

# Middle School Newsblatt

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



5. März,

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

*It was wonderful to see the building bustling with more students this week. As In Person classes resumed for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of our students, it began to look a little bit more like school as we used to know it. Thank you to the Middle School teachers who made coming back look easy. Thank you to the Middle School students for transitioning to yet another way to do school for this 20-21 school year.*

*As a Dean, it feels rewarding to once again be surrounded by the visible signs of kids learning. As an educator mom who leaves her kids home everyday to come to work, I am reminded that our community is split right now and that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our students are still removed from the daily happenings of TCGIS. I'm choosing to be vulnerable in this moment to show how invested I am in making sure that our community stays together though this. It is as important as ever to make our Distance learners feel part of our school. To the teachers still teaching in Distance Learning, we thank you. To the students still learning at home, we see you. To the families helping them, we hear you. Gemeinsam sind wir stark.*

*~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean*

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# Middle School Happenings

## Specialists 5th Rotation--Begins Monday

Our 5th and 6th Graders will be in this rotation:

A Cohorts	Art
B Cohorts	Sport
C Cohorts	Drama

Our 7th and 8th Graders will be in this rotation:

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

As a reminder, these selections needed to be changed due to our Safety Guidelines and mitigations for not mixing cohorts. Some students may be in something they did not choose. In a few instances with students who moved cohorts, students may be repeating an elective. Teachers are aware of these and are adjusting their curriculum accordingly and are involving students in the choice activities to give some of those freedoms back. Our specialist teachers Jon Dahl, Kevin Tocko, Mary Henry, Catie Jacobs and Rebecca Bilbro deserve accolades this year. They have been the most flexible group of teachers I have ever worked with. Their attention to their craft and student needs is remarkable.

## Responsible Tech Usage Agreements

Students have discussed responsible technology usage with advisory teachers and have signed this form. In our continuing efforts to reduce waste at TCGIS, we are collecting parent/guardian signatures with this Google Form. Please acknowledge receipt of this agreement with this form:

[Responsible Tech Agreement Family Signatures](#)

# Looking Ahead

## Sexual Education and Social Health Education Sessions Coming Soon

TCGIS is excited to announce that our Sexual Education and Social Health Education courses will begin to happen in the middle of March. We had to hoan our focus on Sex Ed and Identity education this year due to several factors, but are excited to report the our Middle schoolers will have the following topics in the following grade levels:

- 5th Grade will explore Identity, including sexual identity and gender identity/Racial identity will be explored through the YWCA at a later date.
- 6th Grade will have Birth Control and Reproduction as their focus.
- 7th Grade will have Internet Safety and a second one later on Healthy Relationships.
- 8th Grade will begin with Mental Health and segue into Substance Abuse later this Spring.

Each cohort or class will have an individualized and interactive 50-90 minute online live session with Sexual and Social Health Education Expert, [Clarissa Herman](#). Clarissa owns her own business and is a Sexual Health Educator who is excited to partner with Twin Cities German Immersion School. Parent letters will go out one week prior to each session which will all be held on Wednesdays. In these more individualized letters, parents will see a more detailed list of topics that will be discussed and will have the option to opt out as that is the parent right in Minnesota.

## Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are happening this spring!

We have received guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education to plan for in-person MCAs for all students this year. Please keep an eye open for communication about further details in the upcoming weeks. Our Dean of Academic Support and her team are planning on how to best execute this for all of our students.



