



March 2023

Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

Der 5. Maerz 2023

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

The middle school is busier than ever. So busy, that this is the first time in 3 years that the Newsblatt has been late. My apologies. We are busy planning for the class of 2023's Capstone trip, and the class of 2024's Capstone trip. We are getting ready to take the 6th graders to Waldsee. The 5th-grade families are meeting this Thursday to brainstorm *Challenge and Support* for them. Spring sports started and winter sports wrapped up. MCAs and the DSD I begin this week. I am busy interviewing new teachers and planning for next year's school year. I understand the term *March Madness* more now than ever before!

Hope to see you all at Maskenball!

Yours in the work,

~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, k-8 Principal

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What's Happening in our Middle School

Social-Emotional Feature

Reminder to all 5th-grade families:

We would like to invite you to an in-person discussion with 5th-grade families and TCGIS administration from **6 pm to 7 pm on Thursday, March 9th** in our TCGIS cafeteria. This talented group of students is presenting with a variety of challenges in behavior, self-regulation, and self-control. This particular group has had many adversities over their time at TCGIS including a pandemic and mid-year departures of teachers. 5th grade is a big transition point in these kiddos' TCGIS life and in the spirit of our value "Challenge and Support" we want to come together to talk about what interventions and supports we have used to assist these students and what we can do together to provide additional support going forward.

RSVP with this [Form](#).

This week:

Wednesday students are taking the Reading Portion of the MCAs, our statewide assessment. Thursday 8th graders are taking the DSD I, the Deutsches Sprachdiplom, our capstone German assessment.

We encourage all students to Be present, Be prepared and Be Awesome.



Family Handbook Feature

I like to feature a section of the Family Handbook every month. I chose this month's feature due to the springtime bringing about a certain "senioritis" in all students. Please review these commitments and discuss them with your student.

Commitments(as featured on page 8 of our handbook)

TCGIS has an active partnership between the school board, school employees and families; together, all of us work towards building a strong community.

School Board's Commitment

- *Demonstrate by attitude and actions genuine concern and respect for each student, family, staff, and board members.*
- *Oversees governance, financial management and leadership supervision based on the school's mission, vision and strategic plan.*
- *Ensures effective organizational planning, provides and manages resources, and monitors and strengthens the program and services at TCGIS.*
- *Ensures legal and ethical integrity within the school and maintains accountability.*
- *Creates and reviews all school policies in compliance with the Minnesota Department of Education and the school's mission and vision.*

Administration's Commitment

- *Demonstrate by attitude and actions genuine concern and respect for each student, family, staff, and board members.*
- *Create an organized, safe, and supportive learning environment for teachers, parents and students.*
- *Manage school affairs responsibly to ensure sustainability and continuous improvement.*
- *Communicate consistently and openly with teachers, parents, students, and community members.*
- *Abide by all school policies.*

Teachers' Commitment

- *Demonstrate by attitude and actions genuine concern and respect for each student, family, staff, and board members.*
- *Partner with parents in discussions on the academic progress and conduct of students on a regular basis.*
- *Plan and conduct a program of instruction that captures the interest and meets the needs of each student.*
- *Manage classroom routines that contribute to the immersion program and the Responsive Classroom environment.*
- *Teach and enforce the rules in a courteous, consistent, and fair manner, and deal with misconduct quickly, fairly and impartially.*
- *Abide by all school policies.*

Parent's Commitment

- *Demonstrate by attitude and actions genuine concern and respect for each student, family, staff, and board members.*
- *Make sure each child regularly arrives to school on time and is prepared to learn.*
- *Encourage daily effort and work for children.*
- *Communicate respectfully with the teacher and student about any concerns.*
- *Speak directly to any person with whom you have a concern. If the concern cannot be resolved directly, the parties can mutually reach out to the school administration for mediation and support, or to the school board chair if the issue concerns administration.*
- *Attend parent-teacher conferences.*
- *Whether through volunteering or financial means, support school programs.*
- *Abide by all school policies.*

Student's Commitment

- *Come to school ready to learn.*
- *Pay attention with eyes, ears, and body.*
- *Speak, read and write German at school with everybody.*
- *Do any homework every day.*
- *Strive for success every day.*
- *Demonstrate by attitude and actions genuine concern and respect for other students and TCGIS staff.*
- *Follow school rules.*



Middle School Sports

[Sportecke](#)-Sportfans click here for our Sports Updates



Capstone Corner

Thanks to all who volunteered at the Capstone Cafe at the Middle School Dance. We raised about \$500.00 to help our trip costs. We plan to do another dance in Spring so stay tuned.

By now all students have a partner and should be corresponding with them. Please ask your student if they are holding up their end of that important communication.

Next Thursday is our first Capstone Assembly and we will meet with all students that are traveling to begin talking about the logistics of our group travel and exchange.