



Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

Der 1. November 2022

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

We closed out October with a bang of a parade at TCGIS on Monday. There was a lot of joy on the faces of our students. As we move into a month of giving thanks, I am grateful for our middle school families and their continued engagement. In the last few weeks, I have had the privilege of working with a few families on some difficult issues and have seen what can truly come out of a partnership among teachers, students, families, and administrators. Thank you, families, for doing the hard work with me. Thank you for partnering with me on this part of your student's educational journey. TCGIS is an amazing community and I am so thankful to be part of it.

mit dankbaren Grüßen,

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



What's Happening in our Middle School

Social-Emotional Feature

October saw the continuation of Bullying Prevention month in our middle school. We continue to work on defining bullying and giving our students tools when they discover it, either as a victim or a bystander. Last week our students took a Bullying Survey to coincide with Parent Council's parent survey. My team will be looking at this data and using it to inform practice and interventions. Stay tuned!

After the return from fall break, the Middle School started our Power Up Thursdays and Fridays. We have created groups for students to elect into that will provide skill-building opportunities and leadership opportunities. Our Thursday groups will have topics like Stress Management and Organization. Our Friday groups are the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), Student Council, and a new yet-to-be-named Diversity Leadership club. The students will be providing this group with a name! All these groups are advised by our middle school staff and will be happening during advisories on our days that students have study hall or a community builder. Our Thursday groups will rotate throughout the year.



Student Council Begins

Student Council representatives were voted upon in advisories. Our first meeting will be this Friday. This year's council will help organize school spirit activities, help with school climate, and advise the administrators on items of systemic change. Congratulations to the following 2022-2023 Student Council members:

5th Grade: Soren Chesla, Fiona Richter, Charlie Price

6th Grade: Alaina Orsted, Wilhelmina Iwen, Fran Thoreen, Sophia Erwin

7th Grade: Greta Erkkinen, Asher Edmonds, Liam Reszetar

8th Grade: Shianne Marcus, Alex Holdreith, Wyatt Deimel

Sportecke

Congrats to all fall athletes. We are transitioning to our winter sports of basketball, nordic skiing and indoor track and field. Here is this month's [sports update](#). With questions, please contact [Athletic Coordinator Tabisz](#)



Above: Our undefeated Cross Country Team

Capstone Corner

8th grade/Class of 2023: We will be revisiting the Capstone itinerary and plan on Wednesday. Please join us again for these updates. Join us in Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85839596395>

Meeting ID: 858 3959 6395

One tap mobile

+13602095623,,85839596395# US

7th grade/Class of 2024: Thanks for your patience as we finalize details for our 8th graders. We will reschedule this meeting after Thanksgiving.

Family Handbook November Feature

We went into an unexpected soft lockdown last week. This month's Family Handbook feature is about parent communication during a crisis situation. Family Handbook is linked to our website under [Family Resources](#). Our handbook states:

Parent Communication in Emergency/Crisis Situations

- 1. Parents/guardians will be notified of the situation and pick-up procedures through the school's Swift K12 emergency & general alert system. Based on the preference that you selected in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, you will receive an email, telephone call, or text message. Additionally, we will post information on the school website.*
- 2. It is important in an emergency situation for school telephone lines to remain open for communication with emergency service personnel. For the safety of students, we ask parents not to call the school, but to check their Alert Solution messages and the school's website during a crisis for information from us.*