



TWIN CITIES
**German
Immersion**
SCHOOL

Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

Der 1. Dezember 2022

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

At last night's Board meeting, I presented the findings from the Bullying Survey all middle school students took last month in our advisory period. I compiled the results as well as some takeaways by grade level. Please see the [presentation](#) attached here for your perusal. I take bullying complaints very seriously and work hard to make sure all TCGIS students feel safe and that they belong. If your child is reporting bullying to you at home, please let me know or let them know to involve a teacher. There is a [bullying reporting form](#) located on our TCGIS website for ease. This form would then be emailed to me. For your additional information, I am including the [flow chart](#) I use in my office to determine with kids if the experience they are having is bullying or some other infraction.

Yours in the work,

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



What's Happening in our Middle School

Social-Emotional Feature

Transitioning back to school after a holiday break is difficult for all kids, but more difficult for some. We saw a heavy response on Monday from our 5th graders and some of our more sensitive students. We have another big break coming up and the transition back to school on January 3rd has the potential to be more difficult. Here is a [great article](#) about how to help your kiddo transition more effectively.

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 the teachers asked me to remind families about toys. Our handbook states:

Toys and Games

Students must not use non-TCGIS-supplied toys or games during the school day without special permission from a teacher (such as, for instance, for show-and-tell).

Please help us enforce this rule with students by talking about it at home. We understand kids' desire to have their things with them, but the distractions they cause are not conducive to learning. Thanks for your support on this.

SPORTECKE

Basketball season starts!

Come cheer on the 5/6 and 7/8 basketball teams play ([calendar](#))! We've got home games on December 1, 14 and 16.

The games for the new year will be updated on the calendar once the schedule has been finalized. Stay tuned!

Immer Sportlich heading to Nationals

At our last regular season meet, [2022 USA Track-and-Field Minnesota Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships](#) in early November, 39 of our harriers qualified for Nationals.

We've got nine Immers who will represent TCGIS at the [2022 USA Track-and-Field National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships](#) in College Station, Texas, on Saturday, December 10. Viel Glück bei den Nationalmeisterschaften!



Skiers wait anxiously for the snow!

Our Nordic skiers are heading into their second season with competitions planned at Theodore Wirth Park later in the season. Until we've got enough snow on the ground, our Immers are preparing themselves with intense dryland training.

Running, jumping, throwing inside

We just started our indoor track-and-field season. The first meet is at Bethel University on the 200-meter indoor track on Sunday, December 11. The meet is hosted by [USA Track-and-Field Minnesota](#) and is open to all who would like to compete.

Waldsee Trip for 6th Grade

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.*

DSD I Information

The DSD1 examination is an official German language certificate of the German education authorities and the German Foreign Office certifying levels of knowledge of the German language in all

competencies at partner schools around the world. Our 8th graders are registering now to take it in Spring. **Registration is due tomorrow. Please email Kevin Eberhard with any questions.**

Facts About the DSD (This information is good for all parents grades 5-8 to know)

The DSD1 exam is structured as follows:

Reading

This section tests the candidates reading comprehension by presenting several short and long pieces of writing followed by comprehension questions with simple filling (multiple choice, true/false, ticking, cloze texts). The reading part consists of five individual parts and lasts for 70 min (60 min working time + 10 min transfer time).

Listening

In this section, the candidate is presented with several recordings and asked to fill out comprehension questions regarding the selections played. The five individual parts of the listening section include short and simple dialogues of ca. 60 words, as well as descriptive monologues of ca. 450 words, and lasts for 50 min (40 min working time + 10 min transfer time).

Writing

In this section, the candidate is asked to prove her/his writing skills by tackling three central questions and a sample text. The working time for this section is 75 min and the exam is handwritten.

Speaking

This section is divided into three parts and lasts for 15 min. The first part consists of a guided conversation where the candidate is prompted by the examiner, and the second part consists of a short monologue on a defined subject followed by answering questions on the presented subject. The third is questions to the candidate on the presentation.

Grading: Each of the four test sections (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) accounts for 25% of the exam. Per tested section, it is possible to acquire a maximum of 24 points, and, depending on the acquired points in each section, the language proficiency level of said section is decided.

In general, a student needs 8 points to reach the A2 level and 12-14 points to reach B1 level. Only if a student passes all 4 sections of the test with the B1 level the student has passed the DSD I exam. Failing in 1 section leads to failing the whole DSD I exam. The test can be repeated in the following year. All sections need to be repeated then.

All students receive a 3-4 week specific DSD training during German class where they get acquainted with the specific formalities of the DSD exam.

8th-Grade Families–The Transition to High School

The time is just around the corner for you and your 8th grader to be choosing a high school. To assist with this important decision, TCGIS middle school puts on a few events in the next few months.

1. Central Shadowing Day

I am currently working with Central to bring back the shadowing day that our students did before the pandemic. This would be a half day or so shadowing a TCGIS alum or other Central student to see what Saint Paul Central has to offer. This is the school that continues our German Immersion program and integrates it into an IB (International Baccalaureate) program. Central continues with German in 9th through 12th grade. This will be offered on a day when TCGIS does not have school and will rely on parent carpooling and transportation.

2. Central Teacher Visit

In addition to taking our students to Central, Herr Bublitz and Herr Richmond, Central's German teachers, will visit our students at TCGIS to give them more information about this program sometime after the Winter Break and to teach a mini-lesson.

3. Virtual High School Panel

Sometime in January, we will have our 3rd annual Virtual High School panel night. We bring in high school students from all grades from Central, St. Louis Park, and usually, Minneapolis Edison to answer questions from our 8th graders and parents. They will talk about what German is like where they are but also everything from sports to homework load to handling stress. It's an online forum for which I gather questions ahead of time and moderate for parents and students to join. It's a really great night!

4. Registration & Enrollment

Because our TCGIS students have a guaranteed spot for 37 Freshmen at Central, at some point the 9th-grade counselors will reach out to me with information about registration. I believe it was last year in March. If you are undecided about your student going to Central, I recommend beginning to tour other schools in December and learning what their enrollment processes are. If it is your neighborhood

school, they will take you automatically. If you are hoping to open-enroll, that process should begin in December. Those things will all happen before Central asks for a commitment. It's good to have options!

I may be biased as the mom of a Central Student or the former high school teacher of a big public school, but I have been super impressed with my kiddo's experience at Central. Herr Bublitz is top-notch and the kids are steadily increasing their German skills. I remember when TCGIS started all those years ago with a kindergarten and first grade and wanting so badly to have a child to send there. Never did I imagine someday I would be able to offer my children a K-12 German Immersion experience right here in St.Paul.



Capstone Corner

Katharina and I met with our partner schools this week and we are really close to having all of our partnerships sorted. They are still looking for a family or two and as soon as we have that information solidified, we will reach out to our students to let them know. Thanks for the support and patience as we work with colleagues from three different schools an ocean away!



