



Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

Der 2. Januar 2023

Frohes Neues Jahr! Happy New Year. As a life-long educator, I have less attachment to the New Year than other non-educator adults. My new year has always begun in September. So for me, January means wrapping up the semester and starting a new one. Next week our teachers will be working on Semester One grades. During this time you will see Infinite Campus closed to parents. We begin our second semester on January 17th. Students in grades 5 and 6 will not see any changes to their schedules. 7th and 8th-grade students will see their specialists change. We will get those new schedules out to students soon.

We have much to look forward to in the second semester. A winter dance is on the horizon. We are hoping to bring back the Afton Alps trip and will survey student interest this week. We will continue preparing for our Spring Waldsee and Capstone trips. I hope your student(s) is/are looking forward to the next half of our 2022-2023 school year.

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

Yours in the work,

*~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean
ezehnpfennig@tcgis.org*



What's Happening in our Middle School

Social-Emotional Feature

From the Desk of our Social Worker, Frau Erwin

TCGIS Parent/Caregivers Support Group

Join the PBIS at Home group meeting once a month.

Create and maintain a safe, structured, consistent home environment where adult-child relationships are strengthened. This group will be hands-on in building PBIS at home aligned with the school PBIS. Exchange with other parents ideas and thoughts and feel empowered.

Not sure yet....no worries you can just peek in, get to know the group, and give input on how this group could support you.

The group takes place once a month on a weekday 7-8 pm zoom or/and in person. [Sign up here](#)

Family Handbook Feature

Every month I like to feature a reminder from our Family Handbook which is located under Family Resources on our TCGIS website. This month's feature comes on the heels of a major gift-giving season. I imagine there are many students out there that received a new tech device or maybe a phone. This is the age where phones are becoming a way to teach responsibility and acknowledge growth. I want to remind families to have conversations with their children about the rules around outside tech devices in school. And I want to remind families that students are to use the main office phone to call home in case of illness. Our handbook reads:

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

*Students must not use personal electronic devices such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, game devices, or MP3 players during the school day without permission from a teacher** or administration. If a student brings such an electronic device to school, the device must remain in the student's locker or backpack for the entire day. Teachers have the authority to*

confiscate a personal electronic device from a student if they see or hear it and may return it to the student at the end of the hour, or at the end of the school day. Further device-related disruptions may result in disciplinary action. Exceptions for medical reasons should go through the health office and Health Service Associate. **Students may not contact parents on their cell phones to come to pick them up for illness.** Students must check in with the Health Office and the Health Service Associate will determine if a phone call needs to be made to parents.

Sportecke-click here for our Sports Updates

Waldsee Trip for 6th Grade–Reminder that the first payment is 1/15

Information from the Informational Meeting: Here is the [parent/guardian meeting presentation](#) from October 2022.

Students must hand in the following paperwork by Friday, January 15, 2023:

- [permission slip](#)
- [health Form](#)
- [behavior contract](#)

Hard copies of these forms are available in Herr Tabisz's classroom.

Timeline

- **Friday, January 15, 2023**
Deadline for an initial payment of \$100* and forms
- **Monday, February 28, 2023**
Deadline for final payment of \$350* (total payment of \$450*)
- **Monday-Thursday, May 15-18, 2023**

**Finances should not determine whether students can participate in the trip. Please contact [Chris Tabisz](#) with any questions about financial questions or other general questions.*

8th-Grade Families–The Transition to High School

Our first event to help our 8th graders transition to high school will be Thursday, January 19th at 7 pm. I invite you and your future high schooler to join us virtually to listen to our students' questions being answered by TCGIS alumni attending Central High School, Edison High School, and St. Louis Park High School. The purpose of the night is to hear from actual high school students about how their transition was and to hear about how German is –or isn't–continued at these schools. Your 8th grader will get an email this week with a link to a form that will collect questions to guide our conversation.

8th Grade Families and Students High School Panel Night

Thursday, January 19 · 7:00 – 7:50 pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/kkh-mrdc-igv>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-324-1455 PIN: 739 420 272#



Capstone Corner

January payment is around the corner. As a reminder, payments can be made in the [Infinite Campus School Store](#) or by check with your child's name in the memo.

Partnerships will be revealed this month. We are making a few final adjustments and giving our partner schools time to get back in the swing of things at school after a long holiday.