

Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.



February 12th,

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

The Middle School is so excited to welcome back our 5th graders next week. Next week's schedule is different by grade level. I'll refer you to yesterday's Elternbrief announcement and the schedule on the next page for further information. 5th grade families can expect separate communication soon.

Looking forward to the second 1st day of school,

~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean

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Next Week's Middle School Schedule and Transitioning Update

All students 5th through 8th grade: There is no school Monday or Tuesday for Winter Break. School is asynchronous on Wednesday for all grade, as we have had all year.

5th Grade Cohorts 5A and 5B: Thursday and Friday, all of 5A and 5B will be back in classes. Students will keep their Block Schedule that they have been using in Distance Learning.

5th Graders in 5C: Thursday and Friday will be normal Distance Learning days and you will continue with your usual schedule.

All Cohorts in Grades 6th-8th: Thursday and Friday will be days off for you. Teachers are given two days by the state to prepare for a transition. There will be no lessons or work. However, teachers have assured me that there are MN History Projects for students to work on as that competition is approaching.

	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

Block Scheduling to Continue

The Middle School has chosen to remain in the block schedule as we slowly bring our Middle Schoolers back into our building. Our teachers noticed that this schedule was allowing them to go deeper into the standards and curriculum with their students. We also value it as opposed to another transition. Educators know that transitions are difficult for students and any we can avoid is good practice. Utilizing the block schedule will also allow us to keep our Distance Cohorts in a manageable at home schedule and to position us better to keep our Distance and In Person/Hybrid cohorts in the same place in the curriculum. Teachers in the Middle School vote unanimously to keep this Block Schedule and I am supporting that decision. We are not committing to it for the next year, but for the remainder of this unprecedented school year, we feel solidly that it is the right choice. We continue to give student breaks in the middle of these longer sessions and will continue so at school.

Looking Ahead

Next Week Thursday: Class of 2021 Make-Up Capstone Trip

If you are interested in learning more about the potential for a Capstone-like trip to Germany for our Class of 2020 alumni who were unable to travel last year due to Covid, please join us **Thursday, Feb. 18, and 7:30 pm in [Zoom](#)**.

At this meeting we will share the preliminary itinerary, the cost, and the family stay in more detail. Please feel free to [ask questions you may already have in this form](#) prior to the meeting. The Zoom link will be in the TCGIS Public Calendar as well and we will record this meeting in case you are unable to attend.

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.

Continuing News: Black History Month Opportunity to Celebrate

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](#).

