.

### 6th-8th grade In Person Transition:

Thanks to MS Coordinator Kevin Eberhard for sending out 6th -8th grade communication on Wednesday for A and B cohorts returning to school on March 1st. Here is the [email](#) in doc form.

### 5th -8th grade Distance Cohorts:

I would like to reiterate that we are only returning to In Person learning for those that chose Hybrid at the beginning of the year. These are our A and B cohorts. There is still an executive order mandating us to offer Distance and so we will continue to offer Distance to our C Cohorts.

For our students staying in our Distance Learning Cohorts, there are no changes to your schedule. We chose to keep the Block Schedule in our In Person learning which allows us to offer no transition for our Distance learners. The only change that may happen is in which Specialist students will have. See section below on Specialists.

We know that the next weeks ahead of us have us working on bringing our two different pieces of the Middle School together. Emily Albers, Student Council advisor and I are

working on some ideas. We want to make sure we stay united as one school despite our two different paths for the remainder of the year. Stay tuned.

### **7th/8th Specialists Changes**

In order to make our In Person learning work better with our specialists in the 7th and 8th grade, we needed to make a few changes. We were currently mixing cohorts to give students more choice. In order to keep our safety mitigations of no cohort mixing, we needed to restructure how we do these courses. We took into consideration courses that were lending themselves easier to Distance vs. In Person and we prioritized getting our 8th graders in the new gym as it is their last chance! 7th and 8th grade specialists will be as follows:

5th Rotation (Starting in one week)

7A Art	8A Sport
7B Year	8B Drama
7C/8th DL	

6th Rotation and Final for Year

7A	8A Drama
7B	8b Sport
7C/8th DL	

### **Responsible Tech Usage Agreements**

In Advisory this week, In Person students will be signing this [responsible tech usage](#) agreement. Teachers are noticing and have anticipated the need to revisit expectations around school and tech use is a big part of that. Most kids have had tech at their disposal for the past few months and we will continue to tow the line on acceptable school use. We will be sending out a form to collect parent signatures documenting the understanding of this agreement. Thank you in advance for partnering with us on educational piece.

### **Lernzeit**

As we return to school, we are reimagining what the last two hours of school look. We kept our Block Schedule to eliminate one more transition for our students and to make Distance Learning more doable for our DL cohorts. That leaves us with a great opportunity to structure the last chunk of time we have with our students. If you are wondering as a parent of a student coming in what that time will look like, or if you as a Distance Learning

family would like to see what we have planned to model your time after it, here is our Lernzeit Schedule.

### Lernzeit

1:35-1:55	Grosse Pause --Kids are outside
2:00-2:20	Quiet Work Time/Checklist--Kids are finishing up any assigned work from teachers Suggestions: Give reminder for break 5 minutes out
2:20-2:25	Movement Break(Gonoodle, Yoga etc)
*2:25-2:45	Mon/Thurs: Continue with Checklist/Individual Quiet Time--Students bring things to do(reading, games, cards, crafts, socializing encouraged) Tues: Academic Enrichment--We will focus on Women's History Month for March. Friday: Fernseher Freitag--Groups choose a German Kids program to watch together
2:45-2:50	Wheel of Fun/Spaßrad--Coming Soon!
2:45-3:15	German Enrichment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classes will choose from German Enrichment Page Options</li> <li>● Kids read German books from Libray</li> <li>● Kids listen to German Music together</li> <li>● Send kids out a few at a time to get ready for dismissal beginning at 3:10.</li> </ul>

## Looking Ahead

### First 7th Grade 2022 Capstone Trip Meeting

Next Week! The first meeting for the 7th graders' Capstone trip to Germany in 2022 will be held on **March 4th at 7:00pm** via [Zoom](#).



