

Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion. .



October 23, 2020

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

By this point in your student/s' TCGIS education, you are probably aware of our vision: *Andere hören, andere sehen, weltoffen denken und handeln*. This is on my mind as I write today and think about where our small community is and how it fits into its bigger community of city, state and country. We are facing challenges in our daily life that in my four decades of life, I have never seen. I encourage all of you to see each other and hear each other. Think about what your fellow families might be experiencing. See what you can do to help out with those who have less than you. We have an international community that is unique. And we are all experiencing this crisis in a unique way. I am personally taking extra time to appreciate the health of my family, help out my neighbors when I can and to enjoy the good days.

Wishing good health, good days and a good weekend to you all.

~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean

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Looking Ahead to November

November's Distance with Connection and Support

Transitioning can be hard for students and families. We at TCGIS are aware of what we are asking as we transition from model to model. The Middle School does feel to be establishing a routine for our transitions. We will once again transition to a connection week at the beginning of November. I recommend beginning to talk about that with your kids at the beginning of next week. Perhaps creating a visual calendar at home can bring some understanding of the timeline involved. Knowledge is power when it comes to easing into a transition.

For most students there will be no change in the November schedule pending COVID numbers remain where they have been. Here are those [schedules](#) again for families to reference.

For some students, we are adding two **Distance with Support Weeks** after our Connection Week for November. In our charge of educational stewardship from the Department of Education, we are tasked with providing equitable learning for all. We are seeing a number of our students struggling with school this year and are working quickly to remedy the situation. Our team has come up with a support plan for targeted students. We are using a multi-marker system of identification in selecting these students. If you student falls into this category, your family will be contacted about what Support Week will look like for your kiddo. Contact will be made in the next week.

November's Schedule

Grades:	5	6	7-8
Nov 2-6	Connection Week	Connection Week	Connection Week
Nov 9-13	Distance Learning*	Distance Learning*	Distance Learning*
Nov 16-20	Distance Learning*	Distance Learning*	Distance Learning*
Nov 23-27	No School Conferences PD Thanksgiving	No School Conferences PD Thanksgiving	No School Conferences PD Thanksgiving

*Distance Learning with Support for targeted students

Odds and Ends

Specialists Courses Round #2

Specialists for 7th and 8th grade started the second specialist rotation this week. A great conversation starter with your middle school could be “Hey, how’s that new specialist class going? Tell me about it!”. You can find the class lists [here](#) to see what course your child started in this session.

8th Grade Families

St Paul Central Survey: Please fill out this [survey](#) to gather information about St. Paul Central High School and the continuation of the German Immersion program next year.

DSD I Family Information Night: The DSD I is the final and official language assessment at the end of our students German language journey. The DSD I info night will provide comprehensive information around the DSD I, the timeline and alternatives. Mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, **November 12th** and stay tuned for more information and a Zoom link.

Parent Council Support Opportunities

Thanks to the Parent Council for being helpful in connecting our community around this difficult year. See the below message from Parent Council as seen in Elternbrief regarding some family support options:

This year's Parent Council has formed a "Family Support" subcommittee in an effort to lend extra help to families in our community beyond the scope of what TCGIS Admin, teachers, and staff already provide.

Our first mission is to organize help FOR non-German-speaking families BY German-speaking families within our community. We also want to offer timely help for anyone needing help regarding hybrid and/or distance learning.

While we work on a more robust plan to support families, **we encourage everyone to please make use of the "Friends of TCGIS" Facebook group and/or your child's grade-level group Facebook group** to post questions about assignments, tech issues, questions about German, or anything else community members might be able to help with. Parent Council will be sure to identify individuals within each group who are willing to answer questions quickly and accurately.

To find a child's grade-level Facebook group, search the appropriate title from the following list in "Groups" in Facebook:

- **Kindergarten:** TCGIS Class of 2029
- **1st:** TCGIS Class of 2028
- **2nd:** TCGIS Class of 2027
- **3rd:** TCGIS Class of 2026
- **4th:** TCGIS Class of 2025
- **5th:** TCGIS Class of 2024
- **6th:** TCGIS Class of 2023
- **7th:** TCGIS Class of 2022
- **8th:** TCGIS Class of 2021

Also, please spread the word about these groups to your TCGIS friends!

We look forward to gathering volunteers, ideas, and areas of need in forthcoming surveys soon.

NEW: Distance Learning Family Support Meetings (Zoom)

Parent Council invites you to join us for a distance learning support discussion and meet up. We want to hear your joys and challenges, share tips and tricks for distance learning, and have another chance to meet TCGIS families! There are two opportunities to join; Zoom links are below and also on the **school calendar**.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10-11am: **Click here** to Join Zoom Meeting

(Meeting ID: 857 0281 6073 / Passcode: TCGIS)

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30-8:40pm: **Click here** to Join Zoom Meeting

(Meeting ID: 872 2156 7646 / Passcode: TCGIS)

All parents, caregivers, etc. are welcome to attend. Registering in advance helps us to plan, but you're welcome to join as you are able. Please **RSVP here** and let us know anything specific you would like to discuss.



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